DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA POST GRADUATE SYLLABUS 2020

TEMPLATES

SEMESTER ONE

CORE PAPERS

CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THINKERS
RESEARCH METHODS
IMAGINING INDIA
JOURNEYS AND CULTURES OF CAPITAL

SEMESTER TWO

CORE PAPERS

CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THINKERS
MEDIA CULTURE SOCIETY
KINSHIP MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
SOCIOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY INDIA

SEMESTER THREE

CORE PAPERS

CONTEXTUALISING MODERNITIES
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY
POWER AND ITS DIMENSIONS

ELECTIVE PAPERS

LABOUR MIGRATION AND LIVELIHOODS IN INDIA

OR

SOCIOLOGY OF ORGANISATIONS

SEMESTER FOUR

CORE PAPERS

URBAN STUDIES

SEXUALITY STUDIES

DISSERTATION

ELECTIVE PAPERS

PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

OR

SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

SEMESTER ONE

(ALL CORE PAPERS)

Semester	1
Paper Number	1
Paper Title	Classical Sociological Thinkers
No. of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
No. of periods assigned	6
Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course description/objective	This course will seek to take up the key-texts of four most influential classical sociological thinkers of the nineteenth century, which have laid the foundation of the discipline. Each of the modules has put together thinkers belonging to contrasting theoretical traditions, in order to make possible a dialogue between them.
Syllabus	Module I
	Karl Marx: Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts (Profit of Capital)
	Max Weber: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (Whole Book)
	Module II
	Emile Durkheim: The Division of Labour in Society (The Function of The Division of Labour)
	Georg Simmel: On individuality and social forms (Introduction and Chapters IV and V)

Semester	1
Paper Number	2
Paper Title	Research Methods
No. of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
No. of periods assigned	6
Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course description/objective	This course provides a critical understanding of philosophies and methodologies of sociological/anthropological and inter-disciplinary research as they have developed over time. Contemporary methodological debates and practices would enable the students to get a firm grounding in the practice of research so that they could subsequently undertake independent research. This paper would also become foundational in facilitating the separate research-based dissertation paper in the second year.
Syllabus	Module I
	Positivism and its critique Introduction Hermeneutics Historicism Paradigms Techniques of data collection Statistics and SPSS
	Module II
	Critiquing the grand narratives Reflectivity & Subjectivity Debates on Decolonization (postcolonial critiques) Politics of writing cultures Archival research Autoethnography/ biography/ autobiography Feminist interventions Visual Anthropology Anthropology of Senses Philosophical Anthropology

Semester	1
Paper Number	3
Paper Number Paper Title	Imagining India
No. of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
	6
No. of periods assigned Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course description/objective	The aim of this paper is to develop a critical approach to the ways in which India has been approached and which has contemporary relevance. Ideas around the nation, who belongs, the contestations around what constitutes or should constitute India have taken on enormous significance recently and this makes it imperative that we approach 'India' in a manner more suitable to addressing the concerns of the new contemporary. The paper is based on thinkers who would not be strictly considered as sociologists but who have had a significant impact in the formation of ideas around 'India'. The BoS recommended teachers' discretion in selecting a maximum of two/three thinkers from topics deemed heavy in a semester from the range given below. Both original and secondary texts would be used for teaching.
Syllabus	Module I
	India as Hindu Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay Gandhi Savarkar/Golwalkar Nehru India and its minorities: Critiques Caste Jotiba Phule/BR Ambedkar EV Periyar Bama Manoranjan Byapari
	Module II
	India and its minorities: Critiques Adivasi Hansda Sowmendra Mahasweta Devi
	Religion Syed Ahmad Khan Ali Anwar B Shyamsunder
	Gender Savitribai Phule Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain Baby Kamble

Semester	1
Paper Number	4
Paper Title	Journeys and Cultures of Capital
No. of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
No. of periods assigned	6
Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course description/objective	This course provides an understanding of contemporary global capitalism and Neo-liberalism. It reviews global cultures of consumption that drives capitalist economies and also provides a detailed understanding of how global capitalism sustains global inequalities. The student will learn the nature of gender, race and caste inequalities and their reproduction in capitalist societies. Students will acquaint themselves with the role of religion in both challenging and sustaining the machinations of capitalism. The student will also be able to ascertain the 'global risks' entailed in unbridled capitalist expansion and the threat to environment and life.
Syllabus	Module I
	Understanding Capitalism(s) Cultures of Capitalism
	Module II
	Capitalism and Global Inequalities
	Capitalism and Religion
	Capitalism, Environment and Sustainability

