

BA (H) Sociology
Discipline Specific Elective 02
Agrarian Sociology

Course Objectives:

1. To communicate Agriculture as the foundational material and cultural practice at the heart of the formation of social collectivities and make sense of South Asian societies agrarian formations.
2. To familiarize students with agrarian situation past and present with the help of necessary theories and categories.
3. To make sense of agrarian communities, their structure, transformation and trials and tribulations in modern world.
4. To introduce students to the rich legacy of theoretical and empirical work in agrarian sociology and its continued relevance.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. An empathy for and ability to engage agrarian communities as living societies and understand grasp they condition as human condition.
2. An appreciation of agrarian world and familiarity with the trajectory of theoretical conversation on agrarian issues and their social, political and policy implications.
3. An understating of emerging as well as enduring issues of concern in Indian agrarian scene.
4. To be ready for a range of academic and professional roles that may require a knowledge of agrarian societies.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Agrarian Societies and Agrarian Studies

Unit 2: Perspectives in Agrarian Sociology

- 2.1 The Agrarian Question
- 2.2 The Moral Economy
- 2.3 Agrarian Commodity Systems
- 2.4 The Gandhian Vision

Unit 3: Themes in Agrarian Sociology of India

- 3.1 Land, Labor and Classes
- 3.2 State, Market, Policy and Politics
- 3.3 Caste and Gender

Unit 4: Knowledge and Crisis

*

Unit 1. Agrarian Societies and Agrarian Studies (Weeks: 1-2)

Ludden, David. (1999), 'Agriculture' from, *An Agrarian History of South Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1999. Pp. 6-48

Thorner, Daniel and Alice Thorner. 'The Agrarian Problem in India Today', from, *Land and Labour in India*, Bombay: Asia Publishing House. 1962. Pp. 3-13

Unit 2. Perspectives in Agrarian Sociology (Weeks: 3-5)

2.1 The Agrarian Question

Haroon Akram-Lodhi, A. and Cristobal Kay. Back to the future? Modes of Production and the Agrarian Question. From B. B. Mohanty, *Critical Perspectives on Agrarian Transition: India in the Global Debate*. London: Routledge. Pp. 43 - 63

2.2 The Moral Economy

Scott, James C. 'The Economic and Sociology of Subsistence Ethic', From, *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in South East Asia*, New Haven: Yale University Press. 1976. Pp 13-34

Popkin, Samuel L. 'The Rational Peasant', from, *The Rational Peasant: The Political Economy of Rural Society in Vietnam*, Berkley: University of California Press. 1979. Pp. 1-31

2.3 Agrarian Commodity Systems

Friedland, William. 1984. "Commodity Systems Analysis: An Approach to the Sociology of Agriculture". *Research in Rural Sociology and Development* 1: 221–235

2.4 The Gandhian Vision

Kumarappa, J. C. *Gandhian Economic Thought, Varanasi: Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan, 1962* . Chapters 2 & 3 'Agrarian Economy and Rural Reconstruction' & Agro and Village Industries. Pp. 18-33

Unit 3. Themes in Agrarian Sociology of India (Weeks 6-12)

3.1 Land, Labor and Classes

Bandopadhyay, D. 'Reflections on Land Reform in India since Independence' from T. V. Satyamurthy (Ed.) *Industry and Agriculture in India Since Independence*, Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pp. 301-327

Patel, S. J. 'Agricultural Laborers in Modern India and Pakistan' from Gyan Prakash (ed.) *Worlds of Rural Labourer in Colonial India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press. 1992. Pp. 47-74

Mencher, Joan P. 'Problems in Analyzing Rural Class Structure', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 9, No. 35 (Aug. 31, 1974), pp. 1495+1497+1499-1503

3.2 State, Markets, Policy and Politics

Gupta, Akhil. *Post-Colonial Developments: Agriculture in the Making of Modern India*. Dunham: Duke University Press, 1998. Chapter 2. Agrarian Populism and Development of Modern Nation. Pp. 33 – 105

Krishnamurthy, Mekhala. 'Reconceiving the grain heap: Margins and movements on the market floor' *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 52, 1 (2018): 28–52.

