

**BA (H) Sociology**  
**Discipline Specific Elective 01**  
**Urban Sociology**

**Course Objectives:**

1. Urbanisation is an important aspect of modern society. This course is will provide an exposure to key theoretical perspectives for understanding urban phenomena in historical and contemporary contexts.
2. It also reflects on vital concerns of urban living while narrating the subjective experiences of urban communities. With case studies from India and other parts of the world this course will help students understand and relate to the complexities of urban living.
3. The course seeks to evolve critical thinking and develop a policy perspective on the urban.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. To appreciate the significance of the city and the process of urbanisation and its consequences across the globe, through cross disciplinary texts and ethnographic studies.
2. To understand the urban in the historical as well as modern contexts - the idea of urbanism and urban space and the intersections in these of institutions, processes and identities. This is to be achieved by exposing students to critical theoretical debates which help them to gain a deeper understanding of city life and urban environment which can also help them understand their own social environment better.
3. To learn about key urban processes such as migration, displacement and urban slums, as well as critical contemporary issues such as resettlement and rehabilitation and also engage in issues of public policy, urban transformation and change. Knowledge of such themes will help students pursue further studies in academic areas such as development and also engage in research on public policy, urban transformation and change.
4. To develop critical thinking and a reflective perspective through exposure to multicultural thought; to enhance disciplinary knowledge, research-related skills and develop a problem-solving competence.

**Course Content:**

**Unit 1: Introducing Urban Sociology: Urban, Urbanism and the City**

**Unit 2: Perspectives in Urban Sociology**

2.1. Ecological

2.2. Political Economy

2.3. Network

2.4. City as Culture

### **Unit 3: Movements and Settlements**

3.1. Migration

3.2. Community

### **Unit 4: Politics of Urban Space**

4.1. Caste, Class and Gender

4.2. Culture and Leisure

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### **Unit 1: Introducing Urban Sociology: Urban, Urbanism and the City: (3 Weeks)**

Holton, R. J. *Cities, Capitalism and Civilization*, London: Allan and Unwin, Chapters. 1 & 2. Pp. 1 – 32

Parker, Simon. *Urban Theory and Urban Experience: Encountering the City*, London: Routledge. Chapter 2. Foundations of Urban Theory Pp. 8 - 26.

Mumford, Lewis 1961. *The City in History: its origins and transformations and its prospects*. Mariner Books: Pp 3-29, 94-118

Weber, Max 1978. *The City*. The Free Press: New York. Pp 65-89

### **Unit 2: Perspectives in Urban Sociology: (4 Weeks)**

#### **2.1. Ecological**

Hannerz, Ulf. 1980. *Exploring the City: Toward an Urban Anthropology*, NY: Columbia University Press. Chapter 2. Pp 19-58

#### **2.2. Political Economy**

Harvey, David 1985 *The Urban Experience*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, Chapter 1. Money, Time, Space and the City. Pp. 1-35

#### **2.3. Network**

Castells, Manuel. 2002, "Local and Global: Cities in the Network Society", in *The Royal Dutch Geographical Society KNAG*, Vol. 93, No. 5, Blackwell Publishers. pp. 548–558

#### **2.4. City as Culture**

Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a way of Life" in *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 44, No.1 (July), Pp. 1-24

Simmel, Georg, 1903, "Metropolis and the Mental Life" in Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson, eds. *The Blackwell City Reader*. Oxford and Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2002.

### **Unit 3: Movements and Settlements: (2 Weeks)**

#### **3.1. Migration**

Rao, M.S.A, 1981, "Some aspects of the sociology of migration", *Sociological Bulletin*, Vol. 30, 1. Pp21-38

#### **3.2. Community**

Anand, Inbanathan. 2003, "Migration and Adaptation: Lower Caste Tamils in a Delhi Resettlement Colony" in Ranvinder Singh Sandhu (ed.) *Urbanization in India*. Sage: New Delhi. Pp. 232-246

Ayyar, Varsha. 2013. "Caste and Gender in a Mumbai resettlement site", *Economic & Political Weekly*, May 4, Vol. XLVIII, No 18, Pp 44-55

### **Unit 4: Politics of Urban Space: (5 Weeks)**

#### **4.1. Caste, Class and Gender**

Nair, Janaki "Battles for Bangalore: Reterritorialising the City", Pp 1-21  
<http://opencity.in/documents/battles-for-bangalore-reterritorialising-the-city-janaki-nair>

Kamath, Lalitha and Vijayabaskar, M, 2009. "Limits and possibilities of Middle Class Associations as Urban collective actors", *Economic & Political Weekly*, June 27, 2009 vol XLIV No. 26 & 27, Pp 368 -376

Phadke, Shilpa. 2006. "You can be Lonely in a Crowd" in Sujata Patel and Kushal Deb (eds) *Urban Studies*. OUP: Delhi, Pp. 466-483.

