

## **Core Course 05**

### **POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

#### **Course Objective:**

This course introduces the students to some major theoretical debates and concepts in Political Sociology, while situating these within contemporary political issues. A key thrust of the paper is towards developing a comparative understanding of political relationships through themes such as power, governance and state and society relationships.

#### **1. Contextualising the study of Political Sociology :**

**Nature , Scope and Development of political Sociology**

#### **2. Basic Concepts**

2.1 Power and Authority( Max Weber and Anthony Giddens)

2.2 State, Governance and Citizenship

2.3 Elites and the Ruling Classes ( Parito , Bottomore and C.W. Mills)

#### **3. Political Systems :**

**3.1. Segmentary**

**3.2. Totalitarian**

**3.3. Democratic**

#### **4. Everyday State, Local Structures of Power:**

**Panjichayati Raj , Autonomous Council , Development Council**

#### *COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY*

#### **1. Contextualising the study of Politics (Weeks 1-2)**

1.1.1 Eisenstadt, S. N. '1971, 'General Introduction : The Scope and Development of Political Sociology' in *Political Sociology: A Reader* Basic Books, New Your Publication, pp 3-24.

1.1.2 Lewellen, Ted. 2003, 'The Development of Political Anthropology' in *Political Anthropology: An Introduction (Third Edition)*, Praeger, pp. 1- 14.

#### **2. Basic Concepts (Weeks 3 – 8)**

##### **2.1 Power and Authority**

2.1.1 Weber, Max. 1978, *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretative Sociology*, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 53-54; 941-54; 212-30; 241-54.

2.1.2 Lukes, Steven. 2005, *Power: A Radical View*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Hampshire : Palgrave, pp. 14-49.

##### **2.2 State, Governance and Citizenship**

2.2.1 Mitchell, Timothy. 'Society, Economy, and the State Effect', in A. Sharma and A. Gupta (Ed.), *The Anthropology of the State: A Reader*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2006, pp. 169-85

2.2.2 Burchell, Graham et al (Eds),1991, *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*, The University of Chicago Press, Chapter 1, pp.1-51

2.2.3 Marshall, T.H. 1950, *Citizenship and Social Class and Other Essays*, Cambridge University Press, pp. 10-27

2.2.4 Tilly, Charles. 1999, 'Where Do Rights Come From?' in Theda Skocpol (Ed) *Democracy, Revolution and History*, Cornell University Press, pp 55-72

### **2.3 Elites and the Ruling Classes**

2.3.1 Mills, C. Wright, 1956. *The Power Elite, New Edition*, OUP, pp. 269-297.

2.3.2 Bottomore, T.B. 1993, *Elites and Society, 2nd Edition*, Routledge, pp. 15-34

2.3.3 Finner ,S.E ( selected and I introduced) translated by Derick Mirfin (1966) Vilfredo Pareto, *Sociological Writings* , London , Pall Mall Press Ltd. Pp 15 -80.

### **3. Political Systems : Segmentary, Totalitarian and Democratic (Weeks 9 – 11)**

3.1.1 Fortes, M. and E.E. Evans Pritchard (Eds), 1940. *African Political Systems*. London: Oxford University Press, Chapter 8.

3.1.2 Tapper, Richard, 1990. 'Anthropologists, Historians, and Tribespeople' in Philip Shukry and Joseph Kostiner (Ed) *Tribes* 15

*and State Formation in the Middle East*, University of California Press, pp. 48-71

3.1.3 Schapiro, L. 1972. *Totalitarianism*, The Pall Mall Press, Chaps 2,3

3.1.4 Macpherson, C. B. 1966. *The Real World of Democracy*, Oxford Clarendon Press, pp. 1-45

3.1.5 Chomsky, N. 1999. *Profit over People: Neoliberalism and Global Order*. Severn Stories Press, pp. 7-18, 43-64

### **4. Everyday State and Local Structures of Power: State and Politics in India (Weeks 12 -14)**

4.1.1 Fuller, C.J. and V. Beni (Eds.), 2000. *The Everyday State and Society in Modern India*. Social Science Press, pp. 1-30

4.1.2 Tarlo, Emma, 2003 *Unsettling Memories: Narratives of the Emergency in Delhi*, University of California Press, pp. 62-93

4.1.3 Swartz, M.J (Ed), 1968. *Local Level Politics: Social and Cultural Perspectives*, University of London Press, pp. 281-94

## Core Course 06

### Sociology of Religion

(6 credits)

#### **Course Objective**

The course lays primacy to the understanding of religious over individual religions. Drawing heavily from classical writings on the subject it reinforces importance of the positions developed in these texts. Implicitly numerous interconnections can be attempted between various themes, manifestly the overarching concern of the paper is to follow up the linkage between social and religious through different registers mentioned in the outline.

