

B.A. (Honours) Sociology
Introduction to Sociology – I
Core Course 01

Course Objectives

1. The mandate of the course is to introduce the discipline to students from diverse academic and social backgrounds, trainings and capabilities. The course is intended to introduce the students to a sociological ways of thinking. They learn how to apply sociological concepts to the everyday life.
2. Illustrations through popular stories for instance help students understand more cogently how even children’s literature and fiction is a reflection of the times. The student by the end of the course realises that the individual choices are impacted by the social structure of which we are a part. A person’s individual biography is a reflection of the times in which they live. They develop reflective thinking skills of both self and society. They develop a sense of how common sense is actually limited to those who share the same spatial- geographical, social and cultural location.
3. The students are able to demonstrate the ability to apply the theoretical concepts learned to all kinds of societies whether simple or complex. They understand various aspects of society and how these are interlinked with each other. These include understanding the relationship of individuals with groups. By understanding these relationships the student develops a sense of how closely the lives of individuals are intertwined and impact each other.
4. The course also introduces the students to the emergence of Sociology as a systematic and scientific field of study. The emergence of sociology as a science also helps them understand the changing conceptualisation of what it means to be scientific. They are also for the first time exposed to the interdisciplinary nature of the social sciences like social anthropology, history and psychology. They learn how these relate to each other while maintain their disciplinary boundaries.
5. The students also learn about the basics of doing field work. This is important since field work based projects are often assigned in various papers across the semesters. By doing projects the students learn to apply sociological concepts to understand various aspects of society.
6. The course is designed in a manner that for each topic there are multiple readings. The students learn how to read complex texts and to express thoughts and ideas effectively in writing. They also learn how to frame arguments cogently. The course also provides a foundation for the other more detailed and specialized courses in sociology.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. The students learn to apply the sociological perspective in understanding how society shapes our individual lives.

2. It also provides a foundation for the other more detailed and specialized courses in sociology.
3. The students also learn about the basics of doing field work and use it for doing field work based projects. They also learn to write project reports.
4. The students learn how to read and interpret complex ideas and texts and to present them in a cogent manner.

Course Outline

Unit 1 Sociology: Discipline and Perspective

1.1 Thinking Sociologically

1.2 Emergence of Sociology and Social Anthropology

Unit 2 Sociology and Other Social Sciences

Unit 3 Sociological Investigation

Unit 4 Basic Concepts

4.1 Individual and Group

4.2 Associations and Institutions

4.3 Culture and Society

4.4 Social Change

Course Content:

Unit 1. Sociology: Discipline and Perspective (1-3 Weeks)

1.1 Thinking Sociologically

Johnson, Allan G. 2008, *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life Practice and Promise*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, Introduction and Chapter 1, 'The Forest, the Trees and One Thing', Pp. 1-36

Beteille, Andre, 2009, *Sociology: Essays in Approach and Method*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1, 'Sociology and Common Sense', Pp. 13-27

Garner, James Finn, 1994, *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories: Modern Tales for Our Life and Times*, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons Inc., Chapters, *Introduction*, 'Little Red Riding Hood' & 'Rumpelstiltskin'

1.2 Emergence of Sociology

Ritzer, George, 1996, *Classical Sociological Theory*, New York: McGraw Hill, Chapter 1, 'A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory- The Early Years', Pp. 13-46

Unit 2. Sociology and Other Social Sciences (4-5 Weeks)

Béteille, André, 1985, *Six Essays in Comparative Sociology*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1, 'Sociology and Social Anthropology'

Bottomore, T. B. 1971, *Sociology: A Guide to Problems and Literature*, London: Allen and Unwin. Chapter 4, 'The Social Sciences, History and Philosophy', Pp. 65-80

Beattie, J., 1966, *Other Cultures*, London R.K.P., Chapter 2, 'Social Anthropology and Some Other Sciences of Man', Pp. 25- 29.

Burke, Peter, 1980, *Sociology and History*, George Allen and Unwin, Chapter 1, 'Sociologists and Historians', Pp. 13-30.

Unit 3. Sociological Investigation (6th week)

Macionis, John, J. (Adapted by Reema Bhatia). 2019. *Sociology*, 17 Edition. Chapter 2. Sociological Investigation. Pearson. New Delhi.