Manuel Castells, 1983, "Cultural Identity, Sexual Liberation and Urban Structure: The Gay Community in San Francisco" in *City and the Grassroots*, Pp. 138-170

#### **4.2. Culture and Leisure**

Grazian, David, 2009, "Urban Nightlife, Social Capital, and the Public Life of Cities" *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 24, No. 4 (Dec., 2009), pp. 908-917

Crawford, Margaret. "The World is a Shopping Mall", From Malcom Miles and Tim Hall (Eds.) *City Cultures Reader*, London: Routledge. Pp. 125-139

## References:

### Compulsory Readings:

Anand, Inbanathan. 2003, "Migration and Adaptation: Lower Caste Tamils in a Delhi Resettlement Colony" in Ranvinder Singh Sandhu (ed.) *Urbanization in India*. Sage: New Delhi. Pp. 232-246

Ayyar, Varsha. 2013. "Caste and Gender in a Mumbai resettlement site", *Economic & Political Weekly*, May 4, Vol. XLVIII, No 18, Pp 44-55

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Crawford, Margaret. "The World is a Shopping Mall", From Malcom Miles and Tim Hall (Eds.) *City Cultures Reader*, London: Routledge. Pp. 125-139

Grazian, David, 2009, "Urban Nightlife, Social Capital, and the Public Life of Cities" *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 24, No. 4 (Dec., 2009), pp. 908-917

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Holton, R. J. *Cities, Capitalism and Civilization*, London: Allan and Unwin, Chapters. 1 & 2. Pp. 1 – 32

Kamath, Lalitha and Vijayabaskar, M, 2009. "Limits and possibilities of Middle Class Associations as Urban collective actors", *Economic & Political Weekly*, June 27, 2009 vol XLIV No. 26 & 27, Pp 368 -376

Mumford, Lewis 1961. *The City in History: its origins and transformations and its prospects*. Mariner Books: Pp 3-29, 94-118

Nair, Janaki "Battles for Bangalore: Reterritorialising the City", Pp 1-21 <http://opencity.in/documents/battles-for-bangalore-reterritorialising-the-city-janaki-nair>

Parker, Simon. *Urban Theory and Urban Experience: Encountering the City*, London: Routledge. Chapter 2. Foundations of Urban Theory Pp. 8 - 26.

Phadke, Shilpa. 2006. "You can be Lonely in a Crowd" in Sujata Patel and Kushal Deb (eds) *Urban Studies*. OUP: Delhi, Pp. 466-483.

Rao, M.S.A, 1981, "Some aspects of the sociology of migration", *Sociological Bulletin*, Vol. 30, 1. Pp21-38

Simmel, Georg, 1903, "Metropolis and the Mental Life" in Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson, eds. *The Blackwell City Reader*. Oxford and Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2002.

Weber, Max 1978. *The City*. The Free Press: New York. Pp 65-89

Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a way of Life" in *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 44, No.1 (July), Pp. 1-24

### **Additional Resources:**

#### **a. Books & Articles**

Eck, Diana, 1983. *Banaras: City of light*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Kumar, Nita, 1988. *The Artisans of Banaras: Popular Culture and Identity, 1880-1986*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Ringer, Fritz. 1994. "Max Weber on the origins and character of the Western city", *Critical Quarterly*, Volume 36, Issue 4, pp. 12-18

Sassen, Saskia. 1991. *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*. Princeton University Press.

Southall, Aidan. 1998. *The City in Time and Space*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### **b. Audio Visual Material:**

1. Whyte, William H 1980. *Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*
2. Giovanni Vaz Del Bello 2006. *A Convenient Truth: Urban Solutions from Curitiba, Brazil*
3. Anand Patwardhan. 1985 *Bombay: Our City*
4. Sanjiv Shah. *A Place To Live*
5. Gouri Patwadhan. *Bin Savlyanchya Gavati (In a Shadowless Town)*

### **Teaching Learning Process:**

The sociology of the urban is simultaneously theoretical and yet deeply experiential. The teaching learning for this course necessarily has to be deliberative, drawing from the multicultural exposure to city living. There will be an emphasis on blended learning supported by debates and discussions. Classroom lectures shall be supplemented by power

point presentations and film screenings on various contemporary urban issues. Invited lectures by policy makers, activists, practitioners and other stake holders would be integral to the curriculum. Students would be encouraged to set out into the field to grasp issues with greater clarity. City walks will be encouraged to enrich the experiential understanding of the urban. Learning would also involve a multi-disciplinary perspective, collaborating with other social sciences that engage with the urban as well as the disciplines of urban planning and architecture, in order to enhance problem solving and critical thinking ability.

**Assessment Methods:**

Assessment for this paper would be in the form of tests, written assignments, projects' reports and presentations.

**Key Words:**

Urban, Urbanism, Urbanisation, City, Migration, Settlement, Space, Ecology.