

Sociology
Discipline Specific Elective (DSE) - 19
Agrarian Sociology

Discipline Specific Elective- 19 (DSE-19) : Agrarian Sociology

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 19 Agrarian Sociology	4	3	1	0	12th Class Pass	Nil

Learning Objectives:

1. To investigate agriculture as the foundational material and cultural practice at the heart of the formation of social collectivities.
2. To understand South Asian societies as agrarian formations.
3. To familiarize students with agrarian situations past and present with the help of relevant theories and categories.
4. To equip students with a basic understanding of issues which underpin pursuit of **SDG-2 Zero Hunger** and **SDG-12 Responsible Production and Consumption**

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the key concerns of agrarian communities as living societies and grasp their condition as human condition.
2. Apply the categories of Agrarian Sociology to analyse the agrarian realities for their social, political and policy implications.
3. Explore a range of academic and professional roles that may require a knowledge of agrarian societies.
4. Demonstrate understanding of issues which underpin pursuit of **SDG-2 Zero Hunger** and **SDG-12 Responsible Consumption and Production**.

SYLLABUS OF DSE:

Unit I. Introducing Agrarian Sociology (9 Hours)

This unit historicizes agrarian societies and agrarian sociology and maps the agrarian social landscape of India.

a. Agrarian Society and Agrarian Sociology

b. Land Relations and Agrarian Structures

Unit II. Debates in Agrarian Sociology (12 Hours)

This unit delineates the key perspectives in agrarian sociology. It starts with classic statements of the agrarian sociology and concludes with perspectives in agrarian studies at the beginning of 21st century.

a. Peasants and Moral Economy

b. Agrarian Studies in 21st Century

Unit III. Themes in Agrarian Sociology (15 Hours)

This unit discusses agrarian realities in terms of Labour, Class and Gender; agrarian processes in terms of technologies and markets and concludes with a consideration of traditional and contemporary agrarian movements.

a. Labour, Class and Gender

b. Technologies and Markets

c. Agrarian Movements

Unit IV. Agrarian Future (9 Hours)

This unit considers agrarian futures in terms of crisis and sustainability.

a. Sustainable Agriculture

b. Agrarian Distress

Practical Component: NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Unit I. Introducing Agrarian Sociology

a. Agrarian Society and Agrarian Sociology

Dumont, Rene. 'Agriculture as Man's Transformation of the Rural Environment', in Teodor Shanin (ed.) *Peasants and Peasant Societies*, Harmondsworth: Penguin. 1971. Pp. 141-149

Ludden, David. *An Agrarian History of South Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1999, Pp. 6-35.

b. Land Relations and Agrarian Structures

Joshi, Puran Chandra. *Land Reforms in India: Trends and Perspectives*. India: Allied Publishers, 1975. Pp. 3-35.

Jodhka, Surender. *Agrarian Structures and their Transformation*. Veena Das (ed.) *The Oxford India Companion to Sociology and Social Anthropology*. India: Oxford University Press, 2003. Pp. 1203-1236.

Unit II. Debates in Agrarian Sociology

a. Peasants and Moral Economy

Shanin, Teodor. *Peasants and Peasant Societies: Selected Readings*. United Kingdom: Blackwell, 1987. Pp. 62-67, 185-195, 331-336.

Bernstein, Henry. and Byres, T.J. From Peasant Studies to Agrarian Change. *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 2001. Pp. 1-37.

b. Agrarian Studies in 21st Century

Friedland, William H. “Reprise on Commodity Systems Methodology”, *The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food*. 2021. Pp. 82–100.

Edelman, Marc., & Wolford, W. Introduction: Critical Agrarian Studies in Theory and Practice. *Antipode*, 49(4), 2017. Pp. 1–15.

Unit III. Themes in Agrarian Sociology

a. Labour, Class and Gender

Breman, Jan. *Patronage and Exploitation: Changing Agrarian Relations in South Gujarat, India*. India: University of California Press, 1974. Ch. 1 & 2. Pp. 3-23.

Kapadia, Karin. *Siva And Her Sisters: Gender, Caste, And Class in Rural South India*. United Kingdom: Avalon Publishing, 1995. Pp. 218-253.

b. Technologies and Markets

Farmer, B. H. “Perspectives on the ‘Green Revolution’ in South Asia.” *Modern Asian Studies* 20, no. 1 (1986): 175–99.

Stone, G. D. Agricultural Deskillling and the Spread of Genetically Modified Cotton in Warangal. *Current Anthropology*, 2007. 48(1), 67–103.

