M.A. in Sociology

Programme Structure

The M.A. in Sociology is a two-year, full-time course divided into two parts, consisting of four Semesters. Semester-I and Semester-2 will form Part-I and Semester 3 and Semester 4 will form Part-II.

Each student will take a total of 16 courses out of which SOC 101-SOC 108 and SOC 209-SOC 210 will be compulsory. M.A. (Part-I) students will take courses SOC 101-SOC 108 (four in each of Semester I and II) and M.A. (Part-II) students will take courses SOC 209 and SOC 210 (one each in Semester III and IV). M.A. (Part-II) students will also take six elective courses, including at least four chosen out of courses SOC 211-SOC 224 (distributed over Semester III and IV). A student who takes course SOC 219 will be required to choose either course SOC 219(a), SOC 219(b) or SOC 219(c). Each student may take two courses, one in each of Semesters 3 and 4 of M.A. (Part-II), in any other department of the University. Such courses selected by a student must be of the same weightage as individual courses within the Department.

The Department will announce at least five elective courses to be taught in each of the two semesters making up the M.A. (Part – II) year before the start of the academic year. Generally, an elective course will be taught only if at least five students decide to take the course. Students will be required to convey their selection of particular elective courses by prescribed dates. These dates will be displayed on the notice board and web-site of the Department. Ordinarily, no change will be permitted after these dates.

Interdisciplinarity

As mentioned above, students of the Department may take upto two courses in any other department of the University. All courses taught in the M.A. Programme in the Department will be opened up as interdisciplinary courses to all full-time students registered in any regular masters programme of the University. The total of such students accepted in each semester, distributed over all the courses being taught in the department, will be more or less equivalent to the intake in the M.A. Sociology programme in any one year. The Department will post a last date (on its website) for receiving requests for enrolment by non-sociology students along with its teaching schedule. All non-sociology students wishing to take courses in the Department will be required to meet with the Departmental Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee before their enrolment in courses in the Department.
### Compulsory Courses

**M.A. (Part I: Semester 1)**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Marks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 101</td>
<td>Sociological Theories</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 103</td>
<td>Sociology of Kinship</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 106</td>
<td>Economic Sociology</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 107</td>
<td>Sociology of India-I</td>
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**M.A. (Part I: Semester 2)**

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<td>SOC 102</td>
<td>Sociological Theories: Some Conceptual Issues</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 104</td>
<td>Religion and Society</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 105</td>
<td>Political Sociology</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 108</td>
<td>Sociology of India-II</td>
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**M.A. (Part II: Semester 3)**

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<tr>
<td>SOC 209</td>
<td>Methods of Sociological Research</td>
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**M.A. (Part II: Semester 4)**

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<tr>
<td>SOC 210</td>
<td>Social Stratification</td>
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### Elective Courses

**M.A. Part-II: (Semesters 3 and 4. A minimum of five courses will be offered in each of Semesters 3 and 4 from the list below).**

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 211</td>
<td>Sociology of Development</td>
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<td>SOC 212</td>
<td>Sociology of Symbolism</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>SOC 213</td>
<td>Industry and Society</td>
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<td>SOC 214</td>
<td>Gender and Society</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 215</td>
<td>Sociology of Education</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>SOC 216</td>
<td>Sociology of Organizations</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 217</td>
<td>Population and Society</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>SOC 218</td>
<td>Urban Sociology</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 219</td>
<td>Area Study: (a) South East Asia</td>
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<td>(b) South West Asia or (c) China</td>
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<td>SOC 220</td>
<td>Sociology of Science</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>SOC 221</td>
<td>Agrarian Structure</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>SOC 222</td>
<td>Sociology of Law</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>SOC 223</td>
<td>Medical Sociology</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>SOC 224</td>
<td>Sociology of Media</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 225</td>
<td>Society and Ecology</td>
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Scheme of Examination & Evaluation

1. English shall be the medium of instruction and examination.

2. Examinations shall be conducted in the courses taught in each semester at the end of that semester as per the Academic Calendar notified by the University of Delhi.

