

MA Sociology I Semester
SOCIO 511: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Unit I: BASICS OF SOCIOLOGY (15 hrs)

- A. Nature, scope, significance of sociology
- B. Relationship between sociology and other social sciences (anthropology, economics, political science, history, psychology)
- C. Three paths (historical, empirical and analytical)
- D. What the founding fathers said (Comte, Spencer, Durkheim, Max Weber)
- E. The fields of sociological concerns

Unit II: Models of Society in Sociological Analysis (10 hrs)

- A. Evolutionary model
- B. Organismic model
- C. Conflict model
- D. Physical science model
- E. Statistical and mathematical models

Unit III: Conceptions of Man in Sociological Analysis (10 hrs)

- A. Nature of man
- B. The over-socialized conception of man
- C. Personality in social roles
- D. Personality and politics
- E. Personality and social structure

Unit IV: Basic Elements of Social Life (10 hrs)

- A. Minimum requirement of human social life
- B. The units of social organization
- C. The nature of social relationship

Unit V: Fundamental Social Processes (15 hrs)

- A. Cooperation
- B. Accommodation
- C. Assimilation
- D. Competition
- E. Conflict

SOCIO 512: SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES I

Unit I: Sociological Thinking (5 hrs)

- A. The sociological imagination and the promise of sociology
- B. Sociology of knowledge: Basic principles and protocol

Unit II: Structural-Functional Perspective (15 hrs)

- A. Historical context
- B. Key arguments
 - Whole, part and systemic interrelationships
 - Consensus, stability, order versus conflict, instability and change
 - Functional prerequisites or imperatives
 - Functional unity, universality and indispensability and Merton's reformulation
 - Manifest and latent function and dysfunction
 - Protocol of functional analysis
- C. Variants: Societal (Durkheim), Individualistic (Malinowski), Structural (Radcliffe-Brown), Social systemic (Parsons)
- D. Critique
- E. Application to: (a) Stratification, (b) Deviance, (c) Religion

Unit III: Marxist Perspective (20 hrs)

- A. Context
- B. Key arguments
 - Historical specificity of social institutions and capitalism as a specific historical category
 - Key features of economy, polity and society under capitalism
 - Dialectics
 - Idealism, materialism and dialectical historical materialism
 - Mode of production and infrastructure and superstructure
 - Commodification of social life and alienation
 - Class and class struggle
 - Nature of state
 - Social change and revolution
- C. Variants: (a) Structural Marxism, (b) Conflict functionalism, (c) Lenin, (d) Luxemburg, (e) Gramsci
- D. Critique
- E. Application: (a) Consciousness, (b) Religion, (c) Family and marriage

Unit IV: World-System Perspective (20)

- A. Context
- B. Key arguments:
 - Evolution of capitalism and the rise of the modern world-system

- Key features of the modern world system
 - Priority of world-system over regional and local systems and simultaneous constitution of world and regional and local systems
 - World division of labor and global movement of commodity, labor, finance and culture
 - Globalization and liberalization
 - Development and underdevelopment
 - Economic cycles and political, economic and military crises *within* world system
 - Crisis *of* world system, hegemonic shift and demise of capitalism
- C. Variants: (a) Wallerstein-Frank debate on the origin of 'modern world-system', (b) World-system and dependency debate
- D. Application: (a) Growth of NGOs and INGOs, (b) International migration, (c) Global mass media
- E. Critique

SOCIO 513: STRUCTURE OF NEPALI SOCIETY

Unit I: Structure and Composition of Nepali Society (10 Hrs)

- A. Village, Wards, Village Development Committee, Town, Cities, Municipalities, Sub-metropolitan City, Metropolitan City, Emerging Towns, Market Centers
- B. Rural-urban linkages
- C. Development regions, ecological regions
- D. Social compositions
- E. Demographic compositions
- F. Population projection

Unit II: Cultural and Ethnic Diversity (20 Hrs)

- A. Overview of social and cultural diversity in Nepal
- B. Unity, diversity and contradiction issues
- C. Language
- D. Caste Groups (Hill and Terai) and their categories
- E. Ethnic Groups and their categories
- F. Religion
- G. Region

Unit III: Current Socio-economic Situation of Nepal (20 Hrs)

- A. Housing
- B. Access to facilities
- C. Literacy and education
- D. Health Services
- E. Migration and absentees
- F. Agriculture
- G. Consumption
- H. Government facilities
- I. Nutritional status of children

Unit IV: Income and Employment (10 hrs)

- A. Farm income
- B. Non-farm income
- C. Main sectors of employment
- D. Remittance and transfer income
- E. Household Loans

SOCIO 514: MICRO SOCIO CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Unit I: Introduction (15hrs)

- A. Institution, Association and norms and values
- B. Meaning and Micro-Macro levels of Socio Cultural institutions
- C. Social control and Institutionalization process
- D. Nature/Nurture debate
- E. Linking history and biography
- F. Feudal, Capitalistic and Socialistic social and cultural institutions

