

Category II
BA (P) with Sociology as Major

Semester VII
B.A. (P) Sociology
Discipline Specific Core (DSC) 13
Kinship and Marriage

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE -13 (DSC 13): Kinship and Marriage

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 13: Kinship and Marriage	4	3	1	0	12th Class Pass	Nil

Learning Objectives:

1. Examine the history of kinship studies, focusing on central debates and their impact on sociological theory.
2. Analyse how kinship systems intersect with gender, reproduction, and technology, enabling a critique of biological understandings of maternity and paternity, particularly in the context of surrogacy.
3. Assess the relevance of kinship studies in understanding contemporary social issues related to family, marriage, and changing societal structures.
4. Assess how kinship and marriage practices shift in response to increased mobility and migration.
5. Enhance **SDG 5 – Gender Equality** by equipping students with one of the key conceptual frameworks to analyse structures of inequality and disadvantage.

Learning outcomes:

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

1. Comprehend the historical development of kinship studies within anthropology and the significance of key debates across different societies.

2. Demonstrate the ability to critically apply kinship theories to real-world scenarios such as reproductive practices, marriage patterns, and familial transformations.
3. Critically revisit kinship and gender theories in light of advancements in reproductive technologies.
4. Analyse shifts and continuities in the understanding of kinship in relation to contemporary social challenges.
5. Examine how kinship structures influence gender roles, shape access to reproductive choices, and impact women's autonomy and decision-making within families and connect this to **SDG 5 – Gender Equality**.

SYLLABUS OF DSC:

Unit I. Studying Kinship (12 Hours)

This unit introduces key frameworks in kinship studies, focusing on descent systems, marriage alliances, and cultural kinship.

- a. Descent and Marriage Alliance
- b. Cultural Approach to Kinship

Unit II. Kinship, Marriage and Gender (12 Hours)

This unit focuses the role of kinship in shaping gender norms, reproductive practices.

- a. Gender and Symbolism of Reproduction
- b. Inter-caste Marriages and Divorce

Unit III. Kinship and Technology (12 Hours)

This unit investigates how digital and reproductive technologies transform kinship roles, expectations, and relational practices.

- a. Technologically Mediated Relations
- b. New Reproductive Technologies

Unit IV. Kinship, Marriage, Migration (9 Hours)

This unit examines the reconfiguration of kinship and marriage in the context of mobility, diaspora, and transnational family life.

- a. Marriage and Migration
- b. Transnational Families

Practical Component:

NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Unit I. Studying Kinship

a. Descent and Marriage Alliance

Parkin, R. and L. Stone. (2004). 'General Introduction', in R. Parkin and L. Stone (eds.), *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, 1-23.

Dumont, L. (2006). *An Introduction to Two Theories of Social Anthropology: Descent Groups and Marriage Alliance* (Vol. 12). New York: Berghahn Books, 3-28.

b. Cultural Approach to Kinship

Schneider, D. M. (2004) (first published 1972), 'What is Kinship All About?' in R. Parkin and L. Stone (eds.), *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, 257-274.

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

Unit II. Kinship, Marriage and Gender

a. Gender and Symbolism of Reproduction

Dube, Leela, (1986). 'Seed and Earth: The symbolism of biological reproduction and sexual relations of production'. In Leela Dube, Eleanor Leacock & Shirley Ardener (Eds.). *Visibility and Power: Essays on Women in Society and Development*. (22-53). Delhi: Oxford University Press

b. Inter-caste Marriages and Divorce

Rafiq, Shahana, and Rukmini Sen. "Inter-caste/Community Marriages: Contestations and Negotiations in the Family." *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, 2024.

Abraham, Janaki. "Contingent Caste Endogamy and Patriarchy: Lessons for Our Understanding of Caste." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 49, no. 2, 2014, pp. 56–65.

Grover, Shalini. "'Purani aur nai shaadi': Separation, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Lives of the Urban Poor in New Delhi." *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* 17, no. 1 (2011): 67-99.

Unit III. Kinship and Technology

a. Technologically Mediated Relations

Doron, A., 2012. Mobile persons: Cell phones, gender and the self in North India. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, 13(5), pp.414-433.

Agrawal, A. (2015). Cyber-matchmaking among Indians: Re-arranging marriage and doing 'kin work.' *South Asian Popular Culture*, 13(1), 15–30.

Venkatraman, Shriram. (2017) *Social Media in South India*. United Kingdom: UCL Press, 2, Ch. 4. Relationships: kinship on social media. Pp. 101-135

b. New Reproductive Technologies

Stone, L (2010), Kinship, Gender, and the New Reproductive Technologies: The Beginning of the End? In *Gender & Kinship: An Introduction*, 4th edition, Westview Press: Washington. Pp. 289-302

Payne, J. G. (2016). Grammars of kinship: Biological motherhood and assisted reproduction in the age of epigenetics. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 41(3). Pp. 483-506.

Pande, Amrita, (2009), 'It May Be Her Eggs But It's My Blood: Surrogates and Everyday Forms of Kinship in India', *Qualitative Sociology*, Volume 32 (4). Pp. 379–397

Unit IV. Kinship, Marriage and Migration

a. Marriage and Migration

Chaudhry, Shalini., & Mohan, T. D. (2011). Of Marriage and Migration: Bengali and Bihari Brides in a U.P. Village. *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 18(3), 311-340.

Roohi, S. (2017). Caste, kinship and the realisation of 'American Dream': high-skilled Telugu migrants in the USA. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 43(16), 2756-2770.

b. Transnational Families

Baldassar, L., Kilkey, M., Merla, L., & Wilding, R. (2014). Transnational families. In J. Treas, J. Scott, & M. Richards (Eds.), *The Wiley Blackwell companion to the sociology of families* (pp. 155–175). John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Suggested Readings:

Chowdhry, Prem. (2004) Private Lives, State Intervention: Cases of Runaway Marriage in Rural North India. *Modern Asian Studies*, 38(1): 55–84.

Collier, Jane Fishbourne and Sylvia Junko Yanagisako, (1987). *Gender and Kinship: Essays Towards a Unified Analysis*, Stanford University Press, pp 14-52.

Dommaraju, Premchand. "Divorce and separation in India." *Population and Development Review* (2016): 195-223.

Dube, Leela. (1997). *Women and Kinship: Comparative Perspectives on Gender in South and South-East Asia*. Tokyo: UNUP, Pp. 34-48.

Grover, Shalini. (2009) Lived experiences: Marriage, notions of love, and kinship support amongst poor women in Delhi. *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 43(1): 1-33.

Pande A. (2010). Commercial Surrogacy in India: Manufacturing a Perfect Mother-Worker, *Signs*, 35(4): 969-992.

Ragoné, H. (1996). Chasing the blood tie: surrogate mothers, adoptive mothers and fathers. *American Ethnologist*, 23(2), 352-365.

Uberoi. Patricia. (1993). *Family, Marriage and Kinship in India*. New Delhi: OUP, 1-44.

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