3. Each course will carry 100 marks and 4 (four) credits.

4. The M.A. Examination in Sociology will have two components:

   (i) an end-of-semester written examination of two hours duration in each course at the end of the semester in which it is taught. The maximum marks for the end-of-semester examination in each course will be 75, except in Course SOC 209 in which the end-of-semester examination will carry a maximum of 50 marks.

   (ii) marks awarded in a system of Continuous Internal Assessment in each course during the semester in which it is taught. Continuous Internal Assessment will carry a maximum of 25 marks in each course, except in Course SOC 209 in which the Continuous Internal Assessment will carry a maximum of 50 marks. The Continuous Internal Assessment entails the submission of a written assignment in that course and the marks will be based on evaluations of presentations, participation in discussions and the written work submitted.

5. The scheme and mode of evaluation applicable to non-sociology students taking courses in the Department will be the same as that applicable to the regular students of the Department.

Conditions for Admission to Examinations

1. No candidate will be deemed to have pursued a regular course of study in the M.A. course in Sociology, unless she/he has attended 75% of the tutorials held in the semester, and has submitted 75% of the total written assignments in that semester.

2. Candidates of M.A. Sociology may appear in the end-of-semester examination in each course not more than twice within the span period of four years after admission to the M.A. (Part I) class, i.e., a candidate may reappear in the end-of-semester examination in any course only once. A candidate will reappear in a semester examination in the semester in which it is being taught in the year in which she/he reappears.

3. The provisions for reappearing in the M.A. examination within the specified span period of four years will apply only to the end-of-semester examination in each course and not to the component of continuous internal evaluation. Candidates who choose to reappear in any of the courses during the span period will not be permitted to resubmit written assignments for purposes of continuous internal evaluation.
Promotion Criteria and Qualifying Marks for the Award of the Degree

1. To be promoted from one semester to the next semester within the same part, a student must obtain a minimum of 40% marks in the end-of-semester examination and continuous internal assessment combined (i.e., 40 marks out of 100) in at least two of the courses in the first semester of each part.

2. Promotion of a student from M.A. (Part I) to M.A. (Part II) will be subject to fulfilling the following conditions:

   She/he should have obtained a minimum of 40% marks in each of at least 6 courses over the two end-of-semester examinations and continuous internal assessment combined (i.e., 40 marks out of 100).

3. In order to qualify for the M.A. degree in Sociology, a candidate should fulfill the following conditions:

   (i) The aggregate of the marks obtained in the end-of-semester examinations in each semester and the marks obtained in internal assessment should be at least 45% (i.e., 180 marks out of 400).

   (ii) In addition, a candidate should obtain not less than 40% marks in each course in the combined marks of the end-of-semester examination and internal assessment in each course.

Division Criteria

Successful candidates will be classified on the basis of the combined results of Part-I and Part-II examinations as follows:

- Candidates securing 60% and above: 1st Division
- Candidates securing 50% or more, but less than 60%: 2nd Division
- All others: 3rd Division
Course SOC 101: Sociological Theories

This course is designed with two main objectives in mind. Firstly, it presents an overview of how the discipline of Sociology emerged in the West. Secondly, the course introduces students to the writings of classical thinkers such as Marx, Weber, and Durkheim in order to show how they broaden the nature and scope of Sociology. The course has been revised from time to time with a view to add new texts and suitable commentaries.

1. The Development of Sociology in the 19th Century

2. Karl Marx:
   a) Transition from Pre-Capitalist to Capitalist Social Formations
   b) Capitalism and Commodity Production
   c) Class and Class Conflict

3. Max Weber:
   a) Social Action: Basic Concepts and Terms
   b) Methodologies of the Social Sciences
   c) Religion and Social Change

4. Emile Durkheim:
   a) Sociology as Science
   b) The Division of Labour and Forms of Solidarity
   c) Systems of Classification

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 102: Sociological Theory: Some Conceptual Issues

This is an advanced course on conceptual issues in Sociology and Social Anthropology. It introduces students to the various conceptual approaches that have been predominant in sociological work. From approaches like that of classical structural-functionalism to later developments in structuralism, post-structuralism, postmodernism and spatial approaches, the course lays down the theoretical ground for sociological research.