#### **Outline: 1. Social and Religious (2 credits)**

##### **1.1. Formulating Religious**

1.1.1. Social definitions of religion

1.1.2. Social functions of religion

##### **1.2. Asceticism and Accumulation**

1.2.1. Relationship between religion and socio economic action

1.2.2. Contradiction between asceticism and accumulation

##### **1.3. Theodicy and Eschatology**

1.3.1. Social implications of the Idea of divine Justice

1.3.2. Social implications of the idea of death and salvation

##### **1.4. State, Religion and Emancipation**

1.4.1. Religion and state

1.4.2. Religion and community

##### **1.5. Religious and Solitude**

1.5.1. The isolation of the sacred

1.5.2. The sacred community and exclusion

**2. Elements of Religious** (2credits)

**2.1. Sacred, Myth, Ritual (meaning and significance)**

(Mythology from North East India can be used as reference for seminars and presentations as directed by the course teacher)

**2.2. Time-Space**

- 2.2.1. Transcendence and time
- 2.2.2. Sacred marking of space

**2.3. Rationality**

- 2.3.1. Concept of rationality (Max Weber)
- 2.3.2. Rationality in religion

**3. Techniques of Religious** (2 credits)

**3.1. Prayer**

- 3.1.1. Techniques of Prayer
- 3.1.2. Prayer as a ritual

**3.2. Craft**

- 3.2.1 Types of crafts
- 3.2.2. Functions of crafts

**3.3. Body**

- 3.3.1. Gestures
- 3.3.2. Performance

***Course Contents and Itinerary***

**1. Social and Religious (Weeks 1-5)**

**1.1 Formulating Religious**

1.1.1 Emile Durkheim. 1995. *The elementary forms of religious life*. Translated by Karen E. Fields. New York: The Free Press. Book one and Conclusion, pp. 21-39, 418-440.

## **1.2 Asceticism and Accumulation**

1.2.1. Max Weber. 2001. *The Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. Translated by Stephen Kalberg. England: Roxbury Publishing Press, pp. 103-126.

## **1.3 Theodicy and Eschatology**

1.3.1 Max Weber. 1978. *Economy and society*. Edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. California: University of California Press. Volume Two, pp.518-521.

## **1.4 State, Religion and Emancipation**

1.4.1 Marx, Karl. 2008/9 [1843] . “On the Jewish Question” in *Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher*. Proofed and Corrected: by Andy Blunden, Matthew Grant and Matthew Carmody. www.marxists.org

## **1.5 Religious and Solitude**

1.5.1 Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1948. *Magic, science and religion and other essays*. Selected, and with an introduction by Robert Redfield. Boston: The Free Press, pp. 37-50.

## **2. Elements of religious (Weeks 6-11)**

### **2.1 Sacred, Myth, Ritual**

2.1.1 Emile Durkheim. 1995. *The elementary forms of religious life*. Translated by Karen E. Fields. New York: The Free Press, Book one, pp. 27-33.

2.1.2 Srinivas, M. N. 1952. *Religion and society among the Coorgs of south India*. Clarendon : Oxford, pp100-122.

2.1.3 Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1948. *Magic, science and religion and other essays*. Selected, and with an introduction by Robert Redfield. Boston: The Free Press, pp. 119-124.

2.1.4 Emile Durkheim. 1995. *The elementary forms of religious life*. Translated by Karen E. Fields. New York: The Free Press. Book three, pp. 303-412.

### **2.2 Time-Space**

2.2.1. E. E. Evans-Pritchard. 1963 (1940). "Time and Space." In *The Nuer*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, pp. 94-98, 100-108.

### **2.3 Rationality**

2.3.1 Tambiah, Stanley Jeyaraja. 1990. *Magic, science, religion and the scope of ra-tionality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-41.

## **3. Techniques of religious (Weeks 12-14)**

### **3.1 Prayer**

3.1.1. Mauss, Marcel.2008 (2003). *On prayer*. USA: Berghahn Books, pp. 19-58.

## **3.2 Craft**

3.2.1. Ginzburg, Carlo.1991. *Ecstasies*. Translated by Raymond Rosenthal. New York: Pantheon Press, pp. 1-32.

## **3.3 Body**

3.3.1 Robert, Hertz. 1973 (1909). "The Pre-eminence of the Right Hand." In *Right and Left: Essays on Dual Symbolic Classification*, edited by R. Needham. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 3-10, 13-14, 16-17, 19-21.

## **Suggested Readings:**

1. Weber, Max. 1993. *Sociology of Religion*. Boston. The Beacon Press.
2. Sen, Soumen. 1993. *Religion in North–East India*. New Delhi. Uppal Publishing House

## **Core Course 07 Sociology of Gender**

### **Course Objective:**

The course introduces gender as a critical sociological lens of enquiry in relation to various social fields. It also interrogates the categories of gender, sex, and sexuality.

### **Course Outline**

1. Gendering Sociology
  - 1.1 Sociology of Gender: An Introduction
  - 1.2 Gender, Sex, Sexuality
  - 1.3 Concept of Masculinity and Femininity
2. Gender Theories
  - 2.1 Feminism (Liberal feminism, radical feminism and social feminism)
  - 2.2 Marxian theory of gender
  - 2.3 Queer theory of Gender
3. Gender: Differences and inequalities
  - 3.1 Gender discrimination ( family, caste, class and work)
  - 3.2 Gender and development
  - 3.3 Gender budgeting
4. Gender, Power and resistance
  - 4.1 Power and subordination ( Patriarchy)
  - 4.2 Resisting and movements( LGBT movements)

### ***COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY***

#### **Gendering Sociology: [Week 1]**

S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) 2002 *Gender: A Sociological Reader*, London: Routledge. Introduction, (pp. 1-26).

