

University of Mumbai



Department of Sociology

PhD Coursework
One Semester

Submitted for Approval
To
The Board of Studies

Prepared by the PhD Syllabus Revision Committee appointed by the Academic Authorities Unit

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STRUCTURE

I Introduction

As per the new guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission as “UGC (Minimum standards and procedure for awards of M.Phil. /Ph.D. degree) Regulation 2009”, and the VCD/947 of 2018, each Ph.D. research scholar shall be required to undertake coursework for a minimum period of one semester i.e., six months which shall be treated as Pre Ph.D. preparation. However, those who have completed their M.Phil. are exempted from such coursework. The coursework must be completed within the first two semesters after registration.

II Objectives of the Coursework

- Inculcating a passion for academic research
- Providing maximum guidance in the review of published work in critical subfields of sociology
- Equipping with conceptualization and theorizing research problems
- Understanding research designs, quantitative and qualitative methods, processes of material/ data collection
- Tools of analyzing quantitative and qualitative data along with computer application.
- Acquainting with ethical issues in research through applied workshops

III Outcomes of the Coursework

- Development of a critical understanding of the debates and contestations within the discipline of general sociology
- Gaining a sharp focus on the theoretical and methodological context of their sub discipline
- Acquiring an active understanding of a range of research methods and applying these to their own research design
- Developing a critical understanding of research ethics

IV Contact Hours, Attendance Requirements and Teaching Methodology

- Coursework consists of three papers of 4 credits each

- The instructional time for each paper is 32 hours
- 22 hours are set aside for preparing the assignment and presentations for each paper
- The coursework will be conducted in the form of two-hour interactive sessions each paper, each week.
- Attendance for the entire programme is compulsory and as per University regulations, it is mandatory that the research scholars maintain a 75% attendance for the entire course.
- The contact hours for each of the papers will be in the seminar format. This would involve the reading material for each module being made available to the research scholars in advance. They are in turn required to come for the sessions, having read through and absorbed the content of the reading material.
- The sessions will consist of discussions and deliberations based on the readings that the students as well as the teachers have undertaken.

V Evaluated mandatory workshops designed and conducted by specialists:

- Academic writing
- Ethics of research

VI Evaluation

- In each paper, participation in academic sessions will be assessed on 50 marks, written assignment will be on 30 marks, and presentation of the assignment is of 20 marks. (*Research scholars may undertake the writing of the assignment of 4000 to 6000 words under the supervision of the concerned PhD guide. This can be a work in progress*)
- Each paper: 100 marks
- 2 mandatory workshops: 50 marks each
- Total marks for the coursework: 400
- Results will be declared by the Head of Department and will be communicated to the students

- Those who do not complete the coursework satisfactorily (with minimum C plus grade in each of the papers and workshops), have to repeat the course in the subsequent. Only after they have successfully completed the coursework will they be permitted to proceed with their doctoral research work.
- The conversion of marks to grades is as follows:

Marks	Grade Points	Grade	Performance
80 & Above	10	O	Outstanding
70-79.99	9	A+	Excellent
60-69.99	8	A	Very Good
55-59.99	7	B+	Good
50-54.99	6	B	Above Average
45-49.99	5	C	Average
40-44.99	4	D	Pass
Less than 40	0	F	Fail

VII Summary

The Structure of the Coursework

- 3 papers of 4 Credits each + 2 Evaluated mandatory workshops
- Number of Credits: $4 \times 3 = 12$
- Number of Instructional Hours: $32 \times 3 = 96$ Hours
- Number of Non- Instructional hours $22 \times 3 + 66$ Hours
- Attendance required: 75%
- Evaluation of papers: Based upon Lecture attendance and participation + 3 Written Assignments + 3 Presentations
- Evaluation of mandatory workshops: As per the specialist resource person's workshop design
- Total 100 marks for each paper + 50 marks for each workshop. Total 400 marks
- In each paper, 50 marks for class participation + 30 marks for written assignment + 20 marks for presentation
- Minimum of C grade required in each paper in to complete the coursework

SYLLABUS

PAPER I
THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ORIENTATIONS IN
CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

Course Objectives

- To introduce critical contemporary theoretical and methodological debates
- To critically familiarize the research scholars with the shifts from classical to contemporary methodologies
- To underline and uncover the role of ideology in knowledge production
- To facilitate application of relevant theories to individual research projects undertaken by the research scholars

Course Outcomes

- Ability to locate epistemes within the power structures of western modernity
- Critical evaluation of theories and methods from marginal locations of race, class, gender
- Contextualizing knowledge as representation
- Place knowledge and ideology within a praxis of identity politics

Module 1: Theory in Sociological Research

- a) Relationship between theory and methodology in research
- b) Contesting theoretical and methodological imaginations
- c) The problem of analysis and interpretation
- d) Paradigmatic shifts in theory from classical to contemporary canons

Module 2: Methodological assumptions in theories

- a) Positivism, functionalism, neo functionalism
- b) Historical sociology and critical theory
- c) Sociology of the everyday worlds in phenomenology and ethnomethodology
- d) Sociology from below and from the margins of gender, race, caste.