1. Self, Interaction, Event:
   (a) Self and other in the social act
   (b) Multiple Realities
   (c) The ‘doing’ of social life

2. System and Structure:
   (a) From action to systems
   (b) Models and relationships

3. Discourse, Genealogy, Practice:
   (a) The emergence of the subject and disciplinary power
   (b) Habitus and embodiment
   (c) Spatial practices

Select Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 103: Sociology of Kinship

This course takes students through different approaches to the study of kinship, family, and marriage – key institutions of society, the study of which is a special prerogative of Sociology. The course content will expose students to classical as well as contemporary themes in the field. At the end of this course, students would be able to identify the key elements of kinship, family, and marriage and be able to appreciate their significance in ordinary as well as special circumstances in a range of societies.

1. What is kinship?
   (a) The formation of kinship as an object of study
   (b) Is kinship universal?

2. Studying kinship:
   (a) Descent, residence and inheritance
   (b) Marriage alliance
   (c) Official and practical kinship
   (d) Cultural constructions
   (e) Relatedness

3. Transformations in the family, marriage and property:
   (a) Family and marriage
   (b) Kinship and Property
   (c) Honour shame and violence

4. New areas in the study of kinship (any two in one semester):
(a) Reproductive technologies and reconfigured kinship
(b) Gay and lesbian kinship
(c) Kinship and genetics

Select Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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**Course SOC 104: Religion and Society**

Sociology considers society as moral system and religion becomes one of the most important sources of morality. The course is fine blend of anthropological and sociological aspects of religion. The anthropological part considers religion as communitarian affairs where religious beliefs and rites bring order in social life. The sociological part is more about schism and change in religious doctrines and its relation with classes and strata.


2. The Making of Sacred Space and Sacred Time.


5. Critiques of Religion.

**Select Readings:**
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


SOC 105: Political Sociology

This course, revised recently to include new readings and topics, introduces students to the emergence of, and the theoretical debates, and basic concepts in the field of Political Sociology. It covers themes such as local-level politics, citizenship and welfare state and politics and society in India, and offers comprehensive readings that deal with the political system over time and space. Students will be able to learn complexities in the Indian political system. The revised course is being sent to the appropriate bodies for approval.

1. Nature and Scope of Political Sociology
   (a) Approaches to the Study of Politics
   (b) Political Systems and other Social Systems

2. Some Basic Concepts:
   (a) Power and Authority
   (b) Consensus and Conflict
   (c) Elites and Masses
   (d) State and Stateless Societies

3. Local Structures of Power:
   (a) Varieties of Local Power Structure
   (b) Local Power Structures and the wider Political System

4. State and Society:
   (a) Capitalism and Socialism
   (b) Welfare State
   (c) Democracy and Fascism

5. Politics and Society in India:
   (a) Social Movements and State Institutions
   (b) Nationalisms and the Nation-state

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester).


24. Sundar, N. 2016. The Burning Forest: India’s War in Bastar. New Delhi: Juggernaut (Chapters 1, 2 and part 3).


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Course SOC 106: Economic Sociology

In this course, the idea is to make students aware about the sociology of economic life. It reorients students away from the idea of economic man in much of economic thought, and introduces them, via the field of economic sociology, to sociological approaches that highlight economic activities as being embedded in social relations. The thrust is to see the perpetual tension between the logic of economy as self-referential system and its relation with non-economic socio-cultural institutions.

1. Introduction: Economy in Society

2. Production and Reproduction:
   a) Concepts of Value, Labour, Property, Money and Rationality
b) The Production Process: The Structure and Experience of Work

3. Consumption and Exchange:

a) Gift Exchange
b) Markets
c) The Commodity Form
d) Consumption

4. Economy and the State:

a) Planned Economies
b) Welfare Systems
c) The State and Global Markets

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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Course SOC 107: Sociology of India-I
This course looks at the way in which the sociology and anthropology of India have been shaped by the colonial and post-colonial imperatives of science and politics. Students come to a critical and historically informed understanding of the standard tropes that are used to define Indian society – caste, kinship, village, tribe, and region.

