

# Vidyasagar University

## *Curriculum for B.A. (Honours) in Sociology* [Choice Based Credit System]

### Semester-I

Course	Course Code	Name of the Subjects	Course Type/ Nature	Teaching Scheme in hour per week			Credit	Marks
				L	T	P		
CC1		<b>C1T:</b> Introduction to Sociology - I	Core Course-1	5	1	0	6	75
CC2		<b>C2T:</b> Sociology of India-I	Core Course-2	5	1	0	6	75
GE1		TBD	Generic Elective-1				4/5	75
							2/1	
AECC		English	AECC (Elective)	1	1	0	2	50
<b>Semester Total</b>							<b>20</b>	<b>275</b>

**L**=Lecture, **T**=Tutorial, **P**=Practical, **CC**- Core Course, **TBD** - To be decided, **AECC**- Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course

**Generic Elective (GE)** (Interdisciplinary) from other Department [ Paper will be of 6 credits]

**Semester-I**  
**Core Course (CC)**

**CC-1: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY – I** **Credit 06**

**C1T: Introduction to Sociology – I** **Credit 06**

**Course Objective:**

The mandate of the course is to introduce the discipline to students from diverse trainings and capabilities. The course is intended to introduce the students to a sociological way of thinking. It also provides a foundation for the other more detailed and specialized courses in sociology.

**Outline: 1. Sociology: Discipline and Perspective**

- 1.1 Thinking Sociologically
- 1.2 Emergence of Sociology and Social Anthropology

**2. Sociology and Other Social Sciences**

- 2.1 Sociology and Social Anthropology
- 2.2 Sociology & Psychology
- 2.3 Sociology & History

**3. Basic Concepts**

- 3.1 Individual and Group
- 3.2 Associations and Institutions
- 3.3 Culture and Society
- 3.4 Social Change

**COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY**

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

**1.1 Thinking Sociologically**

- 1.1.1 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
- 1.1.2 Beteille, Andre, 2009, *Sociology: Essays in Approach and Method*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1, 'Sociology and Common Sense', Pp. 13-27
- 1.1.3 Garner, James Finn, 1994, *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories: Modern Tales for Our Life and Times*, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons Inc., Chapters, 'Little Red Riding Hood' & 'Rumpelstiltskin'

**1.2 Emergence of Sociology**

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

## **2. Sociology and Other Social Sciences ( 4-6 Weeks)**

### **2.1 Sociology and Social Anthropology**

2.1.1 Béteille, André, 1985, *Six Essays in Comparative Sociology*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1, 'Sociology and Social Anthropology', Pp. 1-20

2.1.2 Beteille, André, 2002, *Sociology: Essays in Approach & Method*, Oxford University Press, Chapter 2, 'Sociology and Social Anthropology', Pp. 28-54

### **2.2 Sociology & Psychology**

2.2.1 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

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

### **2.3 Sociology & History**

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

## **3. Basic Concepts (7-14 Weeks)**

### **3.1. Individual and Group**

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

3.1.2 Horton, Paul B., Chester L. Hunt. 2004, *Sociology*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill, Chapter 8, Pp. 185-209

### **3.2 Associations and Institutions**

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

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

### **3.3 Culture and Society**

3.3.1 Bierstedt, Robert, 1974, *The Social Order*, New York: McGraw Hill Book Company Part 3, Chapter 5, 'The Meaning of Culture', p. 125-151, Chapter 6, 'The Content of Culture' Pp. 152-187, Chapter 7, 'The Acquisition of Culture', Pp. 188-212

3.3.2 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

### **3.4 Social Change**

3.4.1 Bierstedt, Robert 1974, *The Social Order*, McGraw Hill, Chapter 20, 'The Problem of Social Change' Pp. 527-567

3.4.2 Ritzer, George, 2004, *The McDonaldisation of Society*, Pine Forge Press, Chapter 1, 'An Introduction to McDonaldisation', Pp. 1-20, Chapter 2,

McDonaldisation and Its Precursors' Pp. 21-39, Chapter 9, 'McDonaldisation In a Changing World', Pp. 167-199

## CC- 2: SOCIOLOGY OF INDIA -I

**Credit 06**

### C2T: Sociology of India – I

**Credit 06**

#### **Course Objective:**

This paper introduces the processes and modes of construction of knowledge of India. Further, it aims to draw attention to the key concepts and institutions which are useful for the understanding of Indian society.

#### **Outline:**

##### **1. India: An Object of Knowledge**

- 1.1 The Colonial Discourse
- 1.2 The Nationalist Discourse
- 1.3 The Subaltern Critique

##### **2. Indian Society: Concepts and Institutions**

- 2.1. Caste: Concept and Critique
- 2.2. Agrarian Classes
- 2.3. Industry and Labour
- 2.4. Tribe: Profile and Location
- 2.5. Village: Structure and Change
- 2.6. Kinship: Principle and Pattern
- 2.7. Religion and Society

## **COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY**

- 1.1. The Colonial Discourse (Week 1)  
1.1.1. Cohn, B.S., 1990, *An Anthropologist among the Historians and Other Essays*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Pp.136-171
- 1.2. The Nationalist Discourse (Week 2-3)  
1.2.1. Kaviraj, S., 2010, *The Imaginary Institution of India*, Ranikhet: Permanent Black, Pp.85-126
- 1.3. The Subaltern Critique (Week 4)  
1.3.1. Guha, R., 1982, *Subaltern Studies, Volume I*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, Pp.1-8
- 2.1. Caste: Concept and Critique (Weeks 5-6)  
2.1.1. Srinivas, M.N., 1969, "The Caste System in India", in A. Béteille (ed.) *Social Inequality: Selected Readings*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, Pp.265-272
- 2.1.2. Mencher, J., 1991, „The Caste System Upside Down“, in D. Gupta (ed.), *Social Stratification*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp.93-109
- 2.2. Agrarian Classes (Week 7)  
2.2.1. Dhanagare, D.N., 1991, "The Model of Agrarian Classes in India", in D. Gupta (ed.), *Social Stratification*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Pp. 271-275
- 2.3. Industry and Labour (Week 8)

