B.A. (H) Sociology
Discipline Specific Elective 04
Sociology of Work

Course Objectives:

1. The course introduces the idea that though work and production have been integral to societies through time, the origin and spread of industrialisation made a distinct rupture to that link. This rupture can also be seen mirrored in the coming of sociology as a discipline that considered work as central to the study of society.

2. Based on this premise, the paper goes on to provide an outline as to how values and ideals of pluralised industrialism(s) have caused and absorbed multiple transformative shifts to the local and global social networks of the contemporary world.

3. In this context, the course addresses various contemporay problems, issues and concerns   in a historical perspective, such as formal and informal work, unpaid work, gender, alienation, forced labour and hazardous work.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Understanding work in its social aspects such as gendered work and unpaid work, as different from its better known economic dimension.
2. Understanding work in its global dimensions, including the mutual relation between work in underdeveloped societies and that in developed ones, thus bringing out the importance of the comparative perspective in the study of work.
3. Learning about the complexities, disparities and inequalities in the area of work.
4. Learning about the socio-historical context of work, theoretical concerns and problems, and contemporary issues in the area of work and industry.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Work in Historical Perspective

Unit 2: Interlinking Work and Industry

Unit 3: Forms of Industrial Culture and Organization

       2.1 Industrialism
       2.2 Post-industrial Society
       2.3 Information Society

Unit 4: Dimensions of Work

4.1 Alienation
4.2 Gender
4.3 Unpaid Work and Forced Labour

Unit 5: Work in the Informal Sector

Unit 6: Risk, Hazard and Disaster

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Unit 1: Work in Historical Perspective (Week 1)

Volti, Rudi. 2011, "An Introduction to the Sociology of Work and Occupations" Sage Publications, Inc. (second edition), Chs. 1 and 2, Pp. 1-16 and 19-35.

Unit 2: Interlinking Work and Industry (Weeks 2-3)

Grint, Keith. 2005, "Classical Approaches to Work: Marx, Durkheim and Weber" in *The Sociology of Work: An Introduction*. Polity Press. Cambridge. Pp. 90-112

Uberoi, J.P.S. 1970, "Work, Study and Industrial worker in England" in *Man, Science and Society*. IIAS: Simla. Pp 34-45

Unit 3: Forms of Industrial Culture and Organisation (Weeks 4-6)
3.1 Industrialism
Ramaswamy E. A. and Uma Ramaswamy. 1981, *Industry and Labour*, New Delhi:Oxford University Press, Chapter 3, Pp.33-65

3.2 Post-industrial Society

Bell, Daniel. 1976, *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society*, London: Heineman, Introduction, Pp.12-45

Kumar, Krishan.1973, *Prophecy and Progress*, London: Allen Lane, Ch. 6, Pp. 185-240

3.3 Information Society

Kumar, Krishan. 1999, From *Post-Industrial to Post-Modern Society*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd., Chapter 2 and 6, Pp 6-35 and 154-163.

Unit 4: Dimensions of Work (Weeks 7-10)

4.1 Alienation

Erikson, Kai. 1990, "On Work and Alienation" in Erikson, K. and S.P. Vallas (eds) *The Nature of Work: Sociological Perspectives*. New Haven and London: American Sociological Association, Presidential Series and Yale University Press, Pp. 19-33

Taylor, Steve. 1998, "Emotional Labour and the new Workplace" in Thompson and Walhurst (eds.) *Workplace of the Future*. London: Macmillan, Pp. 84-100

4.2 Gender

Devine, Fiona. 1992, "Gender Segregation in the Engineering and Science Professions: A case of continuity and change" in *Work, Employment and Society'*, 6 (4) Pp.557-75.

Chowdhry, Prem. 1993,"High Participation, Low Evaluation: Women and Work in Rural Haryana", *Economic and Political Weekly*, December 25, Pp.136-148.

4.3 Unpaid Work and Forced Labour

Edgell, Stephen. 2006, "Unpaid Work-Domestic and Voluntary work" in *The Sociology of Work: Continuity and Change in Unpaid Work*. New Delhi:Sage, Pp.153-181

Coser, 1990, "Forced Labour in Concentration Camps" in Erikson, K. and S.P.Vallas (eds.) *The Nature of Work: Sociological Perspectives*, New Haven and London: American Sociological Association, Presidential Series and Yale University Press, Pp. 162-69

Unit 5: Work in the Informal Sector (Weeks 11-12)

Breman, Jan. 2003, "The Informal Sector" in Veena Das, (ed.) *The Oxford India Companion to Sociology and Social Anthropology*, New Delhi: OUP, Pp. 1287-1312

Talib, Mohammad. 2010, *Writing Labour- Stone Quarry workers in Delhi*. New Delhi:OUP, Chapter 1, Pp. 23-54

Unit 6: Risk, Hazard and Disaster (Weeks 13-14)

Visvanathan, Shiv. 1986, "Bhopal: the Imagination of a Disaster", *Alternatives* XI, Pp. 147-165

Zonabend, Francoise. 2009, "The Nuclear Everyday" in Massimiliano Mollona, Geert De Neve and Jonathan Parry (ed.) *Industrial Work and Life: An Anthropological Reader*, London: Berg, Pp. 167-185

References:
Compulsory Readings:

Bell, Daniel. 1976, *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society*, London: Heineman, Introduction, Pp.12-45.