1. Development of Sociology and Social Anthropology of India; Approaches to the Study of Indian Society.

2. Caste-Structure and Change:
   a) Tribe and Caste
   b) Nature and Forms of Caste
   c) Caste in Relation to Other Social Groups and Institutions (such as Religion, Economy and Polity)
   d) Caste and Locality (Village, Town and Region)

3. Aspects of Rural Social Structure:
   a) Nature of Village Community
   b) Change in Village Community
   c) Village, Region and Civilization

4. Family, Kinship and Marriage:
   a) Nature of Family and Kinship
   b) Marriage: patterns of Exchange and Presentation
   c) Family, Economy and Law

5. Religion in India:
   a) Ideology
   b) Social Organization
   c) Religious Movements

**Suggested Readings:**
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)

1. Articles under the title ‘For a Sociology of India’, *Contributions to Indian Sociology.* (Old series and New series).


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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Year</th>
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SOC 108: Sociology of India II

The course introduces students to the debates on key areas of Indian society. The issues of the modernisation of agriculture and agrarian structure, including land reform and bio-technologies, are discussed. The city and urban life are viewed from the perspective of labour, mobility, and class. The societal implications of secularism, communalism, nationalism and regionalism are core areas of concern, and the course explores these in relation to caste, class, gender politics, and transnational migration.

1. Social Organisation of Agriculture
   (a) Land, State and Agrarian Society
   (b) Agrarian Crisis and Reform in Contemporary India
   (c) Agrarian Movements

2: Aspects of Urban India
   (a) Urban Society
   (b) Occupation and Class
   (c) The City: A case study of Delhi

3. Aspects of Politics and Society in Contemporary India
   (a) Nationhood and Nationalism
   (b) Secularism and communalism
   (c) Marginal Communities: Discrimination and the Problems of Equality

4. Locations of Modernity
   (a) Gender politics
   (b) Migrations

Select Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


28. Virginius Xaxa: State Society and Tribes (Chapters Introduction, 4 and 8).


32. Narrain Arvind and Bhan Gautam (eds) Because I have a voice: Queer politics in India, New Delhi: Yoda Press, 2005. (Chapters 2 and 3).


Course SOC 209: Methods of Sociological Research

This is a practice oriented sociological research methods course aimed at enabling students to frame a research question, fashion appropriate methods to address it, and derive relevant conclusions. Students will understand the diversity of practice and critical thinking behind every method through an exposure to different readings of the archive, ethnography, and visual anthropology etc. They are acquainted with different data sources on Indian society, and taught how to use them to research a particular question or geographical area. Students also design and conduct an independent group project using what they have learnt in the first half of the semester, and learn to analyse and present sociological research.

1. Research Methods:
   a) Ethnography
   b) Archival Methods
   c) Oral History
   d) Interviews/ Case Studies
   e) Content analysis
   f) Survey Research
   g) Statistical Methods
   h) Social Experiments
   i) PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal)
   j) Visual ethnography

2. Major Data Sources on Indian Society:
   a) Archives
   b) Census
   c) National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)
   d) National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and other large data sets
   e) Gazetteers, District handbooks, People of India Project
   f) Film and Visual artifacts

50% of the evaluation in this course will be based on research projects carried out by the students, whether singly or in groups as part of the internal evaluation system, and 50% on an exam.

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 210: Social Stratification

This course examines the concepts of difference, hierarchy, equality, and inequality and the different forms in which they manifest. It explores both classical and emerging theories of class, race, and patriarchy, and examines their intersections. At the end of this course, students will come to appreciate the manner in which seemingly naturalised identities like race, caste, gender, and sexuality are constructed through the lens of political economy and particular forms of governmentality.