SEMESTER TWO

(ALL CORE PAPERS)

Semester	2
Paper Number	5
Paper Title	Contemporary Sociological Thinkers
No. of Credits	6
Theory	Theory
No. of periods assigned	6
Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course description/objective	This course will seek to take up the key-texts of some of the most influential contemporary sociological thinkers, which have shaped the discipline in different ways. The texts would be taught in details along with additional readings. For each of the modules two or more thinkers belonging to contrasting theoretical paradigms have been chosen, in order to facilitate a dialogue between them. Module I will take up two key thinkers, each of whom represents the two contrasting theoretical traditions of post-modernist and modernist thoughts respectively. Module II will take up the theme of <i>state and ideology</i> to look at three key contemporary thinkers belonging to three different theoretical traditions.
Syllabus	Module I
	Michel Foucault: Discipline and Punish (Introduction and Part 3: Discipline)
	Jurgen Habermas: Modernity: An Unfinished Project
	Module II
	Hannah Arendt: The Origins of Totalitarianism (Preface and Part 3: Totalitarianism)
	Louis Althusser: Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses
	Walter Benjamin: Theories of German Fascism (1930) and On the Concept of History (1940)

Semester	2
Paper Number	6
Paper Title	Media Culture Society
No. of Credits	6
Theory	Theory
No. of periods assigned	6
Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course description/objective	This course engages students with some of the canonical texts from Media studies to understand the intimate relationship between media technologies and (post) modern societies. The course will equip students to understand the grammar of representation with particular emphasis on how media is constitutive of gendered, raced, classed and heteronormative social environments. The course will enable students to understand the 'mediatization' of contemporary society with particularly emphasis of social media and its ramifications on our everyday life. Students will also learn how the political economy of media has ushered the global world into the domain of 'post-truth' and 'fake' 'viral' realties.
Syllabus	Module I
	Theorising Media : Critical Perspectives
	Social Media and its impact
	Circulation of News and Post-Truth
	Module II
	Media and the politics of representation
	Gender and Sexuality
	Caste
	Class
	Race
	Religion

Semester	2
Paper Number	7
Paper Title	Kinship Marriage and Family
No. of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
No. of periods assigned	6
Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course description/objective	This course aims to introduce students to the critiques of the western grand narrative of Kinship theories in social Anthropology. It provides an understanding of how Kinship studies have been reconstituted by interventions from feminist scholars, studies of race, sexuality and reproductive technologies. Students will also be introduced to contemporary transformations in the domain of marriage and intimacy and the ways in which social science accounts for these changes. The course also engages with the formation and dislocations of families as networks in the context of global capitalism and migration.
Syllabus	Module 1
	Reconfiguring the lens of Kinship: Gender Sexuality Race Technology Module 2
	Transformation of Marriage and Intimacies Challenges to heterosexual monogamy Reproduction of inequalities Conceptualizing Singlehood Families in a Globalizing World Families as networks
	Families we choose: Cohabitation and Friendship

Semester	2
Paper Number	8
Paper Title	Sociology of Contemporary India
No. of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
No. of periods assigned	6
Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course description/objective	The course on Sociology of Contemporary India seeks to appraise the students of the ways in which the structuring concepts of the discipline find new meaning in changed contexts. Notwithstanding the importance of existing literature, the course focuses on social institutions like caste and class, on social categories like rural and urban and their changing dynamics in a neoliberal India. While retaining the originary focus of the discipline on the impact of social inequality on marginal groups, the course also seeks to attend to new debates on law, democracy and question of citizenship of other neglected identities in the Indian contexts.
Syllabus	Module 1
	The Political Economy of Caste Agrarian Issues in Contemporary India Rural Social Changes in the post independence period : A Synoptc View Farmer Suicides Land Grabs and Dispossession in Neo Liberal India
	Social Inequalities and the Well-being of Social Groups Adivasis Dalits Muslims Module 2
	Law, Democracy and Citizenship Sexual Citizenship Religious Citizenship
	Experiencing Class Middle classes Woking/Labouring Classes
	Urban India: Space, Consumption and the City Urban Infrastructure and Inequalities Cultures of Consumption

