

Sociology
Generic Elective (GE) 15
Key Debates in Sociology

GENERIC ELECTIVE COURSE -15 (GE-15) : Key Debates in 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		
GE 15 Key Debates in Sociology	4	3	1	0	12 th Class Pass	Nil

Learning Objectives:

1. To bring the key theoretical and methodological debates of sociology alive for the students.
2. To impart an understanding of the sociological enterprise as something that is at once conceptual, methodological and substantive.
3. To help students integrate their sociological learning into a vital coherent, organic and evolving sociological vision.

Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. *Develop* knowledge of key sociological debates, their origins, configurations and interrelations.
2. *Identify* sociology as a dynamic, dialogical and open-ended discipline and ability to practice it as such.
3. *Outline*, assess and analyse the ongoing sociological debates and demonstrate an ability to create a viable sociological investigation and contextualise it in the enduring and active disciplinary legacy of debates.

SYLLABUS OF DSC-15: Key Debates in Sociology

Unit 1: Debates in Sociology: Contexts and Configurations (9 Hours)

This unit locates the sociological debates in their historical context. It also introduces students to the debate surrounding the lines that mark the separation of sociology and social anthropology.

Unit 2: Methods, Concepts and Theories (30 Hours)

This unit discusses key methodological, conceptual and theoretical debates in sociology.

a. Debating Methods

b. Conceptual Debates

- i. Community and Society: Comte, Tonnies, Weber, Durkheim**
- ii. Status and Class: Marx, Weber**
- iii. Sacred, Profane and Secular: Durkheim, Weber**

c. Debating Theory

Unit 3: Debating Modernity (6 Hours)

This unit maps the Sociological debate on the nature of modernity.

Practical Component: NIL

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Unit 1: Debates in Sociology: Contexts and Configurations

Nisbet, Robert. *The Sociological Tradition*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2017. Chapter 1. The Unit-Ideas of Sociology Pp. 3-20.

Gellner, Ernest. *Cause and Meaning in the Social Sciences*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2004. Chapter 7. Sociology and Social Anthropology. Pp. 109- 137.

Unit 2: Methods, Concepts and Theories

a. Debating Methods

Hindess, Barry. *Philosophy and Methodology in the Social Sciences*. United Kingdom: Harvester Press, 1977. Introduction, Pp. 1-22.

Stedman-Jones, Susan. Fact/Value. Chris Jenks ed. *Core Sociological Dichotomies*. United Kingdom: SAGE Publications, 1998. Pp. 49- 62.

Bourdieu, Pierre. *Sociology in Question*. United Kingdom: Sage Publications (CA), 1993. Chapters 2. A science that makes Trouble, Chapter 3. Sociologist in Question. Pp. 8-35.

b. Conceptual Debates

i. Community and Society: Comte, Tonnies, Weber, Durkheim

Nisbet, Robert. *The Sociological Tradition*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2017. Chapter 3. Community. Pp. 47-51, 56-61, 71-97.

ii. Status and Class: Marx, Weber,

Nisbet, Robert. *The Sociological Tradition*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2017. Chapter 5. Status. Pp. 174-182, 200-208, 212-216.

iii. Sacred, Profane and Secular: Durkheim, Weber

Nisbet, Robert. *The Sociological Tradition*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2017. Chapter 6. The Sacred. Pp. 221-231, 243-251.

c. Debating Theory

Mills, C. Wright. *The Sociological Imagination*. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, USA, 1999. Chapter 2. Grand Theory. Pp. 25-49.

Coleman, James S. Microfoundations and Macrosocial Behavior. In Jeffrey C. Alexander. *The Micro-macro Link*. United Kingdom: University of California Press, 1987. Pp. 153-172.

Unit 3: Debating Modernity (6 Hours)

Giddens, Anthony. *Conversations with Anthony Giddens: Making Sense of Modernity*. Germany: Polity Press, 2013. Pp. 94-117

Chatterjee, Partha. *Our Modernity*. Netherlands: SEPHIS, 1997. 3-20

Suggested Readings:

Alexander, Jeffrey C. and Steven Seidman. *The New Social Theory Reader*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2020. Pp. 354-404.

Anderson, R. J. *Classic Disputes in Sociology*. United Kingdom: Allen & Unwin, 1987.

Bauman, Zygmunt. Is there a postmodern sociology? In Steven Seidman ed. *The Postmodern Turn: New Perspectives on Social Theory*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Pp.187-204.

Filmer, Paul. Theory/Practice. Chris Jenks ed. *Core Sociological Dichotomies*. United Kingdom: SAGE Publications, 1998.

Foss, Dennis C. *The Value Controversy in Sociology*. United Kingdom: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1977.

Giddens, Anthony. Positivism and its Critics in Tom Bottomore ed. *A History of Sociological Analysis*. United Kingdom: Pearson Education, 1979. Pp. 237-283.

Giddens, Anthony. *The Consequences of Modernity*. United Kingdom: Stanford University Press, 1990. Pp. 1-54.

Gouldner, Alvin Ward. *For Sociology: Renewal and Critique in Sociology Today*. United Kingdom: Allen Lane, 1973.

Hawthorn, Geoffrey. *Enlightenment and Despair: A History of Social Theory*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 1987.

Holton, R. J. *The Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism*. United States: St. Martin's Press, 1985.

Jenks, Chris ed. *Core Sociological Dichotomies*. United Kingdom: SAGE Publications, 1998.

Knorr-Cetina, K. and A. V. Cicourel. *Advances in Social Theory and Methodology: Toward an Integration of Micro- and Macro-Sociologies*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2014.

Ritzer, George. *Issues, Debates and Controversies: An Introduction to Sociology*. United States: Allyn & Bacon, Incorporated, 1972. Pp 469-500.

Tim Ingold ed. *Key Debates in Anthropology*. United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis, 2003.

Merton, R. K. (1968). *Social Theory and Social Structure*. India: Free Press. Chapter 2. Sociological Theories of Middle Range. Pp. 39-72

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