1. Understanding Social Stratification:
   a) Social Stratification and Social Inequality
   b) The Problem of Ethical Neutrality
   c) Difference, Equality, and Inequality
   d) The Structuring of Inequalities: The Significance of Ideas and Interests

2. Occupation, Social Stratification, and Class:
   a) Classes as Non-antagonistic Strata
   b) Classes as Antagonistic Groups
   c) Social Mobility and Class Structure
3. Race and Ethnicity:
   a) Natural Differences and Social Inequality
   b) Identities, Nationalities, and Social Inequality

4. Gender and Stratification:
   a) Patriarchy and the Subordination of Women
   b) The Family as a Site of Inequality
   c) Gender, Work, and Entitlements
   d) The Community, the State and Patriarchy

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 211: Sociology of Development

This course familiarizes students with critical readings of the ‘problems’ and ‘prospects’ of development. It begins by looking at classical sociological thinkers and their ideas of change, progress, and transformation, and then takes up contemporary discourses of development. It allows students to link theories and perspectives on development with ways of conceptualizing the phenomena and processes of development and underdevelopment. Course outcomes are achieved by analyses of concrete case studies, and the course ends with a sociological examination of the Indian economy, and development, growth, and poverty from the colonial to the contemporary period.

I. Perspectives on the Study of Development:
   a) Definitions and Indices
   b) Liberal and Marxist Perspectives
   c) Epistemological Critiques of Development

2. State and Market: Institutions and ideologies:
   a) Planned Development and Society
   b) Globalisation and Liberalization

3. The Micro-Politics of Development:
   a) Transforming Communities: Maps and Models
   b) Knowledge and Power in Development
   c) Re-inventing Development: Subaltern Movements

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 212: Sociology of Symbolism

The course is designed to enable students to learn the concepts necessary to conduct a semiotic analysis of texts or objects and then to study the different areas in which these concepts can be applied. Thus the four main topics in the course are designed to progress from a discussion of concepts to different fields in which they can be applied. The fields range from narrative texts, to scientific projects and ethnographic experience, to different types of visual media; this gives students a sense of how concepts are constantly modified and amplified as they are applied to different fields of study. The emphasis is on reading a selection of original texts that combine theory and its application so that students may be able to conduct such an analysis themselves.

1. Principles of Semiology:
   a) Sign and Value
   b) Types of Symbols
   c) Relations of Signification

2. Narrative Forms:
   a) Structure of Narratives
   b) Code and Message

3. Language, Text and Culture:
   a) Ethnography as Text and Practice
   b) Symbol, History, Event
4. Visuality and the Symbol:
   a) Visual Symbols
   b) Media, Technology, Representation

**Suggested Readings:**
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 213: Industry and Society

1. Industrialisation, industrialism and post industrial society.

2. Employee organizations: Blue Collar, White Collar and Managers.

3. Work organization and Alienation:
   a) Machine Tending, Assembly Line, and Process Industry
   b) Job Re-design and Enrichment
   c) New Technologies: Emerging Forms of Work and Trade Union Response

4. Industrial Conflict and its Resolution:
   a) Nature of Industrial Conflict
   b) Collective Bargaining
c) Participation: Simpler Forms; Codetermination; Self Management and Cooperation

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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Course SOC 214: Gender and Society

Originating as one of the first postgraduate papers on gender and society – this department was among the first to introduce this field at the MA level – this course starts from the premise that gender is not only about women. The course has a three-fold aim. Firstly, it takes students through a gendered reading of both classics and contemporary texts in sociology and anthropology. Secondly, it focuses on specific and substantive concerns in gender studies. The course then integrates these discussions to forward its third outcome, namely, to acquaint students with older and current debates and new areas of research in the field.

1.  Gender in Sociological Analysis:
   
   a)  Approaches to the Study of Gender  
   b)  Gender Studies as a Critique of Ethnography and Theory

2.  Reproduction, Sexuality and Ideology:

   a)  Biology and Culture  
   b)  Concepts of Male and Female  
   c)  Life Cycle

3.  Family, Work and Property:

   a)  Production and Reproduction  
   b)  Work and Property  
   c)  Family and Household

4.  The Politics of Gender:

   a)  Complementarity, Inequality, Dependence, Subordination  
   b)  Feminist Theories and Feminist Politics

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 215: Sociology of Education

This course provides an understanding of the place and value of education in society, of the hegemonic processes that embed educational discourse, and of the institutional processes in which education is located. Through ethnographies of different social and cultural contexts and comparative analyses, students will understand the intersections of categories contributing to the reproduction of inequality in education, the state and civil society interventions in education, as well as the transformative aspects of education, and the role of agency and resistance in the educational process.