Unit II: Micro Institutions: Marriage and Sexuality (15 hrs)

- A. Definition and universal cultural phenomena of marriage
- B. Origin, forms of marriage, functions and rules/norms of marriage.
- C. General types and regulations, multiple Marriages, Endogamy, Exogamy practiced in Nepalese caste ethnic groups, Universal prevalence of incest taboo.
- D. Recent changes on concept of remarriage, divorce, widow marriage, remaining single and living together.
- E. Concept of sexuality, homosexuality (Gay, lesbian) , heterosexuality, Bisexuality, Transsexuality
- F. Causes of changes of marriage practices

Unit III: Family as Micro Social and Cultural Institution(10hrs)

- A. Meaning, origin, types and functions of Family
- B. Genealogical reproductive unit (family) and economic-political reproductive unit household
- C. Functional and conflict perspectives of family
- D. Family values and recent changes
- E. Stability and change factors in family types and functions and values

Unit IV: Kinship as Micro Socio-cultural Institution (15 hrs)

- A. Kinship as culture of relatedness, Genealogy study
- B. Kinship as structural system, rule of descent, lineage clan, Gotra
- C. The social use of Kinship: recent theories, functions and social reproduction
- D. Kinship terms, Kin-types and terminologies
- E. Historical change of kinship system
- F. Kinship and power
- G. Beyond biological and descent basis of kinship
- H. Changes of kinship terms(terms of address and terms of reference)

Unit V: Community as Micro Social Cultural Institution (5hrs)

- A. Meaning of community
- B. Theoretical approaches to community analysis
- C. Association and community
- D. Community as place: its physical configuration

SOCIO 515: SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Unit I: Introduction (15 hrs)

- A. Meaning and nature of social change, meaning and nature of social transformation, modernity and social change, structural societal change, structural societal transformation
- B. Concept and issues of development, development and quality of life quality of life, growth and development, sustainable development, development and its relation to freedom and functioning
- C. Development studies and its relevancy in sociology, development studies and applied sociology, development studies and sociology of development

Unit II: Classical Sociological Understanding on Social Change (25 hrs)

- A. Socio-cultural evolutionism and the idea of progress
 - Comte
 - Spencer
 - Morgan
 - Durkheim
 - Tonnies
 - Lester Ward
- B. The idea of social differentiation, reintegration and adaptation
 - Durkheim
 - Weber
 - Parsons
 - Smelser
- C. The idea of mode of production and the corresponding social change
 - Marx
 - Engels

Unit III: Contending Theoretical Positions before the 1980s (20 hrs)

A. Modernization theory

- Parsonian pattern variables (Parsons)
- The stage theory of development (Rostow)
- Main premises and critique

B. Dependency theory

- The structuralist approach to dependency (Cardoso)
- The neo-Marxist approach to dependency (Frank, Amin, Dos Santos)
- Main premises and critique

C. The world-system theory (Wallerstein)

SOCIO 516: SOCIAL DIFFERENTIATION AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Unit I. Social Differentiation and Social Stratification (15 Hours).

- A. The idea of social evolution and social differentiation: 19th century Europe (Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Simmel, Parsons, Luhmann)
- B. Marxist, Weberian and functionalist interpretation of stratification
- C. Difference, hierarchy and social stability and change

Unit II. Gender and Stratification (15 Hours)

- A. Feminist Theories of Stratification
 - Concept of masculinity and femininity and sex segregation
 - Theoretical perspectives on formation of gender
 - Feminist theories on social stratification (race, class, gender)
 - Sociological perspective on gender stratification.
- B. Sexual Division of Labor and Gender Stratification
 - Ideology and the history of women's work;
 - Sociological perspectives on work and gender stratification
 - Labor-force participation of women in Nepal
 - Occupational distribution.
- C. Gender, Property and State
 - Gender, property and land;
 - Gender relations outside the household/family
 - Market, the community and the state

Unit III: Caste System and Social Stratification (15 Hours)

- A. Concept and Theoretical Debate
 - Caste as ideology of hierarchy
 - Hindu caste system: Dumontian view of caste, post Dumontian view of Hindu caste
 - Variations of caste system
 - Comparative theories of caste system; caste, class and social stratification
- B. Caste System in Nepal: Yesterday and Today
 - The state and caste system
 - Overview of the Muluki Ain of 1854 and the post 1951 Legislations;
- C. Caste system within ethnic groups: the case of Newars
- D. Issues of equity, competition and secular ideologies of the state

Unit IV: Class and Social Differentiation (15 Hours)

- A. Theories of Class
 - Karl Marx and theory of class and inter-class relation
 - Max Weber and social class.
- B. The Structure of Class

- Class structure under the conception of class as a descriptive category: class, occupations and division of labor, class and status differentiation, classes and market situation of economic positions.
 - Class structure under the conception of class as a relational category: bimodal structure, multimodal structure and class alliances.
 - Class and international systems of socio-economic relations.
- C. Class and cross sections of society in the context of Nepal**
- Class in the context of caste, ethnicity, gender and region based identities of the population, class and the state.