

Generic Elective 01

Indian Society: Images and Realities

Course Objective:

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

Outline:

Sociological understanding of Ideas of India: Civilization, Colony, Nation and Society (3 Weeks)

Institutions and Processes (9 Weeks)

Village, Town and Region

Caste, Religion and Ethnicity

Family and Gender

Political Economy

Critical understanding of : Civilization, colony, Nation and society (2 Weeks)

COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY

Ideas of India : Civilization, Colony, Nation and Society (3 Weeks)

Embree, Ainslie Thomas,. *Imagining India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989. Chapter 1- Brahmanical Ideology and Regional Identities. Pp. 9 – 27

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)

Village, Town and Region

Breman, Jan. 'The Village in Focus' from the *Village Asia Revisited*, Delhi: OUP 1997. Pp. 15-64

Cohn, Bernard, *An Anthropologist Among Historians and Other Essays*, Delhi: OUP, 1987, Chapters. 4 and 6. Pp.78-85 & 100 – 135

Caste, Religion and Ethnicity

Mines, Diane P. *Caste in India*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Association for Asian Studies, 2009. Pp. 1-35

Fuller, C. J. *The Camphor Flame: Popular Hinduism and Society in India*. Delhi: Viking, 1992. Chapter 1. Pp. 3 – 28.

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.

Family and Gender

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

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

Political Economy

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

Critiques (2 Weeks)

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

Sangari, Kumkum and Sudesh Vaid. *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. Introduction, Pp. 1 – 25

Brass, Paul. 1991 “Ethnicity and Nationalism: Theory and Comparison .Sage Publication, pp