1. The Idea of Education:
   a) What is a ‘Good’ Education?
   b) Basic Education
   c) Democracy and Education
   d) Education and Liberation
   e) Education in contemporary times

2. Education and Society:
   a) Socialization and Education
   b) Cultural and Social Reproduction
   c) Hegemony and Domination
   c) Agency, Resistance and Relative Autonomy

3. Schooling practices:
   a) An Autobiographical Approach
   b) School Culture
   c) Curriculum and Classroom Practices
   d) Counter-School Culture

4. The State, Education and Equality:
   a) Education and Social Stratification
   b) Privatisation of Education
   c) Right to Education
   d) Aspects of Higher Education
Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 216: Sociology of Organisations

This course is based on comparative studies of different types of organizations ranging from factories, NGOs to hospitals and government bureaucracies. The selection choice of case studies is guided by the nature of the problems thrown up by the nature of the organization itself and the interests that it serves. Since organizations are supposed to be rational systems the attempt is to demonstrate the many ways in which subjective, i.e. emotional aspects add to the complexity of systems as different kinds of rational goals collide with each other. As with all other courses in the MA syllabus, the attempt is to teach theoretical concepts through their elaboration in ethnographies.

1. Introduction -Sociology and Organisation Studies:
2. Models of Rationality:
   (a) Types of Rationality
   (b) Styles of Bureaucratic Organisation
   (c) Organisations as Systems of Communication

3. Work, Interaction, Organisation:
   (a) Organisations as Systems of Interaction
   (b) Formal and Informal
   (c) Self and the Organisational System

4. Organisation and Culture:
   (a) Universal and Local Dimensions
   (b) Critiques of Organisational Culture: Gender, Emotions, and Indigenous Perspectives

Select Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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Course SOC 217: Population and Society

This course takes students through the key concepts, approaches, and debates in the field of population studies. By focusing on basic features of population structure and population dynamics, it will enable students to understand the importance of demography in social life. A key feature of the course is exposure to the critical sociological debates as well as policy related debates is. At the end of the course, students will be conversant with the significance of demography in social life and will have developed a critical orientation to public debates and policies regarding population.

1. Introduction to population studies and classical approaches:
   a) Relation with sociology and anthropology.
   b) Population structures and population dynamics
   c) Malthus and Marx
   d) Durkheim and Halbwachs

2. Fertility:
   a) Demographic transition theory
   b) Approaches to Fertility
   c) Reproductive technologies, sex selection and Infertility

3. Mortality:
   a) Epidemiological transition Model
   b) Approaches to mortality

4. Migration:
   a) Migration as a demographic process
   b) Approaches to migration

5. Population politics and policies:
   a) Governmentality and biopower
   b) Census and identity
   c) Gender and religion
The Course teacher may add a few extra ethnographic Studies to the reading list every year. The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester.

Readings:


17. Marcia C. Inhorn and Frank van Balen 2002 *Infertility around the globe: New thinking on childlessness, gender and reproductive technologies* (Selected chapters).


34. Sumit Guha 2013 Beyond caste: Identity and power in south Asia, past and present, Leiden: Brill, Chapter 5, (Ruling, identifying and counting: Knowledge and power in eighteenth century India.


Course SOC 218: Urban Sociology

Drawing from recent and classical research, this course lays down the foundation for a sociological study of the city or the urban. In addition, it introduces students to the multidisciplinary nature of contemporary urban studies by taking them through relevant theories from across the social sciences, including cultural geography, history, political science, and memory studies. Using a cross-cultural approach, the city is studied as part of global and transnational networks, spatial and cultural maps, formations of class, urban dislocation, and violence.

