

## **COURSE NO.: SS 451N: METHODOLOGY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

MA 1<sup>st</sup> Semester; Compulsory Course; Monsoon Semester: July-December; Credits: 4

Mode of Evaluation: Tutorial Assignments-1 credit; Mid-Semester Exam 1 credit, & End-Semester Exam- 2 credits

Course Teacher: Dr. Vivek Kumar,

Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Methodology covers entire terrain of scientific research in the social sciences. For an approach to qualify as a social scientific methodology it must meet four criteria, one it must define the subject matter of the social sciences. Second, it must explain how that subject matter is constituted, that is how the 'facts' of social sciences become 'facts'. Third, it must provide social scientists with precisely defined conceptual tools and procedures and fourth it must define the limits of the social scientific activity. Therefore, an understanding of methodology which is different from methods of social research will enable the social investigator to transcend the technician's role and obtain the role of the research scientist. The specific objectives are:

- To understand the nature and the philosophy of the social sciences in general and sociology in particular.
- To understand the relationship of sociology with other sciences.
- To understand the methodological debates in classical sociology
- To understand the major methodological debates in Indian sociology

### **Course Outline**

#### **1. The Nature and function of Social Sciences**

- a) The Ideas of Social Sciences: The Beginning
- b) The logic of disciplines of Social Sciences
- c) Emile Durkheim
- d) Max Weber
- e) Karl Marx

#### **2. Sociology and other Social Sciences**

- a) Sociology and Physics (Durkheim)
- b) Sociology and Biology (Merton)
- c) Sociology and History (Levi-Strauss)
- d) Sociology and Social Anthropology (Radcliffe-Brown)
- e) Sociology and Psychology (Durkheim and Marcel Mauss)
- f) Sociology and Linguistics (Levi-Strauss)
- g) Sociology and Economics (Karl Marx)

#### **3. Major Debates in Classical Sociology**

- a) Positivism vs Hermeneutics (Durkheim vs Weber)
- b) Verification vs Falsification (Kuhn vs Popper)

- c) Structural Functionalism vs Structuralism (Radcliffe Brown vs Levi-Strauss)
- d) Structuralists vs Post-Structuralists (Levbi-Strauss vs Derrida/Foucault)

#### 4. Methodological Debates in Indian Sociology

- a) Sociology vs Indology (Dumont vs Bailey)
- b) Structural Functional vs Historical (M.N.Srinivas vs A.R. Desai)
- c) Relevance of Perspective from below in Indian Sociology

#### A. Essential Readings

- Coomaraswamy, A.K., 1987, What is Civilisation? And other Essays, IGNCIA and OUP, Delhi
- Durkheim, Emile, 1938, The Rules of Sociological Method, Free Press, London
- Gadamer, Hans-Georg, 1975, Truth and Method, Continuum Books.
- Giddens, A, 1976, New Rules of Sociological Method, Basic Books, New York
- Kuhn, T.S. (1970a): The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., University of Chicago Press, Chicago
- Kuper, Adam, 1973, Anthropologists and Anthropology, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth
- Levi-Strauss, C, 1963, Structural Anthropology, vol-I, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth
- Madan, T.N., 1995, Pathways: Approaches to the Study of Indian Society, OUP, Delhi
- Malinowski, B, 1922, Argonauts of the Western Pacific, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London. (Introduction)
- Mauss, Marcel, 1950/1979, Sociology/Psychology: Routledge and Kegan Paul London
- Matilal, Bimal Krishna, 2005, Epistemology, Logic and Grammar in Indian Philosophical Analysis, OUP
- Merton, R.K., 1981, Social Theory and Social Structure, Amerind Publishing Company, New Delhi(Chapters 1,2,4,5)
- Mill, J.S., 1987, The Logic of Moral Sciences, Duckworth
- Mills, C.W, 1959, The Sociological Imagination, Penguin, London
- Mukerjee, Radhakamal, The Philosophy of Social Science, Macmillan & Com., New York.
- Mukherji, Partha Nath 2000, Methodology in Social Research: Dilemmas and Perspectives, Sage, New Delhi
- Nisbet, R, 1967, The Sociological Tradition, Heineman, London (Part one)
- Oommen, T.K., and P.N. Mukherji, ed. Indian Sociology, Popular Prakashan, Bombay
- Popper, Karl, 1983, A Pocket Popper (edited by Daniel Miller), Fontana Press, Glasgow (Part 2, Philosophy of Sciences)
- Radcliffe-Brown, A.R., 1957, A Natural Science of Society, The Free Press, Glenocoe
- Singh, Y, 1983, Image of Man, Chanakya, Delhi
- Skinner, Q., The Return of Grand Theory in Social Sciences, Cambridge University Press.
- Srinivas, MN, et al, 1979, ed, The Fieldworker and the Field: Problems and Challenges in Sociological Investigation, OUP, Delhi
- Weber, Max, 2004, The Methodology of the Social Science and its Relation to Philosophy, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London.