- 2.3.1. Breman, J., 1999, "The Study of Industrial Labour in Post Colonial India: The Formal Sector", *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 33(1&2), Pp.1-41
- 2.4. Tribe: Profile and Location (Week 9)
- 2.4.1. Haimendorf, C. V. F., 1967, „The Position of Tribal Population in India“, in P. Mason *India and Ceylon: Unity and Diversity*, New York: Oxford University Press, Chapter 9
- 2.5. Village: Structure and Change (Week 10)
- 2.5.1. Srinivas, M. N., 1987, *The Dominant Caste and Other Essays*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Pp.20-59
- 2.6. Kinship: Principle and Pattern (Week 11)
- 2.6.1. Karve, I., 1994, „The Kinship Map of India“, in P. Uberoi (ed.) *Family, Kinship and Marriage in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp.50-73.
- 2.7. Religion and Society (Weeks 12-14)
- 2.7.1. Srinivas, M.N. and A. M. Shah, 1968, 'Hinduism', in D. L. Sills (ed.) *The International Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences*, Volume 6, New York: Macmillan, pp.358-366.
- 2.7.2. Momin, A.R., 1977, „The Indo Islamic Tradition“, *Sociological Bulletin*, 26, pp. 242-258.
- 2.7.3. Uberoi, J.P.S., 1997, The Five Symbols of Sikhism“, in T.N. Madan (ed.) *Religion in India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 320-332.

**Note:**

The students are required to explore the contemporary sources on social institutions. With the aid of visual, oral and other kinds of narratives/representations students, advised and guided by teachers, are expected to arrange discussion sessions, work on assignments, undertake projects and fieldwork, and make presentations week-wise from the onset to the end of the semester.

**Generic Elective (GE)**  
**GE-1 [Interdisciplinary for other department]**

**GE -1 : Indian Society: Images and Realities** **Credit 06**

**G1T : Indian Society: Images and Realities** **Credit 06**

**Course Objective:**

This course seeks to provide an interdisciplinary introduction to Indian society.

**Outline:**

1. Ideas of India: Civilization, Colony, Nation and Society (3 Weeks)
2. Institutions and Processes (9 Weeks)
  - 2.1 Village, Town and Region
  - 2.2 Caste, Religion and Ethnicity
  - 2.3 Family and Gender
  - 2.4 Political Economy
3. Critiques (2 Weeks)

## **COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY**

### **1. Ideas of India: Civilization, Colony, Nation and Society (3 Weeks)**

- 1.1 Embree, Ainslie Thomas,. *Imagining India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989. Chapter 1- Brahmanical Ideology and Regional Identities. Pp. 9 – 27
- 1.2 Cohn, Bernard. *India: Social Anthropology of a Civilization*, Delhi: OUP. Chapters 1, 3, 5 & 8 (1-7, 24-31, 51-59, 79-97)

### **2. Institutions and Processes (9 Weeks)**

#### **2.1 Village, Town and Region**

- 2.1.1 Breman, Jan. ‘The Village in Focus’ from the *Village Asia Revisited*, Delhi: OUP 1997. Pp. 15-64
- 2.1.2 Cohn, Bernard, *An Anthropologist Among Historians and Other Essays*, Delhi: OUP, 1987, Chapters. 4 and 6. Pp.78-85 & 100 – 135

#### **2.2 Caste, Religion and Ethnicity**

- 2.2.1 Mines, Diane P. *Caste in India*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Association for Asian Studies, 2009. Pp. 1-35
- 2.2.2 Fuller, C. J. *The Camphor Flame: Popular Hinduism and Society in India*. Delhi: Viking, 1992. Chapter 1. Pp. 3 – 28.
- 2.2.3 Ahmad, Imtiaz et.al (eds). *Pluralism and Equality: Values in Indian Society and Politics*, Sage : New Delhi, 2000. Chapter: ‘Basic Conflict of ‘we’ and ‘they’ Between religious traditions, between Hindus, Muslims and Christians’. Pp.

#### **2.3 Family and Gender**

- 2.3.1 Dube, Leela. ‘On the Construction of Gender: Hindu Girls in Patrilineal India’, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 23, No. 18 (Apr. 30, 1988), pp. WS11-WS19
- 2.3.2 Gray, John N. & David J. Mearns. *Society from the Inside Out: Anthropological Perspectives on the South Asian Household*. New Delhi: Sage, 1989. Chapter 3. (Sylvia Vatuk) Household Form and Formation: Variability and Social Change among South Indian Muslims. Pp. 107-137

#### **2.4 Political Economy**

- 2.4.1 Chatterjee, Partha. *State and Politics in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997. Introduction: A Political History of Independent India. Pp. 1-39

### **3. Critiques (2 Weeks)**

- 3.1 Omvedt, Gail. *Understanding Caste*. New Delhi: Orient Black Swan, 2011. Chapters. 5, 9, 11 and Conclusion. Pp. 30-38, 67 – 73, 83 – 90, 97 – 105
- 3.2 Sangari, Kumkum and Sudesh Vaid. *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. Introduction, Pp. 1 – 25