1. Sociological perspectives on the City:
   a) Globalisation and the City
   b) Politics and Urban Planning
   c) Urban Lives
   d) Urban Violence

2. Sacred landscapes and Urban life:
   a) The Sacred in the City
   b) Formations and Transformations of Space
   c) Ritual Processions and Urban Networks

3. Geographies of Space, Place, Identity:
   a) Neighbourhoods and Social Networks
   b) Contested Space and Identity
   c) Aesthetics and Architecture

4. The Underlife of Cities:
   a) The Underclass in the City
   b) Sexual Geography of the City
   c) Urban Street Cultures
Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 219 (a): Area Study: South-East Asia

1. Ecological Background of South-East Asia.

2. Traditional Kinship and Social Organization.

3. Comparative Sociology of Plural Society and Economy.


**Suggested Readings:**
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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**Course SOC 219 (b) South West-Asia**

1. South-West Asia as an Object of Enquiry:
   a) Ecology: Boundaries, Frontiers, Fields
   b) History and Politics
   c) Local Societies and Universalising Religion

2. Political Ideology and Religious Practices: Orthodox and Heterodox:
a) Textual Analysis
b) Text and Practice

3. Religious Ideology and Social Change:
   a) Political Islam and Problems of State Formation
   b) Islam and Resistance: Afghanistan and Iran
   c) Islam and Legitimacy: Iran and Pakistan

4. Feud and Violence:
   a) Deeds and Words
   b) Segmentary Theory
   c) Honour and Shame

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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**Course SOC 219 (c): Area Study: China**

1. Sociological theories and the study of China
   a) Approaches to China: Marxist and Weberian
   b) Mao’s Conception of Society, Social Science and Social Change
2. Kinship and Family:
   a) Changes in Land and Lineage Structure
   b) Redefining Social Roles
3. Rural-urban continuum:
   a) Restructuring Village Communities
   b) De-urbanization and the Role of Cities
4. Stratification:
   a) Readjustment of Class Hierarchy
   b) New Status Symbols
5. Values and Society:
   a) Religious Symbols: Old and New
   b) China’s Model of Development, Evolution and Revolution

**Suggested Readings:**
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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**Course SOC 220: Sociology of Science**

This course engages with the field of science and technology studies from a sociological point of view. It starts with the historical development of scientific knowledge production, proceeds to understand various theoretical approaches and debates, and moves on to understand the relationship between science and technology. The course takes up sociological engagements with a range of empirical sites such as laboratories and information networks, as well as the related political and ethical implications. It allows students to understand how science and society interact, and aids them in developing a clear understanding of important everyday concerns.

1. Introduction to Problems of the Sociology of Science
2. Origin of Modern European Science: Society and the Relation of Man and Nature
3. Functionalist Theory of Science: Norms, Productivity and Rewards
4. Marxist Theory of Science and Society: A Case Study
5. Structuralist Theory of Science: Paradigm or Gestalt
6. Ethnography of the Laboratory

**Suggested Readings:**
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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**Course 221: Agrarian Sociology**

This course introduces students to debates on the development of capitalism in agriculture, and on feudalism, commercialization of agriculture, and the impact of globalization on peasant studies. It familiarises students with recent debates and discussions on agrarian structure in India and other countries, and takes them through issues such as agrarian crises, farmers’ suicides, and the consequences of the introduction of GM crops.

1. Understanding Agrarian Sociology:
   (a) Ideas, interests and theories
   (b) Issues of classification

2. Pre-capitalist forms of production and the transition debate:
   (a) Surplus appropriation
   (b) Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism

3. Commercialisation of agriculture, agrarian crisis and food sovereignty:
   (a) Technology and production
   (b) Labour and work-discipline
   (c) Inequalities (GM seeds, farmer's suicides and food sovereignty)
4. Colonial land settlements and reforms:
   (a) Colonial land settlements
   (b) Redistributive and Market-led reforms

5. Agrarian Conflict:
   (a) Forms of resistance
   (b) Peasant organizations and ideologies
   (c) 'Land-grabs' and dispossession

**Suggested Readings:**
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


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**Course SOC 222: Sociology of Law**

This course familiarises students with the sociology and anthropology of law and fundamental concepts in jurisprudence. Students will engage with different theoretical perspectives on the law and with key debates in the field. The course examines how the law operates in a variety of empirical settings, and focuses on the different actors involved in the operation of the formal legal system. It also provides a political economy approach to law, and explores ways in which law becomes an arena of struggle. From historical and anthropological studies on crime, students learn about the creation of regimes of truth through law and the definition of crime and criminals. The course also examines law’s relation to contemporary concerns in India, and aids students to critically analyse judgements from a sociological perspective.