Module 3: Theories of Social Structure and Agency

- a) Ideology and the social structure
- b) Power, domination and marginalization
- c) Subjectivities, standpoints and negotiations
- d) Globalization: Processes, and Contestations

Module 4: Theories of representation and resistance

- a) Modernity and post-modernity
- b) Constructing, de-constructing and re-constructing marginal identities
- c) Post-colonial critiques and contestations
- d) Collective mobilization, identity politics and praxis

Essential Readings

Adams, Bert and Sydie, R.A. (2001) *Sociological Theory*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

Bauman, Z. (1992). *Intimations of Post-modernity*. London & New York: Routledge.

Cuff, E.C., Sharrock, W.W. & Francis, D.W. (2006). *Perspectives in Sociology*. Oxon: Routledge.

Delanty, G. (1999). *Social Theory in a Changing World: Conceptions of Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Elliott, A. (2003). *Critical Visions: New Directions in Social Theory*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Elliott, A. (2009). *Contemporary Social Theory: An Introduction*. London & New York: Routledge.

Giddens, A. (1971). *Capitalism and Modern Social theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Hughes, J & Sharrock, W. (2007). *Theory and Methods in Sociology: An Introduction to Sociological Thinking and Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Morrison, Ken (2006) *Formations of Modern Social Thought (2nd. Edition)*, New Delhi: Sage Publications.

- Ritzer, George (2007) *Sociological Theory (5th Edition)*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw Hill.
- Scott, J. (2006) *Social Theory: Central Issues in Sociology*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
- Skinner, Q. (1990). *The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Somekh, B. & Lewin, C. (Eds.). (2011). *Theory and Methods in Social Research (2nd Ed.)*. London: Sage.
- Turner, B.S. (Ed.). (2009). *The New Blackwell Companion to Social Theory*. Malden & Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
- Turner, J.H. (Ed.). (2006). *Handbook of Sociological Theory*. New York: Springer.
- Turner, J.H. (2013) *Contemporary Sociological Theory*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

Suggested Readings

- Giddens, A. (1995). *Politics, Sociology and Social Theory: Encounters with Classical and Contemporary Social Thought*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Kuhn, T. S. (1970). *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (2nd Ed.)*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Latour, B. (2005). *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Patel, S. (Ed.). (2010). *The ISA Handbook of Diverse Sociological Traditions*. London: Sage.
- Ritzer, G & Smart, B. (Eds.). (2003). *Handbook of Social Theory*. London: Sage.
- Wagner, P. (2001). *Theorizing Modernity: Inescapability and attainability in Social Theory*. London: Sage.

PAPER II

METHODS AND TECHNIQUES OF RESEARCH

Course Objectives

- *Facilitate an understanding of practical use of research methods*
- *Analyse the relationship between methods and techniques*
- *To see the relevance of qualitative methods in social research and learn the tools*
- *To frame the necessity of quantitative research designs and learn the techniques*

Course Outcomes

- *Ability to differentiate and choose between qualitative and quantitative research*
- *Critically evaluate specific qualitative research methods like case study, participant observation, ethnography*
- *Evaluate the strengths and limitations of questionnaires, surveys and statistics*
- *Ability to use SPSS*

Module 1. Introduction to Research

- a) Selection of the field of research
- b) Formulation of the main questions/hypotheses of research
- c) Identification of the sources of primary and secondary data
- d) Techniques used in data collection and analysis

Module 2: Methods and Methodologies

- a) Issues in social science research (Ontology, Epistemological Issues)
- b) Objectivity, value neutrality, generality
- c) The Hermeneutic Intervention and Reflexivity,
- d) Standpoint Epistemologies and Feminist methodologies

Module 3: Qualitative Methods of data collection

- a) Participant observation and Ethnography
- b) Case studies and life history method
- c) Discourse analysis
- d) Narrative Analysis and Oral History Method

Module 4. Quantitative Methods of Data Collection

- a) Social Survey, Questionnaire and Structured Interview Method
- b) Techniques of Data processing
- c) Analysis and Presentation
- d) SPSS in data processing and Computer Applications

Essential Readings

Geertz, G. & Maloney, J. (2012). *A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Lune, H., Puma, E.S. & Koppel, R. (Eds.). (2010). *Perspectives in Social Research Methods and Analysis: A Reader for Sociology*. London: Sage.