SEMESTER THREE

CORE PAPERS

Semester	3
Paper Number	9
Paper Title	Contextualising Modernities
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Number of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
Number of Periods	6
Assigned	
Name of Faculty	
member(s) Course	This course is an intermention to the possess of most arm set against of
Description/Objective	This course is an intervention to transcend western categories of knowledge production in the social sciences. It engages the student with theories produced from the Global South, inclusive of Africa, Australia, India, Latin America, Malaysia and the Middle-East i.e. the 'Rest' from the West. It equips students with templates to understand the different paradigms of reading the critique of modernity, by producing new subjectivities through the lens of border thinking. This course culminates in exploring diversities in the sociological tradition.
Syllabus	MODULE I
	Understanding Eurocentrism and Introducing the Global South:
	De-provincializing Europe: Immanuel Wallerstein; 'Open the Social Sciences' 'Is There History after Eurocentrism?: Globalism, Postcolonialism, and the Disavowal of History': Arif Dirlik 'Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter': Talal Asad Southern Theory: Raewyn Connell Indigenous/Endogenous Knowledge Systems Decolonizing the 'other': Johannes Fabian; 'Time and the
	Emerging Other: How Anthropology Makes Its Object'. Endogenous Knowledge: Paulin J. Houtondji Indigenous Knowledge: McKim Marriott; 'India through Hindu Categories'.
	Beyond Binaries
	Diversity of Sociological Traditions: Sujata Patel
	MODULE II
	Border Thinking: Understanding New Subjectivities
	Captive Mind: Syed Farid Alatas Border Thinking: Walter Mignolo Understanding New Subjectivities: Chandra Talpade Mohanty: 'Under West-ern Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses'

Alternatives to Modernity

Reflexive Modernity: Anthony Giddens Multiple Modernities: Shmuel Noah Eisenstadt, Enrique Dussel,

Akinsola Akiwowo Our Modernity: Partha Chatterjee and Dipesh Chakraborty

Semester	3
Paper Number	10
Paper Title	Science Technology and Society
Number of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
Number of Periods	6
Assigned	
Name of Faculty	
member(s)	
Course Description/Objective	This course seeks to give students an overview of the debates in Sociology of Science, Technology and Society. The course will examine historically the growth of modern science as a form of knowledge in the context of the Enlightenment, interrogate its formation as a stable source of knowledge and trace the manner in which it came to underpin and frame all other forms of acquiring knowledge especially in colonial outposts like India. The course will focus on the mutual influence of science and society, mapping the shifting terminologies, ideas and locations of doing science
	and assesses the ways in which these aspects have had their impact.
Syllabus	Module I
	Introducing Science, Technology and Society
	Mapping the shifts: From Sociology of Science to Sociology of Scientific Knowledge (SSK) to Science Technology and Society (STS) Cultural Studies of Science
	Feminist and Post colonial Approaches to STS
	Module II
	Science and Technology in the making of Modern India: An Overview
	Laboratory Life
	Science and the Public : The Uses of Scientific Knowledge

Semester	3
Paper Number	11
Paper Title	Power and its Dimensions
Number of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
Number of Periods	6
Assigned	
Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course	This course intends to discuss power in a broader sense focusing for
Description/Objective	instance on state, governmentality, the everyday. The focus on power
	and the everyday may help in bringing in an often neglected area of
	study in sociology, the everyday. The course will address concepts and
	theoretical debates around power and situate them in the context of the
	contemporary. Focus shall be also on relations between capitalism and
	power, and power in late capitalist and consumerist societies. It seeks to
	understand the articulations and the problems posed for intersectional
	identities. An understanding of wider dimensions of power will make the
	student sensitive to the oppression, exclusion and violence unleashed by
	the state and non-state actors. She will be able to appreciate and
	understand the vicissitudes of contemporary politics and develop a
	critical perspective on them.
	critical perspective on them.
Syllabus	Module I
	Power: Key issues, debates, perspectives
	Power Technology Surveillance
	Module II
	Cultures of Power
	Power, Space and the Everyday

