



St. Xavier's College – Autonomous Mumbai

Syllabus For 2nd Semester Courses in Sociology (November 2016 onwards)

Contents:

Theory Syllabus for Course:

A.SOC.2.01 – Introduction to Sociology – Institutions and Structures

F.Y. B.A SOCIOLOGY

Course: A.SOC.2.01

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY – Part II

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce students to the central governing institutions of society.
2. To reflect upon the critical elements of the functioning of these institutions and grapple with the complexities of their work in society.

No. of Lectures: 60

UNIT – I Religion: [15 lectures]

Familiarising the students to the conceptual, theoretical and ideological sides of the debate on religion as an institution and their overarching influences on individuals and society.

- Definitions of religion
- Interconnections between religion, culture and society
- Key elements/teachings
- Theoretical engagements with religion: Marx/Durkheim/Weber
- *Briefly introducing the Clash of Civilizations debate of Samuel Huntington*
- Feminist perspectives on religion
- Can religion be 'secular'?

UNIT – II The Politics of Power and Identity: [15 lectures]

Exposing the students to ideas of inclusion and exclusion through an exposure to the various ideas of power.

- Old and New forms of Power & division: Caste-Class/Beauty/ Gender-Sexuality
- Biopower: Power over people's bodies and minds
- Inclusion and Exclusion: Ideologies and Processes
- Identity, power and violence

UNIT – III Poverty, welfare and Aid/Help/Charity: [15 lectures]

To critically reflect upon the issues of welfare, poverty and the rethinking dependency and aid.

- Defining and measuring poverty: Who are the 'poor'?
- Poverty alleviation programmes in India: pros and cons
- Thinking it through: aid/help/charity
- Understanding inclusion and exclusion in welfare programmes
- Transformation of the gaze: Globalization, neo-liberalism.

UNIT – IV Media and society:

[15 lectures]

- Media in contemporary times: Social networking sites/ film/ television/ music/newspapers
- Culture Industry (Adorno & Horkheimer) and its critique.
- What are we watching: TRPs/ colonising the consumer's mind/Corporatization and the new media.
- The Culture of Dissent: Alternative mediums of expression

C.I.A: Assignment/ Presentation

Essential Readings:

1. Abbott, P. & Wallace, C. (2005). [1997]. An Introduction to Sociology: Feminist Perspectives. London & New York: Routledge.
2. Abraham, M. Francis. 2008 Contemporary Sociology: An Introduction to Concepts and Theories. Second edition, New Delhi. Oxford University Press.
3. Das, V. (Ed.). (2006). Handbook of Indian Sociology. New Delhi. Oxford University Press.

(2003). The Oxford India Companion to Sociology and Social Anthropology. New Delhi. Oxford University Press.
4. Giddens, Anthony & Philip W. Sutton. 2013 Sociology, Seventh edition, John Wiley & Sons Inc. United States.
5. Haralambos & Holborn. (2014). Sociology: Themes and Perspectives (8th Edition). London: Collins Education. Fifth edition, Harper Collins, London.
6. Macionis, John J. 2005 Sociology, Tenth edition, Pearson.
7. Madan, T.N. (2011). Sociological Traditions: Methods and Perspectives in the Sociology of India. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
8. Menon, Nivedita. 2012 Seeing Like a Feminist, Zuban in collaboration with Penguin Books, New Delhi.
9. Ritzer, G. (2013). Introduction to Sociology. London: Sage.