Dhanagare, D. N. 'Green Revolution and Social Inequalities in Rural India' from, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 22, No. 19/21, Annual Number (May, 1987), pp. AN: 137-139, 141-144.

Brass, Tom. 'The New Farmer's Movements in India', from, Tom Brass (ed.), *The New farmer's Movemnts in India*, Essex: Frank Cass. (1995). Pp.1-20

3.3 Caste and Gender

Jackson, Cecile. 'Gender Analysis of Land: Beyond Land Rights for Women?', *Journal of Agrarian Change*, Volume 3 (4) (October, 2003) Pp. 453-478.

Omvedt, Gail. 'The Downtrodden among the Downtrodden: An Interview with a Dalit Agricultural Laborer' *Signs*, Vol. 4, No. 4, The Labor of Women: Work and Family (Summer, 1979), pp. 763-774

Unit 4. Knowledge and Crisis

Van der Ploeg, Jan Douwe. 'Potatoes and Knowledge' From Mark Hobart (ed.) *An Anthropological Critique of Development: The Growth of Ignorance*. London: Routledge. 1993. Pp. 209-224

Vasavi. A. R. 'Agrarian Distress in Bidar: Market, State and Suicides', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Volume 34, Number 32. (1999). Pp. 2263-2268

References:

Compulsory Readings:

Bandopadhyay, D. 'Reflections on Land Reform in India since Independence' from T. V. Satyamurthy (Ed.) *Industry and Agriculture in India Since Independence*, Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pp. 301-327

Brass, Tom. 'The New Farmer's Movements in India', from, Tom Brass (ed.), *The New farmer's Movemnts in India*, Essex: Frank Cass. (1995). Pp.1-20

Dhanagare, D. N. 'Green Revolution and Social Inequalities in Rural India' from, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 22, No. 19/21, Annual Number (May, 1987), pp. AN: 137-139, 141-144.

Friedland, William. 1984. "Commodity Systems Analysis: An Approach to the Sociology of Agriculture". *Research in Rural Sociology and Development* 1: 221–235

Gupta, Akhil. *Post-Colonial Developments: Agriculture in the Making of Modern India*. Dunham: Duke University Press, 1998. Chapter 2. Agrarian Populism and Development of Modern Nation. Pp. 33 – 105

Haroon Akram-Lodhi, A. and Cristobal Kay. Back to the future? Modes of Production and the Agrarian Question. From B. B. Mohanty, *Critical Perspectives on Agrarian Transition: India in the Global Debate*. London: Routledge. Pp. 43 – 63

Jackson, Cecile. 'Gender Analysis of Land: Beyond Land Rights for Women?', *Journal of Agrarian Change*, Volume 3 (4) (October, 2003) Pp. 453-478.

Krishnamurthy, Mekhala. 'Reconceiving the grain heap: Margins and movements on the market floor' *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 52, 1 (2018): 28–52.

Kumarappa, J. C. *Gandhian Economic Thought, Varanasi: Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan, 1962* . Chapters 2 & 3 'Agrarian Economy and Rural Reconstruction' & Agro and Village Industries. Pp. 18-33

Ludden, David. (1999), 'Agriculture' from, *An Agrarian History of South Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1999. Pp. 6-48

Mencher, Joan P. 'Problems in Analyzing Rural Class Structure', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 9, No. 35 (Aug. 31, 1974), pp. 1495+1497+1499-1503

Omvedt, Gail. 'The Downtrodden among the Downtrodden: An Interview with a Dalit Agricultural Laborer' *Signs*, Vol. 4, No. 4, The Labor of Women: Work and Family (Summer, 1979), pp. 763-774

Patel, S. J. 'Agricultural Laborers in Modern India and Pakistan' from Gyan Prakash (ed.) *Worlds of Rural Labourer in Colonial India*, Dehi: Oxford University Press. 1992. Pp. 47-74