Unit 4. Basic Concepts (7-14 Weeks)

4.1. Individual and Group

Horton, Paul B., Chester L. Hunt. 2004, *Sociology*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill, Chapter 4. Pp 83-94; Chapter 5. Pp 104-115; Chapter 8, Pp. 185-209.

4.2 Associations and Institutions

Horton, Paul B., Chester L. Hunt. 2004, *Sociology*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw Hill. Chapter 9, Pp. 210- 229.

Firth, Raymond, 1956, *Human Types*, Thomas Nelson & Sons, Chapter 3, 'Work and Wealth of Primitive Communities', Pp. 71-97

4.3 Society and Culture

Macionis, John, J. (Adapted by Reema Bhatia). 2019. *Sociology*, 17 Edition. Chapter 3, Culture, Pp 70-95. Pearson. New Delhi.

Redfield, Robert 1956, Chapter 16, 'How Human Society Operates', in Harry L Shapiro (ed.) *Man, Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford University Press, Pp. 345-368. *approaches*.

4.4 Social Change

Macionis, John, J. (Adapted by Reema Bhatia). 2019. *Sociology*, 17 Edition. Chapter 25. Social Change. Pearson. New Delhi.

References:

Compulsory Readings:

Beattie, J., 1966, *Other Cultures*, London R.K.P., Chapter 2, 'Social Anthropology and Some Other Sciences of Man', Pp. 25- 29.

Béteille, André, 1985, *Six Essays in Comparative Sociology*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1, 'Sociology and Social Anthropology'

Beteille, Andre, 2009, *Sociology: Essays in Approach and Method*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1, 'Sociology and Common Sense', Pp. 13-27

Bottomore, T. B. 1971, *Sociology: A Guide to Problems and Literature*, London: Allen and Unwin. Chapter 4, 'The Social Sciences, History and Philosophy', Pp. 65-80

Burke, Peter, 1980, *Sociology and History*, George Allen and Unwin, Chapter 1, 'Sociologists and Historians', Pp. 13-30.

Firth, Raymond, 1956, *Human Types*, Thomas Nelson & Sons, Chapter 3, 'Work and Wealth of Primitive Communities', Pp. 71-97

Garner, James Finn, 1994, *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories: Modern Tales for Our Life and Times*, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons Inc., Chapters, *Introduction*, 'Little Red Riding Hood' & 'Rumpelstiltskin'

Horton, Paul B., Chester L. Hunt. 2004, *Sociology*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill, Chapter 4. Pp 83-94; Chapter 5. Pp 104-115; Chapter 8, Pp. 185-209.

Horton, Paul B., Chester L. Hunt. 2004, *Sociology*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw Hill. Chapter 9, Pp. 210- 229.

Johnson, Allan G. 2008, *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life Practice and Promise*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, *Introduction* and Chapter 1, 'The Forest, the Trees and One Thing', Pp. 1-36

Macionis, John, J. (Adapted by Reema Bhatia). 2019. *Sociology*, 17 Edition. Chapter 2. Sociological Investigation. Pearson. New Delhi.

Macionis, John, J. (Adapted by Reema Bhatia). 2019. *Sociology*, 17 Edition. Chapter 3, Culture, Pp 70-95. Pearson. New Delhi.

Macionis, John, J. (Adapted by Reema Bhatia). 2019. *Sociology*, 17 Edition. Chapter 25. Social Change. Pearson. New Delhi.

Redfield, Robert 1956, Chapter 16, 'How Human Society Operates', in Harry L Shapiro (ed.) *Man, Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford University Press, Pp. 345-368. *approaches*.

Ritzer, George, 1996, *Classical Sociological Theory*, New York: McGraw Hill, Chapter 1, 'A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory- The Early Years', Pp. 13-46

Additional Resources

Giddens, Anthony. 2009. *Sociology*, 6 Edition. Polity Press. Cambridge. UK.

MacIver, Robert M, and Charles Hunt Page. 1949. *Society*, New York: Rinehart. Chapter 10, 'Types of Social Groups', Pp. 213-237.

Films and documentaries

Teaching Learning Process:

1. Lectures supported by group tutorial work
2. Field-based learning through group projects
3. Seminars
4. Writing Workshops
5. Invited Lectures

Assessment Methods:

1. Time-constrained Examinations
2. Class tests
3. Assignments
4. Project reports
5. Presentations

Keywords:

Thinking Sociologically, Sociology and Social Anthropology, Sociological Investigation, Individual and Group, Culture and Society, Social Change