

## **COURSE NO. : SS 601N: THEORETICAL ORIENTATIONS IN SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

M.Phil 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Compulsory Course, Monsoon Semester: July–December; Credit: 4  
Course Teacher: Prof. E. Rodrigues

### **Objectives of the Course**

This course works with the specific objective of aiding and facilitating the student in developing a theoretical orientation for the specific research topic that s/he is engaged with. As such then, the course encourages the student to explore those concepts and theories that would be most suitable for the conduct of sociological analysis in his or her research study. Rather than see theory as an add on to the research study, the pedagogical method being advocated here seeks to center the research study in a series of theoretical concerns that the student would themselves identify. It is these theoretical concerns that would become the substantive focus of pedagogical engagement through the various themes mentioned in the syllabus. Such an engagement would finally culminate in the student writing a paper on the specific theoretical orientation that is relevant to his her research study.

#### **1. Positivistic Construction of the Social Order.**

This module would critically assess the development of Positivism and Positivistic Sociology with a focus on functionalism in sociology and anthropology and culminating with a consideration of Parsonian systems sociology.

#### ***Essential Readings:***

- Durkheim, E. (2013). Durkheim: The Rules of Sociological Method: And Selected Texts on Sociology and Its Method. Palgrave Macmillan.  
(Read Chapter One on Social Facts)
- Merton R. K., (1967) On Theoretical Sociology, the Free Press, New York  
(Read Two Chapters - On the History and Systematic of Sociological Theory and On Sociological Theories of Middle Range)
- Kingsley D, (1959). The myth of functional analysis as a special method in sociology and anthropology, American Sociological Review Vol. 24, No. 6
- Turner J. H.,(2006) A Handbook of Sociological Theory, Springer Science and Business Media,  
(Read Chapter One titled Sociological Theory Today and Two titled What Makes Sciences Scientific by Stephen Fusch)
- Bourdieu, P. (1991). The peculiar history of scientific reason. In Sociological forum, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 3-26
- Taylor C., (1985). Philosophy and the Human Sciences, Philosophical Papers 2, Cambridge University Press. (Read Social Theory as Practice)
- Mills, C. W. (2000). The sociological imagination. Oxford University Press. (Read Chapter Two and Three titled- 'The Grand Theory' and 'Abstracted Empiricism')

Wallerstein, I (1996) *Open the Social Sciences: Report of the Gulbenkian Commission on the Restructuring of the Social Sciences*, Stanford University Press. NA  
(*Read it in hard copy Chapter One: The Historical Construction of the Social Sciences, from the Eighteenth century to 1945*)

Nicholas D. (1994) 'Ritual and Resistance: Subversion as a Social Fact', in *A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory* Princeton University Press, and Princeton, New Jersey, NA (Read it in hard copy)

## **2. Marxist orientations to Class society**

This module will assess the importance of class analysis in the study of modern capitalist societies both in the advanced countries as well as the global south. Similarly it also assesses the role of critical theory in its attempt to explain modern capitalism.

### **Essential Readings:**

Marx M & Friedrich E. (1970) *The German Ideology*. Vol. 1. International Publishers Co,  
(Read Part One)

Polyani, K (1947) *On Belief in Economic Determinism*, *Sociological Review* Vol. 39, No. 1

Callinicos, A. (2004) *Making History: Agency Structure, and Change in Social Theory*, Brill Leiden (Read Chapter 1 and Chapter 2)

Althusser, L.(2006). "Ideology and ideological state apparatuses (notes towards an investigation)." *The anthropology of the state: A reader*, 86-111

Jürgen Habermas (1991) *The structural transformation of the public sphere: An inquiry into a category of bourgeois society*. MIT Press. (Read Section I)

Bernstein, B. & Henderson, D.(1969) *Social Class Differences in the Relevance of Language to Socialization*, Sage Social Sciences Collections

Gramsci, A. (1971) "The intellectuals and the Notes on Italian History and Passive Revolution in Selections from Prison Notebook, International Publications New York

Marcuse, H. (2013) *One-dimensional Man: Studies in the ideology of advanced industrial society*. Routledge, London (Read Chapter 2 and 4 in part I)

Guha R. (1997) *Dominance without hegemony: History and power in colonial India*. Harvard University Press, 1997. NA (Read chapter one and two)

## **3. Interpretative Orientations in Human Interaction**

This module begins with assessing Weberian emphasis on rational social action and moves on to consider the relevance of the cultural turn in modern social theory.