Breman, Jan. 2003, "The Informal Sector" in Veena Das, (ed.) *The Oxford India Companion to Sociology and Social Anthropology*, New Delhi: OUP, Pp. 1287-1312.

Chowdhry, Prem. 1993,"High Participation, Low Evaluation: Women and Work in Rural Haryana", *Economic and Political Weekly*, December 25, Pp.136-148.

Devine, Fiona. 1992, "Gender Segregation in the Engineering and Science Professions: A case of continuity and change" in *Work, Employment and Society*', 6 (4) Pp.557-75.

Coser, 1990, "Forced Labour in Concentration Camps" in Erikson, K. and S.P.Vallas (eds.) *The Nature of Work: Sociological Perspectives*, New Haven and London: American Sociological Association, Presidential Series and Yale University Press, Pp. 162-69.

Edgell, Stephen. 2006, "Unpaid Work-Domestic and Voluntary work" in *The Sociology of Work: Continuity and Change in Unpaid Work*. New Delhi:Sage, Pp.153-181.

Erikson, Kai. 1990, "On Work and Alienation" in Erikson, K. and S.P. Vallas (eds) *The Nature of Work: Sociological Perspectives*. New Haven and London:American Sociological Association, Presidential Series and Yale University Press, Pp. 19-33.

Grint, Keith. 2005, "Classical Approaches to Work: Marx, Durkheim and Weber" in *The Sociology of Work: An Introduction*. Polity Press. Cambridge. Pp. 90-112.

Kumar, Krishan.1973, *Prophecy and Progress*, London:Allen Lane, Ch. 6, Pp. 185-240.

Kumar, Krishan. 1999, *From Post-industrial to Post-modern society*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd., Chapter 2 and 6, Pp 6-35 and 154-163.

Ramaswamy E. A. and Uma Ramaswamy. 1981, *Industry and Labour*, New Delhi:Oxford University Press, Chapter 3, Pp.33-65.

Talib, Mohammad. 2010, *Writing Labour- Stone Quarry workers in Delhi*. New Delhi:OUP, Chapter 1, Pp. 23-54.

Taylor, Steve. 1998, "Emotional Labour and the new Workplace" in Thompson and Walhurst (eds.) *Workplace of the Future*. London:Macmillan, Pp. 84-100.

Uberoi, J.P.S. 1970, "Work, Study and Industrial worker in England" in *Man, Science and Society*. IIAS: Simla. Pp 34-45.

Volti, Rudi. 2011, "An Introduction to the Sociology of Work and Occupations" Sage Publications, Inc. (second edition), Chs. 1 and 2, Pp. 1-16 and 19-35.

Visvanathan, Shiv. 1986, "Bhopal: the Imagination of a Disaster", *Alternatives* XI, Pp. 147-165.

Zonabend, Francoise. 2009, "The Nuclear Everyday" in Massimiliano Mollona, Geert De Neve and Jonathan Parry (ed.) *Industrial Work and Life: An Anthropological Reader*, London: Berg, Pp. 167-185.

Additional Resources:

Books and Articles:

Freeman, Carla.2009, 'Feminity and Flexible labour: Fashioning Class through gender on the global assembly line' in Massimiliano Mollona, Geert De Neev and Jonathan parry (eds.) *Industrial Wiork nd life:An Anthropological Reader*, London:Berg. pp. 257-268.

Etzioni, A. and P.A. Jargowsky. 1990, "The false choice between high technology and basic industry" in K. Erikson and P. Vallas (eds.) *The Nature of Work; Sociological Perspecives*, New Haven and London: Yale University press, pp. 304-317.

Laughlin, Kim. 1995, "Rehabilitating Science, Imagining Bhopal" in George E. Marcus (ed.) *Techno-scientific Imaginaries: Conversations, Profiles and Memoirs*, Chicago:University of Chicago press, pp. 277-302.

Audio Visual Material:

1. 'Modern Times' by Charlie Chaplin

2. '15 Jobs that will disappear in the next 20 years due to Automation'   https://www.alux.com

Teaching-learning process

As the course revolves around 'work' which is a theme central and innate to humankind, it by definition requires active participation and involvement of students and interactive sessions. Lectures would have to be supported by active group tutorial sessions around the issues raised in the course syllabus, which would further connect with many aspects of work in terms of real life experiences, inviting discussion and debate. The course would allow for screening of films and documentaries related to different aspects of work, followed by interactive discussion. The key issues relating to work raised in the course, would encourage students to pursue these beyond the syllabus readings through library material and e-resources. Students can take up projects in various areas suggested by the course, using secondary sources as well as by conducting modest field-work, individually or in teams. The course also offers immense scope for conducting field visits to various work situations, to study work place interaction, gender issues at work, impact of technological innovation on workers, work in informal sector, etc.

Assessment Methods:
This paper would use class tests, written assignments, presentations, project reports, seminars and group discussions as methods of assessment.

Key Words:
Industrialism, work-study, scientific management, industrialization, post-industrialism, information, high technology, alienation, gendered work, emotional labor, informal sector, unpaid work.