SEMESTER THREE

ELECTIVE PAPERS

Course: PG Elective 1

Semester	3
Paper Number	12
Paper Title	Labour Migration and Livelihoods in India
Number of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
Number of Periods	6
Assigned	
Name of Faculty	
member(s)	
Course Description/Objective	The Covid-19 pandemic induced country-wide lockdown that affected all sections of the society. The precarity of migrant workers became apparent as thousands of workers set to return to their hometowns on foot in the absence of public transport and the government of India had to intervene to marginally mitigate their struggles. According to the 2011 Census, there are 41 million interstate migrants in India who migrate to other states in search of employment opportunities. As public dialogue on the migrant labour and their livelihood opportunities escalate, this paper is an opportune engagement with migration theories and interstate labour migration in India. The course is structured to equip students with a basic theoretical understanding of migration theories, the history and components of labour migration in India, the role of identities the migrant labour inhabits, the government policies that affect the conditions of migrant labour and labourer and the sustainable livelihoods approach. The student should be able to relate these theories to the contemporary problems regarding migrant labour and livelihood as the conclusion of this course.
Syllabus	Module I
	Why People Migrate: Theories of Migration: A Brief Introduction Neoclassical New Economics Migration Systems and Networks Institutional Dual or Segmented Labour Market World System Mobility Transition Immigration Policy
	Historiography of Labour Migration in India: Refugee or Labourer?
	Women Labour and Migration
	Module II
	Circulation of Labour and Resources in India: A Brief introduction to the types of labour migrant flow: Rural-Rural Rural-Urban Urban-Rural
	Government Policies:

Labour Rights
Labour Standards
Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act
Localizing and Delocalizing Policies and its Impact on the
Indentured Labour market

Livelihoods

Sustainable Livelihood Approach Components of Livelihood Market and Livelihood The social aspects of the livelihood approach

Migration and Livelihood: The Larger Picture

Course: PG Elective 2

Semester	3
Paper Number	
Paper Title	Sociology of Organisations
Number of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
Number of Periods	6
Assigned	
Name of Faculty member(s)	
Course Description/Objective	Organizations are manifestations of individuals' collective efforts. Formal organizations constitute one of the most important elements which make up the social web of modern societies. Organizations in modern societies permeate all aspects of human life. Individuals are members of one or more organization(s). This paper deals with formal organizations in the modern societies. It discusses the theoretical frameworks to understand the social aspects of formal organizations. Core organizational issues such as bureaucracy, technology, culture, behaviour and groups are discussed in this paper drawing up on readings from sociology and organizational studies.
Syllabus	MODULE I
	Introduction to sociology of organizations Study of formal organizations, organizational models Organizations as rational systems; organizations as human and social systems Theoretical perspectives on organizations: Emergence of organizational theories- classical, contingency; contributions of Weber, Merton, Parsons, Selznick and critique of organizational theories
	MODULE II
	Typologies of organizations (based on functions, technology, regulation and structure) Technology-organization structure interface Organizational culture Organizations and their environments: organizations as open systems – resource dependency theory, institutional theory and organizational ecology
	Power and Conflict within organizations Power, Conflict The Bhopal Gas Disaster of 1984
	Organization Behaviour The transformation of organisations

SEMESTER FOUR

CORE PAPERS

Semester	4
Paper Number	13
Paper Title	Urban Studies
Number of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
Number of Periods	6
Assigned	
Name of Faculty	
member(s)	
Course Description/Objective	The course seeks to introduce the students to the various facets of Urban Studies. It will critically acquaint them with the diversity of the space of 'urban' as well as the politics of construction of urban spaces. Module one details the 'urban' and module two studies the 'city'. It will begin historicising the urban and a theoretical overview of the field of Urban Studies. Beginning with the Chicago School the course will study the development of the city as the vehicle of modernity, bringing in its wake issues of representation and rights to the city. It will deal with various issues of this field, such as issues of Urban Culture, and issues of Urban Planning and Governance. The idea of the 'city' as a space will be disaggregated by looking at how the 'city' came to be conceptualised and remembered, thereby bringing in memoirs and remembering though different manifestations. Further we shall study the 'underlife' of the cities in the slums, red-light districts and queer spaces. The course will also look at some of the typologies of cities developed within Urban Studies, such as the emerging Global Cities, analyzed in relation to geopolitics of globalization and capitalism, and Postcolonial Cities, analyzed in relation
	to socio-historical conditions of postcoloniality. We shall in this course have special emphasis on Calcutta/Kolkata. The course also offers engagements with the city in terms of method.
Syllabus	Module I
	Historicising the Urban Theories of the Urban Urban Cultures Urban Processes: Infrastructure Planning Governance
	Module II
	Conceptualising the City City as Method Rights to the City Remembering the City