Marvasti, A.B. (2004). *Qualitative Research in Sociology: An Introduction*. London: Sage.

Srivastava, V.K. (Ed.). (2004). *Methodology and Fieldwork: Oxford India Readings in Sociology and Social Anthropology*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Wysocki, D.K. (2008). *Readings in Social Science Methods (3rd Ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Suggested Readings

Bleicher, J. (1982). *Hermeneutic Imagination*. London: Routledge.

Giddens, A. (Ed.). (1970). *Positivism and Sociology*. Heinemann.

Law, J. (2004). *After Method: Mess in Social Science Research*. New York & London: Routledge.

Reinhartz, S. (1992). *Feminist Methods in Social Research*. OUP.

PAPER III
APPROACHES TO CORE THEMES IN INDIAN SOCIETY

Course Objectives:

- *To critically understand the debates on Indian modernity*
- *To learn the sociological approaches to various aspects of contemporary India*
- *To undertake analyses of the economy, the state, culture and society from a global and local perspective*
- *To critically analyse institutions and structures of power like caste, patriarchy.*

Course Outcomes:

- *The research scholar will be able to view modernity and its relation to caste, class, gender*
- *The research scholar will see the linkages and ruptures in development of the urban and rural domains*
- *Develop an ability to critically analyse the state and market forces in development*
- *Recognize the role of civic society in changing and transforming societies*

Module 1: Interrogating Indian Modernity

- a) Caste, gender and modernity
- b) Dominant, subaltern and Dalit Perspectives
- c) Science, technology and modernity
- d) Civil society, citizenship and the discourse of rights

Module 2: Rural -Urban Transformations

- a) Emerging new inequalities
- b) Migration, ethnicity and identity politics
- c) Marginalization, exclusion and inclusion,
- d) Agrarian crisis

Module 3: State, Society and Globalization

- a) State, market, work, labour and development
- b) Health, education, media
- c) Religion, communalism and secularism
- d) Democracy, welfarism and corruption

Module 4: Collective Mobilization and Social Change

- a) Women's movements
- b) Anti-caste struggles and the Dalit movements
- c) Scheduled Tribes, denotified and nomadic tribe mobilization.
- d) Natural resources and environmental movements

Essential Readings

Aloysius, G. (2000). *Nationalism Without a Nation in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Ambedkar B. R. (1979). *Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches. Vol. I*. Mumbai: Government of Maharashtra.

Dahiwal, S. M. (2005). *Understanding Indian Society: The Non-Brahmin Perspectives*, Jaipur & New Delhi: Rawat.

Das, V. (Ed.). (2004). *Handbook of Indian Sociology*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Dhanagare, D. N. *Themes and Perspectives in Indian Sociology*. Jaipur & New Delhi: Rawat.

Guru, G. (2008). *Humiliation: Claims and Contexts*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Gupta, S. et al. (2010). *Globalization in India: Content and Discontents*. Delhi: Pearson Education.

Omvedt, G. (1976). *Cultural Revolt in a Colonial Society: Non-Brahmin Movement in Western India. 1973-1930*. Bombay: Scientific Education Trust.

Oommen, T. K. (2004). *Nation, Civil society and Social Movements*. New Delhi: Sage.

Jayaram, N. (2013). (Ed.). Special Issue on The Bombay School of Sociology: The stalwarts and Their Legacies. In *Sociological Bulletin: Journal of the Indian Sociological Society*. 62 (2): 1-365.

Jodhka, S. (Ed.). (2013). *Interrogating India's Modernity: Democracy, Identity and Citizenship: Essays in Honour of Dipankar Gupta*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Nagla, B.K. (2008). *Indian Sociological Thought*. Jaipur & New Delhi: Rawat.

Sharma, U. & Searle-Chatterjee, M. (2005). *Contextualizing Caste: Post-Dumontian Approaches*, New Delhi: Sage.

Shah, G. Bagchi, K.K. & Kalaiah, V. (2020). *Education and Caste in India: The Dalit Question*, New Delhi: Routledge.

Singer, M. & Cohn, B.S. (Eds.) (2001). *Structure and Change in Indian Society*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.

Thorat, S. K. & Neuman, C. (2012). *Blocked by Caste: Economic Discrimination in Modern India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Suggested Readings

Nathan, D., Kelkar, G. & Walter, P. (Eds.). (2004). *Globalization and Indigenous Peoples in Asia: Changing the Local-Global Interface*. New Delhi: Sage.

Ray, R. (Ed.). (2012). *Handbook of Gender*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Yuval-Davis, N & Werbner, P. (Eds.). (2005). *Women, Citizenship and Difference*. New Delhi: Zubaan, an Imprint of Kali for Women.