Kumar, Richa. “Mandi Traders and the Dabba: Online Commodity Futures Markets in India.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 45, no. 31 (2010): 63–70.

c. Agrarian Movements

Scott, James. Everyday forms of peasant resistance, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 13:2. 1986. Pp. 5-35.

Edelman, Marc. (2005). Bringing the Moral Economy back in to the Study of 21st-Century Transnational Peasant Movements. *American Anthropologist*. Vol. 107, Issue 3, pp. 331–345.

Dhanagare, D. N. *Populism and Power: Farmers’ Movement in Western India, 1980--2014*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2015. Ch. 3. Pp. 97-120.

Unit IV. Agrarian Future

a. Sustainable Agriculture

Veteto, James R., and Kristine Skarbø. Sowing the seeds: Anthropological contributions to agrobiodiversity studies. *Culture and Agriculture*, 2009. 31.2. Pp. 73–82.

Guthman, Julie. 2004. *Agrarian dreams: The paradox of organic farming in California*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press. Ch. 3. Organic Farming: Ideal Practices and Practical Ideals. Pp. 42-60

b. Agrarian Distress

Vasavi, A. R. “Contextualising the Agrarian Suicides” in R S Deshpande and Saroj Arora (ed.), *Agrarian Crisis and Farmer Suicides* Sage Publications, pp. 70-85

Kimbrell, Andrew. *The Fatal Harvest Reader: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture.*: Island Press, 2002. Pp. 3-36.

Suggested Readings:

Vasavi, A. R. (1999). Agrarian distress in Bidar: Market, state and suicides. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2263-2268.

Béteille, André. *Essays in Comparative Sociology*. India: Oxford University Press, 1987.

Chakravarti, Anand. “Caste and Agrarian Class: A View from Bihar.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 36, no. 17 (2001): 1449–62.

Davis, Mike. *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Nino Famines and the Making of the Third World*. United Kingdom: Verso, 2001. Pp. 311-340.

Deere C D (1995) What difference does gender make? Rethinking peasant studies. *Feminist Economics* 1(1): 53–72

Dhanagare, D. N.. *Peasant movements in India, 1920-1950*. India: Oxford, 1983.

Friedland, William H., Barton, Amy E., Thomas, Robert J. *Manufacturing green gold: capital, labor, and technology in the lettuce industry*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

Harriss, John. *Capitalism and Peasant Farming: Agrarian Structure and Ideology in North Tamil Nadu*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1982.

Jackson, Cecile. 'Gender Analysis of Land: Beyond Land Rights for Women?', *Journal of Agrarian Change*, Volume 3 (4) (October, 2003) Pp. 453-478

Kelly, William W. “Concepts in the Anthropological Study of Irrigation.” *American Anthropologist* 85, no. 4 (1983): 880–86

Kimbrell, Andrew. *The Fatal Harvest Reader: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture.*: Island Press, 2002. Pp. 3-36.

Magdoff, Fred, John Bellamy Foster, and Frederick H. Buttel, eds. 2000. *Hungry for profit: The agribusiness threat to farmers, food, and the environment*. New York: Monthly Review. Ch. 3. Pp. 61-76.

Moore, Jason W. *Capitalism in the Web of Life: Ecology and the Accumulation of Capital*. United Kingdom: Verso Books, 2015. Ch 10. The Long Green Revolution: The Life and Times of Cheap Food in the Long Twentieth Century. Pp. 241-290.

Mosse, David., Sivan, M. *The Rule of Water: Statecraft, Ecology and Collective Action in South India*. India: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Omvedt, Gail. "Caste, Agrarian Relations and Agrarian Conflicts." *Sociological Bulletin* 29, no. 2 (1980): 142–70

Thorner, Alice. 'Semi-Feudalism or Capitalism? Contemporary Debate on Classes and Modes of Production in India', Parts: 1-3, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 17, No. 49 (Dec. 4, 1982), pp. 1961-1968; No. 50 (Dec. 11, 1982), pp. 1993-1999; No. 51 (Dec. 18, 1982), pp. 2061-2064

Watts, Michael. 1983. *Silent violence: Food, famine, and peasantry in northern Nigeria*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.

Wilson, Kalpana. Patterns of Accumulation and Struggles of Rural Labour: Some Aspects of Agrarian Change in Central Bihar, In Byres. T. J. (Ed.) *Rural Labour Relations in India*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2013. Pp. 316-348.

Debal K. Singha Roy. "Peasant Movements in Contemporary India: Emerging Forms of Domination and Resistance." *Economic and Political Weekly* 40, no. 52 (2005): 5505–13.

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