

Sociology
Discipline Specific Elective 08
Sociology of the Body

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE – 08 (DSE-08) : Sociology of the Body

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		
DSE 08 Sociology of the Body	4	3	1	0	12th Class Pass	Nil

Learning Objectives:

1. To de-naturalise the body and reconstitute it in sociological terms as a social phenomenon.
2. To familiarise students with various theoretical formulations and ethnographic engagements with body.
3. To outline the broad contours of discourse on the body in South Asian societies.

Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. *Identify* and explain the concepts that are integral to a sociological study of the body.
2. *Analyse* various bodily practices in their social, historical and institutional contexts.
3. *Apply* the conceptual apparatus developed by sociology to evaluate the emerging issues surrounding the body.

SYLLABUS OF DSE-08: Sociology of the Body

Unit I: Knowing the Body (12 Hours)

This unit establishes the material and social character of the body and traces the sociological tradition of thinking about body from Marcel Mauss to Mary Douglas and beyond.

Unit II: Variations on the Body (24 Hours)

This unit maps various dimensions of bodily practices and institutional practices surrounding the social body. It explores the body in its material and symbolic manifestations,

establishes its complicity in the formations of self and identity, explores its political and economic significance and delineates how it is experienced as a lived reality.

a. Body in Practice

b. Body and Identity

c. Body, Power and Commodification

d. Lived Body

Unit III: Discourse on Body in South Asia (9 Hours)

This unit configures the sociological discourse on the body in South Asia on the axes of caste, community and gender.

Practical Component: NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Course Outline with Readings:

Unit I: Knowing the Body

Lock, Margaret and Judith Farquhar (Eds.) *Beyond the Body Proper: Reading the Anthropology of Material Life*. United Kingdom: Duke University Press, 2007. Introduction; On the Part Played by Labor in the Transition from Ape to Man; Techniques of the Body; Pp. 19-23, 25-29 & 49-68.

Scheper-Hughes, N., & Lock, M. M. 'The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work' in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 1(1), 1987, Pp. 6–31.

Unit II: Variations on the Body

a. Body in Practice

Turner, Terence S. 'The Social Skin', *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, 2 (2): 2012. Pp. 486–503.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 'Belief and the body', in *The Logic of Practice*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1984. Chapter 4. Belief and the Body. Pp. 66-79.

b. Body and Identity

Wells, Susan. 'What Is This Body That We Read' in *Our Bodies, Ourselves and the Work of Writing*. United States: Stanford University Press. 2010, Chapter 4. Pp. 134-174.

Scott, Sue and David Morgan. 'You Too Can Have a Body Like Mine: Reflections on the Male Body and Masculinities' in *Body Matters: Essays on The Sociology of The Body*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2004. Chapter 5. Pp. 70-88.

Fassin, Didier. 'How to Do Races with Bodies' in Frances E. Mascia-Lees ed. *A Companion to the Anthropology of the Body and Embodiment*, Cambridge: Blackwell, 2011. Pp. 419-431

c. Body, Power and Commodification

Boddy, Janice. 'Colonialism: Bodies under Colonialism', in Frances E. Mascia-Lees ed. *A Companion to the Anthropology of the Body and Embodiment*, Cambridge: Blackwell, 2011. Pp. 119-132.

Foucault, Michel. 'Body/Power' in *Power/knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977*. New York Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 1980. Chapter 3. Pp. 55-62.

Edmonds, A. 'The Poor Have the Right to be Beautiful? Cosmetic Surgery in Neoliberal Brazil'. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 13(2), 2007. Pp. 363–378.

d. Lived Body

Toombs, S. Key. 'The Lived Experience of Disability'. *Human Studies*, 18(1),1995. Pp. 9–22.

Morgan, David. 'The Body in Pain' in, *Real Bodies: A Sociological Introduction*. United Kingdom: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017. Pp. 79- 94.

Unit III: Discourse on Body in Indian Context

Alter, Joseph S. 'Preface: History, Body, Culture' in *Gandhi's Body: Sex, Diet, and the Politics of Nationalism*. United States: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011. Pp. ix-xiii

Gorringe, Hugo., & Rafanell, Irene. 'The Embodiment of Caste: Oppression, Protest and Change'. *Sociology*, 41(1), 2007. Pp. 97–112.

Mehta, Deepak. 'Circumcision, Body and Community' in *Work, Ritual, Biography : A Muslim community in North India*. India: Oxford University Press. 1997. Chapter 6. Pp. 178-213.

Sarah Lamb, 'The Politics of Dirt and Gender: Body Techniques in Bengali India', in *Dirt, Undress, and Difference: Critical Perspectives on the Body's Surface*. United States: Indiana University Press, 2005. Pp. 213-229.

Suggested Readings:

Alter, Joseph S. *The Wrestler's Body: Identity and Ideology in North India*. United Kingdom, University of California Press, 1992.

Arnold, David. *Colonizing the Body: State Medicine and Epidemic Disease in Nineteenth-Century India*. United Kingdom, University of California Press, 1993.

Berthelot, J. M). Sociological Discourse and the Body. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 3(3), 1986,155–161.

Bordo, Susan. *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body*. Berkley: University of California Press, 1993.

Davis, Lennard J. *Enforcing Normalcy: Disability, Deafness, and the Body*. United Kingdom: Verso Books, 1995.

Desjarlais, Robert R. *Body and Emotion: The Aesthetics of Illness and Healing in the Nepal Himalayas*. United States: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.

Dickenson, Donna. *Property in the Body: Feminist Perspectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Douglas, Mary. *Natural Symbols: Explorations in Cosmology*. London: Taylor & Francis, Chapter 5. Two Bodies, 2004., Pp. 72-91.

Eisenstein, Zillah R. *The Female Body and the Law*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.

Falk, Pasi. *The Consuming Body*. London: Sage Publications, 1994.

Flood, Gavin D. *The Tantric Body: The Secret Tradition of Hindu Religion*. United Kingdom: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

Grosz, Elizabeth A. *Space, Time, and Perversion: Essays on the Politics of Bodies*. London: Routledge, 1995.

Kumar, Udaya. Self, body and inner sense: Some reflections on Sree Narayana Guru and Kumaran Asan. *Studies in History*, 1997, 13(2), 247–270.

Lupton, Deborah. *Medicine as Culture: Illness, Disease and the Body in Western Societies*. India: Sage Publications, 2003.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. *Commodifying Bodies*. India, London: Sage Publications, 2002.

O'Neill, John. *Five Bodies: Re-figuring Relationships*. United Kingdom: Sage Publications, 2004.

Serres, Michel. *Variations on the Body*. United States: University of Minnesota Press, 2015.

Shilling, Chris. *Re-Forming the Body: Religion, Community and Modernity*. United Kingdom: Sage Publications (CA), 1997.

Shilling, Chris. *The Body and Social Theory*. United Kingdom: Sage Publications, 2012.

Strathern, Andrew. *Body Thoughts*. United Kingdom: University of Michigan Press, 1996.

Teman, Elly. *Birthing a Mother: The Surrogate Body and the Pregnant Self*. United Kingdom: University of California Press, 2010.

Thomas J. Csordas. Embodiment as a Paradigm for Anthropology , *Ethos* , Vol. 18, No. 1,1990, Pp. 5-47

Turner, Bryan S. *The Body and Society: Explorations in Social Theory*. United Kingdom, Sage Publications, 2008.

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