### **Essential Readings:**

Weber, M. (1978). *Economy and society: An outline of interpretive sociology*, University of California Press (volume 1: PART 2: THE ECONOMY AND THE ARENA OF NORMATIVE AND DE FACTO POWERS.

- Gerth, H & Mills, C.W(1946) From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology, 'Science as Vocation,' Oxford University Press, New York (Available Online)
- Giddens, A (1993) New Rules of Sociological Method: A Positive Critique of Interpretative Sociologies, Stanford University Press. (Read it in hard copy Chapter two: Agency, Act-identifications and Communicative Intent)
- Smith, D (1991) The Rise of Historical Sociology, Temple University Press. (Read it in hard copy chapter one: Like a Phoenix Rising )
- Rock, P. (1976). Some Problems of Interpretative Historiography. The British Journal of Sociology, 27(3), 353-369. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/589621>
- Oliver, I. (1983). The 'Old' and the 'New' Hermeneutic in Sociological Theory. The British Journal of Sociology, 34(4), 519-553. ( Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/590937> )
- Geertz, C (1973) The Interpretation of Cultures, Basic Books, Inc., Publishers, New York. ( Read Chapter one: Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture)
- Bourdieu, P & Wacquant, L (1992). An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology, University of Chicago Press Books (Read Part Three: The Practice of Reflexive Sociology (The Paris Workshop) (Available Online)
- Hall, S.(1994) Cultural Studies: Two paradigm in A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory Ed. Nicholas Dirks and others, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey (Read it in hard copy)

#### **4. Interactionist and Phenomenological Orientation of Individual and Society.**

In this module we examine how social theory has focused on the individual and the sphere of interaction as a way of understanding the individual and group in the diverse practices that go into the making of everyday life in this connection the module focuses on Interactionism, phenomenology, ethnomethodology and dramaturgy.

##### ***Essential Readings:***

- George Herbert Mead (Edited by Charles W. Morris) (1934) Mind Self and Society from the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist, University of Chicago Press. (Read Part two on Mind)
- Cooley, C.H. (1909) Social Organization: A Study of the Larger Mind. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 25-31. (*The part on Primary Groups from pg 25-31*)  
Another essay by Charles Horton Cooley. "A Primary Culture for Democracy,"  
Publications of the American Sociological Society 13, (1918): 1-10.  
Link: [https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley\\_1918b.html](https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley_1918b.html) (Both these essays will have to be presented together)
- Blumer, H. (1980). Mead and Blumer: The Convergent Methodological Perspectives of Social Behaviorism and Symbolic Interactionism. American Sociological Review, 45(3), 409-419. (Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2095174>)
- Garfinkel, H (1967) Studies in Ethnomethodology, Polity Press.  
( Read chapter Four: Some Rules of Correct Decisions that Jurors Respect)
- Willis, P (1977) Learning to Labour: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs, Columbia University Press. (Read selected portions as given in module)

- Atkinson, P. (1988) Ethnomethodology: A Critical Review Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 14.
- Goffman, E. (1956) The presentation of self in everyday life, University of Edinburgh Social Science Research Centre.  
(Read Chapter VI titled The Arts of Impression Management)
- Gorman, R. (1975). Alfred Schutz--An Exposition and Critique. The British Journal of Sociology, 26(1), 1-19. (Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/589239>)
- Costelloe, T. (1996). Between the Subject and Sociology: Alfred Schutz's Phenomenology of the Life-World. Human Studies, 19(3), 247-266.  
(Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2001111>)

## 5. Post Structuralist Orientations of Modernity and Post Modernity

In this module we examine the role of structuralism and post structuralism in dealing with issues of social structure, subjectivity, power, agency as well as the critical interventions on themes of modernity and post modernity.