#### B. Suggested Readings

Anderson, H. 2001, *On Kuhn*, Wadsworth, Australia

Barnes, J.A. 1999/1977, *The Ethics of Inquiry in Social Sciences: Three Lectures*, OUP, Delhi

Barthes, Roland, 1987, *Criticism and Truth*, Continuum, London

Bloom, Harold, et al, 1979, *Deconstruction and Criticism*, Viva Books, New Delhi

Bose, P.K. 1995, *Research Methodology*, Indian Council of Social Sciences Research, New Delhi

Cohn, Bernard, 1997, *Colonialism and its forms of Knowledge: The British in India*, OUP, Delhi

Coomaraswamy, A.K., 1981, *Figures of Speech and Figures of Thought*, Munshiram and Manoharlal, Delhi

Eagleton, Terry, 1984, *The Function of Criticism*, Verso, Seagull Books, Calcutta

Johnson, Christopher, Claude, 2003, *Levi-Strauss: The Formative Years*, Cambridge

*Methodology: Towards an Integration of Micro and Macro Sociologies*, Routledge and Kegan Paul

Madsen, Richard, et al, 2002, *Meaning and Modernity*, University of California Press

Mahajan, Gurpreet, 1997, *Explanation and Understanding in Human Sciences*, OUP, Delhi

Mukherjee, Ramkrishna (1979) *Sociology of Indian Society*, Bombay: Allied

Parsons, T., et al, ed, 1965, *Theories of Society*, Free Press, New York (pp 1405-1448)

Pickering, W.S.F., and H. Martin, 1994, ed, *Debating Durkheim*, Routledge, London

Prasad, Jwala, 1990, *Indian Epistemology*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi

Pritchard, E.E, 1981, *A History of Anthropological Thought*, Faber and Faber. Anderson, H, 2001, *On Kuhn*, Wordsworth

Rabinow, Paul, ed, 1984, *The Foucault Reader*, Pantheon Books

Radcliffe-Brown, A.R., *Structure and Function in Primitive Societies*.

Roberts, Marcus, 1996, *Analytical Marxism*, Verso

Ruggiero, V.R., 1996, , *A Guide to Sociological Thinking*, Sage

Satprakashananda, Swami, 2004, *Methods of Knowledge According to Advaita Vedanta*, Advaita Ashrama, Kolkata

Shah, A.M., et al, 1996, *Social Structure and Change, Theory and Method: An Evaluation of the Work of M.N. Srinivas*, Sage, New Delhi

Silverman, H.J., ed, *Derrida and Deconstruction*, Routledge, New York

Singh, Y, 2004, *Ideology and Theory in Indian Sociology*, Rawat Publishers

Thapan, M, 1998, ed, *Anthropological Journeys: Reflections on Fieldwork*

Wallerstein, I, et al, 1996, *Open the Social Sciences*, Vistaar, New Delhi