

BA (H) Sociology
Discipline Specific Core (DSC) 17
Sociology of Kinship

Discipline Specific Core Course -17 (DSC-17) : Sociology of Kinship

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
DSC17 Sociology of Kinship	4	3	1	0	12 th Class Pass	BA (H) DSC 06 Families and Intimacies Or equivalent course

Learning Objectives:

1. To introduce basic concepts in the study of kinship, marriage and family.
2. Develop an understanding of changes in kinship and marriage over time.
3. To indicate the new possibilities in the configurations of kinship made possible by the novel reproductive technologies. .

Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. *Identify* the methodological shifts in the study of kinship theories.
2. *Apply* an analytical perspective on concepts relevant for understanding kinship
3. *Understand* the coexistence of multiple perspectives in the study of family, marriage and kinship.
4. *Recognise* the significance of technology in recasting kinship.

SYLLABUS OF DSC 17: Sociology Of Kinship

Unit I: Key Terms and Classical Approaches (21 hours)

This unit introduces students to key concepts and approaches relevant for understanding kinship and family.

Unit II: Family, Household and Marriage (9 hours)

This unit acquaints students to the multiple forms of co-existence of the institutions of family and marriage.

Unit III: Re-casting Kinship (15 hours)

This unit maps out the new possibilities in the understanding of family, marriage and kinship by revisiting the concept of relatedness, gender and reproductive technologies.

- a. Relatedness**
- b. Kinship and Gender**
- c. Re-imagining Families**
- d. New Reproductive Technologies**

Practical Component: NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Unit I: Key Terms and Classical Approaches

Radcliffe-Brown, A. R. and D. Forde (eds.), 1950, *African Systems of Kinship and Marriage*, London: Oxford University Press, Introduction, Pp. 1-39

Evans-Pritchard, E.E., 2004 (1940), 'The Nuer of Southern Sudan', in R. Parkin and L. Stone (eds.), *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, Pp. 64-78.

Leach, Edmund, 1962, 'On Certain Unconsidered Aspects of Double Descent Systems' in *Man*, Vol. 62, Pp. 130-134.

Lévi-Strauss, Claude, 1969, *The Elementary Structures of Kinship*, London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, Chapters 1 & 2, Pp. 3-25

Dumont, L., 1968, 'Marriage Alliance', in D. Shills (ed.), *International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences*, U.S.A.: Macmillan and Free Press, Pp. 19- 23.

Schneider, D., 2004, 'What is Kinship All About?' in R. Parkin and L. Stone (eds.) *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, Pp. 257-274.

Das, V., 1994, 'Masks and Faces: An Essay on Punjabi Kinship', in Patricia Uberoi (ed.), *Family, Kinship and Marriage in India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Pp.198-222.

Unit II- Family, Household and Marriage (9 hours)

Freeman, J. D., 1958, 'The Family Systems of the Iban of Borneo', in J. Goody (ed.), *The Developmental Cycle in Domestic Groups*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Pp. 15-52.

Leach, E.R., 1961, 'Polyandry, Inheritance and the Definition of Marriage with Particular Reference to Sinhalese Customary Law', in E. R. Leach (ed.), *Rethinking Anthropology*, London: The Athlone Press, Pp. 105-113.

Shah, A. M. (1964). Basic Terms and Concepts in the Study of Family in India. *The Indian Economic & Social History Review*, 1(3), 1–36.

Gough, Kathleen E., 1959, 'The Nayars and the Definition of Marriage', in *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, 89, Pp. 23-34

Uberoi, Patricia, 1995, 'When is a Marriage not a Marriage? Sex, Sacrament and Contract in Hindu Marriage', *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, No. 29, 1 & 2, Pp. 319-45

Unit III: Re-casting Kinship (15 hours)

a. Relatedness

Carsten, Janet, 1995, 'The Substance of Kinship and the Heat of the Hearth: Feeding, Personhood, and Relatedness among Malays in Pulau-Langkawi' *American Ethnologist*, 22 (2), Pp. 223-241.

b. Kinship and Gender

Gold, Ann Grodzins, 1994, 'Sexuality, Fertility, and Erotic Imagination in Rajasthani Women's Songs', in Gloria Goodwin Raheja and Ann Grodzins Gold (eds.), *Listen to the Heron's Words: Re-imagining Gender and Kinship in North India*, Delhi: OUP, Pp. 30-72.

c. Re-imagining Families

Weston, Kath, 1991, *Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship*, New York: Columbia University Press, Pp. 103-136.

d. New Reproductive Technologies

Kahn, Susan Martha, 2004, 'Eggs and Wombs: The Origins of Jewishness', in R. Parkin and L. Stone (eds.), *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, Pp. 362-77.

Suggested Readings:

Butler, J, 2022, *Kinship Beyond the Bloodline*, in T. Bradway and E. Freeman (eds.), *Queer Kinship Race, Sex, Belonging, Form*, Duke University Press

Carsten, J. (ed.), 2000, *Cultures of Relatedness: New Approaches to the Study of Kinship*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Fortes, M., 1970, *Time and Social Structure and Other Essays*, University of London: The Athlone Press, Chapter 3, Pp. 67-95

Ragone, Helena, 2004, *Surrogate Motherhood and American Kinship* in R. Parkin and L. Stone. L and D. E. King (ed) (2018). *Kinship and Gender: An Anthropological Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd, Pp. 342-361

Stone, L., & King, D. E., 2018, *Kinship and Gender: An Introduction*, Routledge

Vatuk Sylvia, Household Form and Formation: Variability and Social Change among South Indian Muslims in Great, John N. & David J. Mearns (1989). Society from the Inside Out: Anthropological Perspectives on the South Asian Household. New Delhi: Sage, Pp. 107- 137

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.