

B.A. (H) Sociology
Discipline Specific Core 02
Sociology of India I

Course Objectives:

Indian society is layered, complex and ever transforming. This course seeks to familiarize the students with this entity through a sociological lens by delineating its historical formations and the kaleidoscopic configuration of its various key elements. The aim here is to render the key sociological elements identified - Caste, Village, Classes, Gender, Family, Religions, Tribes, and Cities – as concrete and tactile. They are treated as relational and interlinked features of Indian society. The course presents structures and institutions of the society as dynamic and changing over a period; at the same time, it takes cognizance of the dynamism of the interactions between them. The objective is to help students to understand Indian society as a vivid reality even as they acquire elementary sociological categories to grasp it and develop an awareness of the key processes that engender it.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Familiarization with Indian society seen through a sociological lens.
2. Understanding of the interlinkages between various elements of Indian society.
3. Ability to enable critical examination of a shared social reality.

Course Outline:

Unit I: Formations of Indian Society

Unit II: Indian Society: Configurations and Interconnections

- a. Caste, Class, and Tribe
- b. Gender, Family and Religion
- c. Village, Cities and Urbanization

Course Content:

Unit I: Formations of Indian Society (Weeks 1-2)

Stern, Robert W. (2003). *Changing India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Pp. 16-31.

Béteille, André. (2000). *Antinomies of Society: Essays on Ideologies and Institutions*. Delhi: OUP, Pp. 198-207.

Unit II: Indian Society: Configurations and Dynamics (Weeks 3-14)

a. Caste, Class and Tribe

Zelliot, Eleanor. (2004). 'Caste in Contemporary India', in Robin Rinehart ed. *Contemporary Hinduism: Ritual, Culture, and Practice*, Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio, Pp. 243 – 268.

Mayer, Adrian C. (1996) 'Caste in an Indian Village: Change and Continuity 1954-1992', in C. J. Fuller ed. *Caste Today*. Delhi: OUP, Pp. 32-63.

Alavi, Hamza, & John Harriss. (1989). *Sociology of "Developing Societies": South Asia*. London: Macmillan, Pp. 134 – 147 & 268 – 275.

Fernandes, Leela. (2016). 'India's Middle Classes in Contemporary India', in Knut A. Jacobsen ed. *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary India*. London: Routledge, Pp. 332-340.

Xaxa, Virginius. (2005). 'Politics of Language, Religion and Identity: Tribes in India', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 40, No. 13, Pp. 1363-1370.

b. Gender, Family and Religion

Dube, Leela. (2001). 'Caste and Women', in *Anthropological Explorations in Gender: Intersecting Fields*. Delhi: Sage, Pp. 154-173.

Mines, Diane P. and Sarah Lamb (eds.) (2nd edition 2002). *Everyday Life in South Asia*, Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, Pp. 9-22.

Fruzzetti, Lina M. (1981). 'Muslim Rituals: Household Rites vs. Public Festivals in Rural India', in Imtiaz Ahmad. *Ritual and Religion among Muslims in India*. Delhi: Manohar, Pp. 91-112.

c. Village, Cities and Urbanization

Srinivas, M.N. (1998). 'The Changing Village', in *Indian Society through Personal Writings*. Delhi: OUP, Pp. 138-162.

Pendse, Sandeep. (2007). 'Toil, Sweat and the City', in Sujata Patel and Alice Thorner (eds.) *Bombay: Metaphor for Modern India*. Delhi: OUP, Pp. 2-25.

Gooptu, Nandini. (2016). 'Divided We Stand: Indian City after Economic Liberalization', in Knut A. Jacobsen ed. *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary India*. London: Routledge, Pp.216-2.

Suggested Readings:

Blackburn, Stuart. (2012). 'The Formation of Tribal Identities', in Vasudha Dalmia and Sadana, Rashmi, (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Indian Culture*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Pp. 30-48.

Corbridge, Stuart, John Harriss and Craig Jeffrey. (2013). *India Today*, Ch.1: Making Sense of India Today. Cambridge: Polity Press, Pp. 1-19.

Jaffrelot, Christoph. 'The Politics of Caste Identities', in Vasudha Dalmia and Rashmi Sadana (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Indian Culture*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, Pp. 80-98.

Jeffrey, Craig and John Harris. *Keywords for Modern India*, UK: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Kothari, Smitu. et. al.(2001). 'Social Movement Politics in India: Institutions, Interests and Identities' in Atul Kohli ed. *Success of Indian Democracy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 242-269.

Mencher, Joan P.(2008). 'Ecology and Social Structure: A Comparative Analysis', in Ramachandra Guha ed. *Social Ecology*, Delhi: OUP, Pp. 42-76.

Mines, Diane. (2009). *Caste in India*, Ch. 3: 'Personhood and Rank' (Pp.27-35) & Ch. 7: 'Some other things to know about Caste' (Pp.67-73).

Robb, Peter. (2002). *A History of India*, Ch.1: Introduction: Region and Civilization, New York: Palgrave, Pp. 1-26.

Robinson, Marguerite. (1988). *Local Politics: The Law of the Fishes*. Chapter 2. Caste, Politics and the Agrarian System. Pp. 19-46.

Searle-Chatterjee, Mary. (1994). 'Caste, Religion and other Identities'. *The Sociological Review*, Pp. 147-166.

Singh, K. S. (1982). Transformation of Tribal Society: Integration vs Assimilation, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Aug. 14, Vol. 17, No. 33 & 34. Pp. 1318-1325, 1376-1384.

Srinivas, M. N. (1976). *The Remembered Village*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Voyce, Malcolm. (2007). 'Shopping Malls in India: New Social 'Dividing Practices'', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Jun. 2-8, Vol.42, No.22, Pp. 2055-2062.

Teaching-Learning Process:

The course will be transacted through classroom lectures, class presentations by students, interactive classroom discussions, film screenings on relevant themes followed by discussion.

Assessment Methods:

Assessment for this course will comprise of Written Assignments, Individual Projects on a designated/ self-chosen theme, Class Tests and Quizzes.

Keywords:

Indian Society, Diversity, Caste, Class, Tribe, Religion, Family, Gender, Village, Cities, Urbanization.