Course: Discipline Specific Core C09

Semester ____	**4**
Paper Number	**HSOCR4091T**
Paper Title	**Sociology of Kinship**
No. of Credits	**6**
Theory/Composite	**Theory**
No. of periods assigned	**Th: 5 +1** **Pr:**
Name of Faculty member(s)	1 INSTRUCTOR 1 TUTOR
Course description/objective	This course combines perspective from anthropology and sociology to understand the institutions of Kinship, marriage, and family. • The student will be familiarized with the theoretical approaches to the anthropological study of Kinship including descent, alliance, Marxist, Cultural and feminist. The course looks at the trajectories and new directions in kinship studies • The student will encounter typologies of marriage and its social significance, functionalist and feminist approaches to marriage. • Students will learn how discourses, both modern and pre-modern shape the 'normal' family and feminist critiques of the same. • Students will also be introduced to classical sociological approaches to religion. • The course aims to equip students to think sociologically and critically about the aforementioned social institutions • The course is aimed to check ethno-centrism among students and to foster respect, appreciation and a whole hearted defense of cultural differences.
Syllabus	**Outline: Introduction:** *Key Terms*: Descent, Consanguinity, Filiation, Incest Taboo, Affinity, Family, Residence **1. Approaches: (weeks 1-5)** • Descent • Alliance • Cultural • Marxist **2. Family, Household and Marriage : (weeks 6-10)** • Classification, Proscriptions and Prescriptions of Marriage

	• Theories and Discourses of the family • Feminist critique of marriage, family and Intimate relationships • Marriage and Family in India: Some Reflections **3.** **Re-casting Kinship: (weeks 10-12)** • Relatedness • Kinship and Gender • Re-imagining Families • New Reproductive Technologies
Texts	
Reading/Reference Lists	**1.** **Key terms and approaches** Beattie, Joanne. 1999. 'Kinship', *Other Cultures: Aims, Methods and Achievements in Social Anthropology*. London: Routledge.pp- 93-116 Banard, Allan. 2011. 'Elementary Structures of Kinship' *Social Anthropology and Human Origins*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp- 111-127 Radcliffe-Brown, A. R. and D. Forde (eds.), 1950, *African Systems of Kinship and Marriage*, London: Oxford University Press, Introduction, Pp.1-39 Evans-Pritchard, E.E., 2004 (1940), 'The Nuer of Southern Sudan', in R. Parkin and L. Stone (eds.), *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, Pp. 64-78 Lévi-Strauss, Claude, 1969, *The Elementary Structures of Kinship*, London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, Chapters 1 & 2, Pp. 3-25 Schneider, D. 1980 "Relative" and "Family", *American Kinship: A Cultural Account*, University of Chicago Press: Chicago Rubin, Gayle. 1995. 'The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex' in RaynaRetter (eds*) Toward an Anthropology of Women*. New York: Monthly Review Press (The Section on Levi Strauss) **Further Readings**: Fortes, M., 1970, *Time and Social Structure and Other Essays*, University of London: The Athlone Press, Chapter 3, Pp. 67-95 Leach, Edmund, 1962, 'On Certain Unconsidered Aspects of Double Descent Systems', *Man*, Vol. 62, Pp. 130-134

Dumont, L., 1968, 'Marriage Alliance', in D. Shills (ed.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, U.S.A.: Macmillan and Free Press, Pp. 19- 23

Schneider, D., 2004, 'What is Kinship All About?', in R. Parkin and L. Stone (eds.) *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, Pp. 257-274

Das, V., 1994, 'Masks and Faces: An Essay on Punjabi Kinship', in Patricia Uberoi (ed.), *Family, Kinship and Marriage in India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Pp.198-222

*Shah, A.M., 1998, 'Changes in the Indian Family: An Examination of Some Assumptions', in *The Family in India: Critical Essays*, New Delhi: Orient Longman, Pp.52-63

*Freeman, J. D., 1958, 'The Family Systems of the Iban of Borneo', in J. Goody (ed.), *The Developmental Cycle in Domestic Groups*, Cambridge:

Cambridge University Press, Pp. 15-52 [Readings marked * are repeated in Section 2]

2.   Family, Household and Marriage

Beattie, Joanne. 1999. 'Marriage and Affinity', *Other Cultures: Aims, Methods and Achievements in Social Anthropology.* London: Routledge. Pp- 117-138

Jackson, Stevi and Sue Scott (eds). 2002. 'Part Three: Marriage and Intimate Relationships'*, Gender: A Sociological Reader*. London: Routledge. Pp- 203-259

Bilton, Tony et al. 1997. 'Theorizing Modern Family Life' in *Introducing Sociology*. New York: Palgrave pp-479-525

Oberoi, Patricia. 2006. 'Family in India' in Veena Das (eds) *Handbook of Indian Sociology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp- 275-300

Further Readings
Shah, A.M., 1998, 'Changes in the Indian Family: An Examination of Some Assumptions', in *The Family in India: Critical Essays*, New Delhi: Orient Longman, Pp.52-63
Freeman, J. D., 1958, 'The Family Systems of the Iban of Borneo', in J. Goody (ed.), *The Developmental Cycle in Domestic Groups*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Pp. 15-52

Leach, E.R., 1961, 'Polyandry, Inheritance and the Definition of Marriage with Particular Reference to Sinhalese Customary Law', in

	E. R. Leach (ed.), *Rethinking Anthropology*, London: The Athlone Press, Pp. 105-113 Gough, Kathleen E., 1959, 'The Nayars and the Definition of Marriage', in *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, 89: 23-34 Uberoi, Patricia, 1995, 'When is a Marriage not a Marriage? Sex, Sacrament and Contract in Hindu Marriage', *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, n.s. 29, 1&2: 319-45 **3. Re-casting Kinship** Carsten, Janet, 1995, 'The Substance of Kinship and the Heat of the Hearth: Feeding, Personhood, and Relatedness among Malays in Pulau Langkawi' *American Ethnologist*, 22 (2): 223-24.1 ***Kinship and Gender*** Gold, Ann Grodzins, 1994, 'Sexuality, Fertility, and Erotic Imagination in Rajasthani Women's Songs ', in *Listen to the Heron's Words: Re-imagining Gender and Kinship in North India* by Gloria Goodwin Raheja and Ann Grodzins Gold, Delhi: OUP, Pp 30-72 Or Yanagisako, Sylvia and Jane Collier. 1987. 'Towards a Unified Analysis of Gender and Kinship', in Yanagisako& Collier (eds) *Gender and Kinship : Essays towards a Unified Analysis*. Palo Alto : Stanford University Press. Pp -24-47 ***Re-imagining Families*** Weston, Kath, 1991, *Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship*, New York: Columbia University Press, Pp. 103-136 Butler, J., 2002. Is kinship always already heterosexual?. *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, *13*(1), pp.14-44. **New Reproductive Technologies** Kahn, Susan Martha, 2004, 'Eggs and Wombs: The Origins of Jewishness', in Parkin and L. Stone (eds.), *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, Pp. 362-7
Evaluation	CIA: 20 End-Sem: 80 The end semester examination will have the following paper structure i) Long Answer type questions : 20 x 2 = 40 marks (out of 4) ii) Short answer type questions : 10 x 4 = 40 (out of 8)