

SEMESTER-VIII
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Category I
B.A. (H) Sociology

Discipline Specific Core (DSC) 20
Themes in Sociological Theory

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE -20 (DSC-20) : Themes in Sociological Theory

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		
DSC 20 Themes in Sociological Theory	4	3	1	0	12th Class Pass	Nil

Learning Objectives:

1. To explore and understand the philosophy informing theory building in Sociology.
2. To understand theory making from a decolonial perspective.
3. To understand the essentially public impetus of theory building in Sociology.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Assess the premises of various sociological theories and evaluate their relative significance.
2. Critically understand the underpinnings of theory building in Sociology as an exercise in epistemic positionalities.
3. Utilize relevant theories for their research dissertation.

SYLLABUS OF DSC:

Unit I. The Arts of Sociological Theory (6 Hours)

This unit introduces students to the significance of Sociological Theory and elements of theory making.

a. Theoretical thinking in sociology

b. The Process of Theorizing

Unit II. Phenomenology and the Interpretive Turn (12 Hours)

This unit discusses the basics of Phenomenology and Interpretive turn in sociology using the work of Alfred Schutz and Clifford Geertz.

a. Phenomenology

b. The Interpretive Turn

Unit III. Theorizing the Self: Performative and Narrative (12 Hours)

This unit discusses the performative and narrative theories of self in recent sociology.

a. Performative Self

b. Narrative Self

Unit IV. Decolonization and Postcolonial Critiques (15 Hours)

This unit introduces the students to conversations on decolonization of sociology through overcoming epistemic violence.

a. Decolonization

b. Postcolonial Critiques

Practical Component: NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Unit I. The Arts of Sociological Theory

a. Theoretical thinking in sociology

Skidmore, William. *Theoretical thinking in sociology*. Cambridge University Press, 1979. Ch. 1. Pp. 1-16

b. The Process of Theorizing

Swedberg, Richard. *Theorizing in Social Science: The Context of Discovery*. Stanford University Press, 2014. Ch 1. From Theory to Theorizing. Pp. 1-28.

Unit II. Phenomenology and the Interpretive Turn

a. Phenomenology

Schutz, Alfred. Some Structures of the Life-World. From Luckmann, Thomas. Ed. *Phenomenology and Sociology: Selected Readings*. New York: Penguin Books, 1978. Pp. 257-274.

Bauman, Zygmunt. *Hermeneutics and Social Science: Approaches to Understanding*. 2010. Ch. 8. Understanding as the Work of Life: From Schutz to Ethnomethodology Pp. 172-193.

b. The Interpretive Turn

Geertz, Clifford. *Local Knowledge: Further Essays in Interpretive Anthropology*. Basic Books, 2008. "From the Native's Point of View": On the Nature of Anthropological Understanding. Pp. 55-70.

Unit III. Theorizing the Self: Performative and Narrative

a. Performative Self

Butler, Judith. *The Judith Butler Reader*, Blackwell, 2005. 'Bodily Inscriptions, Performative Subversions'. Pp. 90-115.

b. Narrative Self

Somers, Margaret R. "The Narrative Constitution of Identity: A Relational and Network Approach." *Theory and Society*, 23, no. 5, 1994. Pp. 605–35.

Unit IV. Decolonization and Postcolonial Critiques

a. Decolonization

Alatas, S. H. The captive mind and creative development. *International Social Science Journal*, 26(4), 1974. Pp. 691–700.

Alatas, Syed Farid. *Alternative Discourses in Asian Social Science: Responses to Eurocentrism*. SAGE Publications, 2006. Pp. 21-56.

b. Postcolonial Critiques

Go, Julian. *Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory*. Oxford University Press, 2016. Ch. 2 The Postcolonial Challenge. Pp. 64-102

Santos, Boaventura de Sousa. *Knowledges Born in the Struggle: Constructing the Epistemologies of the Global South*. Taylor & Francis, 2019. Ch. 7 Toward an Aesthetics of the Epistemologies of the South: Manifesto in Twenty-Two Theses. Pp. 117-124.

Suggested Readings:

Alexander, Jeffrey C. and Steven Seidman. *The New Social Theory Reader: Contemporary Debates*. United Kingdom: Routledge, 2001.

Bhabra, Gurinder K. *Connected Sociologies*. United Kingdom: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2014.

Burawoy, Michael. For Public Sociology. *American Sociological Review*, 70(1). 2005. Pp. 4–28.

Butler, Judith. *Undoing Gender*. United Kingdom: Routledge, 2004.

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*, Princeton University Press, 2009.

- Clawson, Dan. Etal. Eds. *Public Sociology: Fifteen Eminent Sociologists Debate Politics and the Profession in the Twenty-first Century*. University of California Press, 2007.
- Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*. United Kingdom: Grove Atlantic, 2007.
- Garfinkel, Harold. *Studies in Ethnomethodology*. United Kingdom: Prentice-Hall, 1967.
- Houston, Christopher. Kalpana Ram eds. *Phenomenology in Anthropology: A Sense of Perspective*. United States: Indiana University Press, 2015.
- Mbembe, Achille. *On the Postcolony*. United Kingdom: University of California Press, 2001.
- Open the Social Sciences: Report of the Gulbenkian Commission on the Restructuring of the Social Sciences. United States: Stanford University Press, 1996.
- Said, Edward W. *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*. India: Penguin Books Limited, 2016.
- Santos, Boaventura de Sousa. *Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against Epistemicide*. Taylor & Francis, 2015.
- Stroud, Scott R. *The Evolution of Pragmatism in India: Ambedkar, Dewey, and the Rhetoric of Reconstruction*. United States: University of Chicago Press, 2023.
- Susen, Simon. *Sociology in the Twenty-First Century: Key Trends, Debates, and Challenges*. Germany: Springer International Publishing, 2020.
- Swedberg, Richard. *The Art of Social Theory*. United States: Princeton University Press, 2014.
- Wright II, Earl. *The First American School of Sociology: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Atlanta Sociological Laboratory*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2017.

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