Liz Stanley. 2002. „Should Sex Really be Gender or Gender Really be Sex“ in S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) *Gender: A Sociological Reader*, London: Routledge (pp. 31-41)

Strathern, Marilyn. 1987. “An Awkward Relationship: The Case of Feminism and Anthropology.” *Signs* 12(2):276-292.

Saikia, J.P, (2016): “ Gender : Themes and Issues”, Concept Publishing Company (P) Ltd, New Delhi.Pp-01-46.

Sherry Ortner. 1974. “Is male to female as nature is to culture?” M.Z. Rosaldo and L. Lamphere (eds.) *Women, culture and society*.Stanford: Stanford University Press (pp. 67- 87).

Rubin, Gayle. 1984. “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality” in Carole Vance, ed., *Pleasure and anger*.London: Routledge (pp 143-179).

Newton, Esther. 2000. “Of Yams, Grinders and Gays: The Anthropology of Homosexuality” in *Margaret Mead Made Me Gay:Personal Essays, Public Ideas*. London: Duke University Press (pp 229- 237).

Weeks. J,(2012): *Sexuality Third Edition*, Routledge, London and New York.

### **Gender, Sex, Sexuality [Weeks 2-3]**

Singh. S, (2009): “ Feminism: Theory, Criticism and Analysis”., Pencraft International., New Delhi

Kuumba Bahati. M, (2003): *Gender and Social Movements.*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur and New Delhi.

Saikia, J.P, (2016): “ Gender : Themes and Issues”, Concept Publishing Company (P) Ltd, New Delhi.Pp-65-82.

### **2.2 Production of Masculinity and Femininity [Weeks 4-6]**

Halberstam, Judith. 1998. “An Introduction to Female Masculinity: Masculinity without Men” in *Female Masculinity*. London: Duke University Press (Also Delhi: Zubaan 2012 Reprint) (pp 1-43).

Alter, Joseph. 1992. *The Wrestler's Body: Identity and Ideology in North India*. California : University of California: California (pp 163-194).

2.2.3 Uberoi, Patricia “Feminine Identity and National Ethos in Indian Calendar Art” In *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol. 25, No. 17 (Apr. 28, 1990), (pp. WS41-WS48).

### **Differences and Inequalities Class, Caste [Weeks 7-8]**

Walby, Sylvia. 2002. “Gender, Class and Stratification: Towards a new approach” in S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) *Gender: A Sociological reader*. London: Routledge (pp 93-96).

Leela Dube 1996 “Caste and Women” in M.N.Srinivas (ed.)*Caste: Its twentieth century avatar*, New Delhi: Penguin (pp 1-27).



Rege, S. 1998. "Dalit Women Talk Differently: A Critique of 'Difference' and Towards a Dalit Feminist Standpoint Position." *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 33, No. 44 (Oct.31-Nov. 6, 1998)(pp 39-48)

### **3.2 Family, Work [Weeks 9-10]**

Whitehead, A. 1981, "„I'm Hungry Mum": The Politics of Domestic Budgeting" in K. Young et al. (eds.) *Of Marriage and the Market: Women's Subordination Internationally and its Lessons*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul (pp. 93-116).

Palriwala, Rajni. 1999. "Negotiating Patriliney: Intra-household Consumption and Authority in Rajasthan (India)", in Rajni Palriwala and Carla Risseuw (eds.), *Shifting Circles of Support: Contextualising kinship and gender relations in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa*. Delhi: Sage Publications [pp.190-220]

## **4. Gender, Power and Resistance**

### **4.1. Power and Subordination [Weeks 11-12]**

4.1.1 Candace West and Don H. Zimmerman. 2002. "Doing Gender" in S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) *Gender: A Sociological Reader*. London: Routledge [pp 42-47].

Susie, Tharu and Tejaswini Niranjana. 1999. „Problems for a contemporary theory of gender" in Nivedita Menon (ed.) *Gender and Politics in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press [pp 494-525].

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2002. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?: Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others."

*American Anthropologist* 104 (3) [pp 783-790].

### **4.2. Resistance and Movements (Weeks 13-14)**

Kandiyoti, Deniz. 1991 "Bargaining with Patriarchy" in Judith Lorber and Susan A. Farrell (eds.) *The Social Construction of Gender*, New Delhi: Sage Publications [pp.104-118].

Hill-Collins, Patricia. 2002. "Learning from the outsider within" in S. Jackson and S. Scott (eds.) *Gender: A Sociological Reader*. London: Routledge [pp 69-78].

4.2.3 Kumar, Radha. 1999. "From Chipko to Sati: The Contemporary Indian Women's Movement" In Nivedita Menon (ed.) *Gender and Politics in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press [pp342-369].

[Projects, feature films and documentaries screenings, field-work oriented tasks will be the integral part of the course].