### *Essential Readings:*

- Lévi-Strauss, C. (2008). Structural Anthropology. Basic Books.  
(Read chapter- Structural analysis in Linguistics and in Anthropology)
- Lévi-Strauss, C. (2008). Structural Anthropology. Basic Books. (Read chapter- The Structural study of myth)
- Hugo G. N. (1971) Ideological Bases of Levi-Strauss' Structuralism, American Anthropologist Vol. 73, No. 3,
- Bourdieu, P (1977) Outline of theory of Practice, Cambridge University Press.  
( Read Section 1: Analyses in Part One)
- Bourdieu, P (1977) Outline of theory of Practice, Cambridge University Press.  
( Read Part two: Structure and The Habitus)
- Bourdieu, P. (1986) The forms of capital. In J. Richardson (Ed.) Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education (New York, Greenwood), 241-258.  
(Read the essay titled: The Forms of Capital by Pierre Bourdieu)
- Foucault, M (1989) The Order of Things: An archaeology of the human sciences, Routledge.  
(Read section 2: The Prose of the World in Part One)
- Foucault, M (1991) The Foucault Effect: Studies in governmentality, ed. By Graham Burchell et al., University of Chicago Press.  
(Read chapter four: Governmentality)
- Foucault, M (1991) The Foucault Effect: Studies in governmentality, ed. By Graham Burchell et al., University of Chicago Press.  
( Read chapter three: Questions of Method)
- Giddens, A (1990) The Consequences of Modernity, Stanford University Press.  
( Read Part One)
- Beck, U (1992) Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity, Sage Publications, United Kingdom.  
(Read Part One Living on the Volcano of Civilization-The Contours of the Risk Society)

Harvey, David (1989) *The conditions of Postmodernity: An enquiry into the origins of cultural change*, Blackwell Publishers. (Read Part I)

## **6. Feminist and Gender Orientations.**

This orientation will deal with the critical ways in which feminist thought has reshaped the theory and practice of sociological analysis in the past half century. In taking up a critique of modern capitalism and patriarchy, it also looks at issues of gender discrimination and human rights.

### ***Essential Readings:***

Pamela Abbot, P. & Wallace, C. (2005) *An Introduction to Sociology: Feminist Perspectives*, Routledge London (Read Chapter 1 and 2)

Nancy F. (2009) *Feminism, Capitalism and the Cunning of History*. *New Left Review* No. 56, March- April.

Scott, J W (1986) *Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis*. *The American Historical Review*. Vol. 91, No. 5, pp. 1053- 1075.

Sinha M.(2000) *Refashioning Mother India: Feminism and Nationalism in Late-Colonial India*," *Feminist Studies* Vol. 26, NO. 3, October 1

Sarkar, T.(1987) "Nationalist Iconography: Image of Women in 19th Century Bengali literature", *EPW*, 22, 47, Nov 21

Sangari, K., & Vaid, S. (1989) *Recasting Women: An Introduction in Recasting Women: Essays in Colonial History* ed. Sangari K. and Vaid S., Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Uma Chakravarti (1995) *Gender, Caste and Labour-Ideological and Material Structure of Widowhood*, *EPW*, Vol. XXX, No. 36, Sep. 09.

Ambedkar, B. R., & In Rege, S. (2013). *Against the madness of Manu: B.R. Ambedkar's writings on Brahmanical patriarchy*. (Read introductory chapters)

Velaskar, P. (2002) *Theorizing Dalit Women's Oppression*, Paper Presented at the workshop *Dalit Feminism* organized by IWAS and Women's Studies Unit TISS Mumbai.

## **7. Theorizing Indian Society**

This orientation deals with the sociological analysis of Indian society. It critically examines the main themes of identity, social structure, power, ideology in shaping the contemporary sociological discourse of modern Indian society.

### ***Essential Readings:***

Dumont, L.& Pocock D.F.(1957) *For a sociology of India*" *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, F.G. Bailey 1959; T.N. Madan 1966;

Patel, S (2006) *Beyond Binaries: A Case for Self-Reflexive Sociologies*, *Current Sociology*, May 2006, vol. 54 no. 3, pp: 381-395

- Sarkar, B. K. (1985) *The Positive Background of Hindu Sociology*, Motilal Banarasidas, Varanasi. (Read chapter I and II)
- Srinivas, M.N. (1987) *Development of Sociology in India: An Overview*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 22, No. 4 (Jan. 24, 1987), pp. 135-138.
- Dhanagare, D.N. (1998) *Themes and Perspectives In Indian Sociology*. Rawat Publications, New Delhi. (Read chapters 3 and 8)
- Mani, B. R. (2005). *Debrahmanising history: Dominance and resistance in Indian society*. Manohar Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi. ( Read Part Introduction and part I)
- Ambedkar, B. R. (1990). *Annihilation of Caste: An Undelivered Speech*. Arnold Publishers.
- Omvedt, G. (1990) *Dalits and the Democratic Revolution: Dr Ambedkar and the Dalit Movement in Colonial India*, OUP, New Delhi.  
(Read Introduction and \* Towards a Historical Materialist Analysis of the Origins and Development of Caste)
- Guru, G (ed.) *Humiliation: Claims and Context*, OUP, New Delhi. ( Read Introduction )