1. **Introduction to Jurisprudence:**
   a) Legal Positivism and Natural Law Theory
   b) Philosophies of Law/Justice
   c) Critical Legal Studies, Feminist Jurisprudence, etc.

2. **Sociological and Anthropological Jurisprudence:**
   a) Legal Evolutionism
   b) Relativism and Law
   c) Legal Pluralism

3. **The Political Economy of Law:**
   a) Law and Ideology
   b) Law and Power
   c) Property and Law
   d) Courts as Social Institutions
4. Law and Society in India:
   a) Historical Processes
   b) Contemporary Concerns
   c) The Indian Constitution in Practice
   d) Critical Analysis of SC Judgements

Suggested Readings:
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 223: Medical Sociology

The course addresses a range of questions that are significant in this sub discipline and develops a critical perspective on social issues pertaining to gender, disability, and aging through the lens of chronic illness. The course also addresses questions relating to the state and the market through case studies on pharmaceuticals and immunization schemes. As with most other courses in the MA syllabus, this course too is comparative in nature, with ethnographic studies chosen from different parts of the globe.

1. Body, Medicine and Society. Theoretical Perspectives:
   a) The Cultural Construction of Medical Reality
   b) Governing Bodies and Bio Power
2. Narrating Health and Illness:
   a) Illness Narratives
   b) Care and Interpersonal Relations

3. Culture and Medical Practice:
   a) Medical Taxonomies
   b) The Normal and Pathological

4. The State and Medicine:
   a) Epidemics and Immunization
   b) Pharmaceutical Practices

**Suggested Readings:**
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)


Course SOC 224: Sociology of Media

This course will provide a close reading of some of the key theoretical concepts, paradigms, and debates within Media Studies. It examines the media from a sociological perspective, focusing on three key areas – one, the medium, two, the mediation of subjectivities and three, the relationship between the media, the public sphere, and democracy.

1. Introduction and Theoretical approaches to media studies
   a) Cultural studies
   b) Public sphere
   c) Semiotics

2. The politics of media
   a) Media and political processes (elections, citizenship etc)
   b) Media as a supporter or watchdog of the state
   c) Media and the construction of political reality

3. The Media Industry
   a) Media as business: ownership, profits
   b) State ownership and influence

4. Media and Globalisation
   a) Neoliberalism and its implications
   b) Transnational and diasporic visual culture

5. Media and Identity
   a) Construction of subjectivities
   b) Audience reception

6. New media
   a) New media as technology
   b) New media and alternative identities, politics
Note: In any one year, four out of topics (2-6) will be taught.

**Suggested Readings:**
(The final list of readings will be distributed by the course instructor in the first week of the semester)

SOC 225: Society and Ecology

This course will introduce students to sociological approaches to understanding the relationship between society and ecology. The scope ranges from philosophical engagements with the distinction between nature and culture, to understanding perceptions and impacts of environmental change, to examining institutions and social structures that shape our engagement with nature. The course will familiarize students with the wide range of issues that animate the field, and examine some of the key debates by engaging with ethnographic work and specific case studies.

1. Social ecology
   a) Mapping the field
   b) Ideas of Natures

2. Explaining environmental degradation
   a) Population, consumption, development
   b) Disasters, hazards and risk

3. Environmentalism
   a) Environment and social movements
   b) Environmental justice: gender, class, caste, race

4. Environmental governance and Institutions
   a) State, community, commons
   b) Global environmental governance (problems, institutions, policies, politics)

Suggested Readings:


27. Rangarajan, Mahesh and K. Sivaramakrishnan (2014) *Shifting Grounds: People, Animals and Mobility in India’s Environmental History*. Oxford University Press, Delhi (Chapters 1, 9, 10, 11).