Popkin, Samuel L. 'The Rational Peasant', from, *The Rational Peasant: The Political Economy of Rural Society in Vietnam*, Berkley: University of California Press. 1979. Pp. 1-31

Scott, James C. 'The Economic and Sociology of Subsistence Ethic', From, *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in South East Asia*, New Haven: Yale University Press. 1976. Pp 13-34

Thorner, Daniel and Alice Thorner. 'The Agrarian Problem in India Today', from, *Land and Labour in India*, Bombay: Asia Publishing House. 1962. Pp. 3-13

Van der Ploeg, Jan Douwe. 'Potatoes and Knowledge' From Mark Hobart (ed.) *An Anthropological Critique of Development: The Growth of Ignorance*. London: Routledge. 1993. Pp. 209-224

Vasavi. A. R. 'Agrarian Distress in Bidar: Market, State and Suicides', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Volume 34, Number 32. (1999). Pp. 2263-2268

Additional Resources:

a. Books & Articles

Beteille, Andre. 'The Study of Agrarian Systems: An Anthropological Approach', from *Marxism and Class Analysis*, New Delhi: Oxford. 2007. Pp. 84-93

Capitalism and Peasant Farming: Agrarian Structure and Ideology in North Tamil Nadu, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1982. Pp. 149-210

Edelman, Marc. 'Bringing the Moral Economy Back in... to the Study of 21st-Century Transnational Peasant Movements', *American Anthropologist*, New Series, Vol. 107, No. 3 (Sep., 2005), pp. 331- 345.

Feder, Ernest. 'The New World Bank Programme for the Self-Liquidation of the Third World Peasantry', *Journal of Peasant Studies*, Volume 3, Issue 3, 1976. Pp. 343-352

Gough, Kathleen. 'Indian Peasant Uprisings' *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 9, No. 32/34, Special Number (Aug., 1974), 1391-1393+1395-1397+1399+1401-1403+1405-1406

Habib, Irfan. 'The Peasant in Indian History' from, *Essays in Indian History: Towards a Marxist*

Hardiman, David. 'Farming the Forrest: The Dangs 1830-1992', from *Histories of the Subordinated*, London: Seagull, 2007. Pp. 362-389.

Harriss, John. 'The Process of Production and the Development of Agrarian Capitalism' from, Hobsbawm, E. J. 'Peasants and Politics', *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 1, October 1973, 3–20

Mazoyer, Marcel and Laurenc Eroudart. 'Introduction', From, *A History of World Agriculture: From Neolithic Age to the Current Crisis*, New York: Monthly Review Press. 2008.

Scott, James C. 'afterword to 'Moral Economics, State Spaces and Categorical Violence'', *American Anthropologist*, New Series, Vol. 107, No. 3 (Sep., 2005), pp. 395-402

Thorner, Alice. 'Semi-Feudalism or Capitalism? Contemporary Debate on Classes and Modes of Production in India', Parts: 1-3, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 17, No. 49 (Dec. 4, 1982), pp. 1961-1968; No. 50 (Dec. 11, 1982), pp. 1993-1999; No. 51 (Dec. 18, 1982), pp. 2061-2064

Thorner, Daniel. 'Chayanov's Concept of Peasant Economy' from, *A. V. Chayanov on the Theory of Peasant Economy*, Manchester: Manchester University Press. 1966. Pp. xi-xxiii

Teaching Learning Process:

The teaching learning for this course involves lectures, tutorial conversations around contemporary issues of concern for agrarian societies and extensive usage of imaginative literature and films that makes the lived world of peasantry and agrarian communities come alive to the students.

Assessment Methods:

Recommended evaluation would be an assignment that tests the conceptual grasp of the students and a project that prompts students to engage in research about a historical or contemporarily agrarian issue.

Keywords:

Agriculture, Agrarian Question, Moral Economy, Populism, Land, Labour, Technology, Agrarian Markets, Peasantry, Gender, Caste, State, Commodity Chains, Agrarian Crisis, Green Revolution.