Semester	4
Paper Number	14
Paper Title	Sexuality Studies
Number of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
Number of Periods	6
Assigned	
Name of Faculty	
member(s)	
Course Description/Objective	This interdisciplinary course explores the ways in which social science literature engages with the issue of sexuality. Starting from an exploration of canonical texts that inaugurate a concern with sexual practice, the course engages with theoretical trajectories on sexuality in feminist literature and within the discipline of sociology. Students will be acquainted with development of queer theory from the 1990s and the emergent critiques of sexuality studies from the transgender perspectives. Student will read texts that explore the linkages between sexuality, political economy and sexual citizenship. The course will also provide a historical evaluation of the queer movement in India and the salient debates on sexual identities and desire that have informed contemporary
C-11-1	21st century Indian society. MODULE I
Syllabus	MODULE I
	Legacies of the sexual
	Plato: Symposium (excerpts) Richard von Kraft-Ebbing: Psychopathia Sexualis Freud: Three essays in Sexuality Foucault: Repressive Hypothesis
	Feminism and sexuality
	Thinking sexuality sociologically
	MODULE II
	The Queer intervention
	The Transgender critiques
	The political economy of sexuality
	The sexuality rights movement in India

Semester	4
Paper Number	15
Paper Title	Dissertation
Number of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	
Number of Periods	6
Assigned	
Name of Faculty	
member(s)	
Course	The student is required to pursue research using primary sources on a
Description/Objective	topic of their choice with the guidance of a faculty member.

SEMESTER FOUR

ELECTIVE PAPERS

Course: PG Elective 3

Semester	4
Paper Number	16
Paper Title	Public Policy and Governance in India
Number of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
Number of Periods	6
Assigned	
Name of Faculty	
member(s)	
Course Description/Objective	Public Policy and Governance is the first of its kind in India. It aims to build a comprehensive understanding of urban realities, processes and challenges in India and the Global South. Apart from imparting interdisciplinary insights from different contexts, the course also equips students to intervene effectively on urban issues through work in public, private and civil society organisations. The paper examines the origins, foundations, development, and implementation of public policy in India. It engages critically with policies, plans, laws and initiatives, as well as with the diverse social, economic, political, and cultural factors that shape them. This paper conceives of it as an open, multi-dimensional, evolving formation
	involving many forces: the natural and built environment; political, economic, social and cultural processes, structures and institutions; human, technical and managerial knowledge and capacities; and the lived experiences of people on the ground, among other things. Students will receive an exposure to the real-world policy making process and enhance their analytical skills. The course has been designed to equip future policymakers with competence to perform effectively in challenging environments
Syllabus	MODULE I
	Introduction to Public Policy, Framework and Importance Definition, Issues, Framework- Democracy, Development, Decentralization and Governmentality History of Public Policy- focusing on post-independence India- Uniform Civil Code, Green Revolution and Mondal commission Importance of Anthropology as a late capitalism form of PP Introduction to Governance and Market and State Definitions of governance, Issues and Controversies
	Origin and types of State Globalisation, Neo-Liberalism and Civil Society (Role of CSOs) Market- GATT Information and Communication Technology
	Citizen and Governance- Actors
	Participation
	Representation
	MODULE II
	Understanding PPG through Urban and Rural
	Urban Urban Policies, Strategies and Management Recent Trends in Urban Governance: e-Governance, Urban Poverty, Urban Housing and Transportation
	Urban Future and Challenges within the framework of PPG

Rural Development: Perspectives, Policies and Strategies Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in India- An evaluation of PPG

Rural Development Programmes: IRDP, SGSY, MGNREGA and Self- Help Groups

Analysis, Process and Evaluation

Government Institutions

Multinational and Transnational Agencies

Case Study

Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending Act, 2014

Course: PG Elective 4

Semester	4
Paper Number	
Paper Title	Sociology of Health and Illness
Number of Credits	6
Theory/Composite	Theory
Number of Periods	6
Assigned	
Name of Faculty	
member(s)	
Course	This course seeks to examine multiple perspectives of health, disease and
Description/Objective	medicine. It begins with the impact of Enlightenment in the creation of
	modern medicine, and dwells on the theoretical frameworks that deal with
	the interrelation between medicine and society. The course attempts to
	explain how social and cultural factors determine health and illness and
	also describes the key health system challenges in the country.
	use describes the new new system enumenges in the country.
Syllabus	MODULE I
	Introducing a Sociology of Health and Illness Enlightenment and its impact in the creation of modern Medicine
	Body, Medicine and Society: Theoretical Perspectives Cultural Construction of Medical Reality Experiences of Body, Health and Illness Governing Bodies and Bio Power
	Narrating Health and Illness
	Patients, Practitioners, Media and Pharmaceutical Industry
	Representations
	Narrative as Evidence
	MODULE II
	Culture, Medicine and Medical Practice
	Biomedicine in Cross Cultural contexts
	Pharmaceutical Practices
	Syncretic Medical Reality
	Pluralism in Medicine and Healing
	Issues and Concerns in Public Health Systems: The Indian Context Inequities in Health and other Challenges