

Course Syllabus (Outline)

STREAM I: THEORIES AND METHODS

1.1 REFLECTIONS ON ETHNOGRAPHY

1. History, Space and Subjectivity
2. The Constitution of the Site: Ethnographic Authority and the Crisis of Postmodernity
3. The Ethnographic Present, Modality and the Politics of Representation
4. Ethnographic Texts: Orality, Writing and the Visual

1.2 CONTEMPORARY CLASS ANALYSIS

1. Class as a social science concept
2. Problems and constraints
3. Class in interaction
4. The future of class analysis

1.3 PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

1. The Plurality of Cultures
 - (i) Western Ethnocentrism & Universality.
 - (ii) Rationalism, Romanticism, Nihilism and the Europeanization of the globe.
 - (iii) Mathesis Universalis & culture-specific cognitive systems.
 - (iv) Self, Society, Culture in the Indic, European and Semitic traditions.
2. Strategies of Universalization
 - (i) The Project of a Philosophical Anthropology in the West.
 - (ii) Indic & Indian Standpoints
 - (iii) Reflexivity & Translation.

1.4 STRUCTURALISM AND POST-STRUCTURALISM

1. Symbolic Order of the Social: History, Language, Event
2. Power, Biopolitics and Institutional Practice: Violence, Archive, Testimony
3. The Problem of Desire: Agency, Time and the Subject

1.5 THEORISING DEMOCRACY, EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

1. Social Exclusion: Contexts, forms and practices

2. Freedom and Democracy: Formal and substantive
3. Equality and Justice: Formal and substantive
4. Capabilities and Entitlements
5. Inclusive Policies and Practices

1.6 ARCHAEOLOGY OF CASTE

1. Historicizing Sociology and Social Anthropology.
2. Political Economy and Culture
3. Forms of experiencing the caste system.
4. Mobilizations and Resistances

STREAM II: SPECIALIZATIONS

2.1 SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

1. Body, Health and Illness: Theoretical Perspectives
2. Illness Narratives and Limits of Representation
3. Medical Pluralism and healing: Issues, Trends and Practices
4. Sociology, public health and medicine

2.2 THEORISING MASCULINITIES

1. Formations of Masculinity
 - (i) ritual, socialization and body regimes
 - (ii) performance, image, representation
2. The production and reproduction of masculinities
 - (i) production of gendered spheres
 - (ii) work, labour, employment
3. Hegemonic and subaltern formations
 - (i) gender, race and sexuality
 - (ii) discourses of androgyny, effeminacy and homosexuality
4. Embodiments of masculinity
 - (i) bodies and identities
 - (ii) health, well-being and disability.

2.3 RETHINKING THE FAMILY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

1. Relevance of a sociology of family in contemporary society: Classical theories and contemporary concerns
2. Shifting patterns of marriage, non-marriage and family
3. Genetic science, new reproductive technologies and the contemporary family
4. Family in transnational contexts
5. Representations of family
6. Issues of method

2.4 NATURE, SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT

1. Social constructions of nature
2. Human, cultural and political ecology
3. Environmental knowledges and modalities of power
4. Natural resource management institutions
5. Development paradigms and the environment
6. Livelihoods, environmentalisms and social movements

2.5 SOCIOLOGY OF CIVIL WAR

1. Defining Civil War: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives
2. The Logic of Violence in Civil War
3. The Culture of Civil War: a repertory of practices
4. Political Economy of War
5. Democracy, Sovereignty, and Citizenship
6. Reparations, Truth and Reconciliation

2.6 STUDYING THE STATE

1. Classical themes
2. Institutions, practices, processes
3. Hegemonies, consensus, boundaries
4. Power, resistance, revolution

2.7 AGRARIAN STRUCTURE

1. Agrarian Structure and the Political Order:
 - (i) Feudalism
 - (ii) Colonialism
 - (iii) Capitalism
2. Commercialization of Agriculture: Social Aspects
3. Agrarian Unrest

2.8 TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION, GENDER AND IDENTITIES

1. Crossing borders: *Belonging, Home, Exile, Exclusion*
2. Gender and the Politics of Identity
3. States, Citizenship, Control and Flexibility
4. Cultural Flows and Identities.

2.9 SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SUBALTERNEITY: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

1. Conceptualising Discrimination
 - (i) Dimensions
 - (ii) Categories and contrasts
2. Constructions of hierarchies:
 - (i) Colonial lineages
 - (ii) Anthropology and ethnography
 - (iii) Popular representations
3. Debating genres of marginality and identity
 - (i) Caste and Race
 - (ii) Nomads and Gypsies
 - (iii) Tribes, indigenous people and aborigines
4. Redressals, rebellions and negotiations
 - (i) Affirmative Action policies in different social contexts
 - (ii) Social and political movements

2.10 GENDER AND POPULATION: PERSPECTIVES ON REPRODUCTION, SEXUALITY, AND POWER

1. Population and society
2. Sexuality and the cultural politics of reproduction
3. Birth control: policy, power and rights

2.11 WOMEN IN INDIAN SOCIETY

1. The significance of women's studies

2. Women and social structure
3. Cultural perceptions of women
4. Movements and organization