

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad

Syllabus of Semester – V of the following departments under Faculty of Arts
based on Under Graduate Curriculum Framework - 2023 to be implemented from
the Academic Year 2026-27

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

BA. (Hons) Sociology

Course	Title	Content	Hours/Weeks	Credit
SOHMN-551-C	Power and Politics in Contemporary India: A Sociological View	U 1: Introducing Political Sociology U 2: Power, Authority, and Legitimacy U 3: Class, Inequality, and Political Economy U 4: Social Movements and Collective Action	4 HRS	4

MINOR (SUBJECT SPECIFIC) COURSE: POWER AND POLITICS IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA: A SOCIOLOGICAL VIEW

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course Title & Code	Credit Distribution of The Course			Eligibility Criteria	Pre-requisite(s) of the Course (if any)
	Lecture	Tutorial	Practical / Practice		
Power and Politics in Contemporary India: A Sociological View (SOHMN-551-C)	4	0	0	10 + 2 from a recognized board in any stream	Basic Knowledge of Sociology

LEARNING OBJECTIVES (LO)	
LO-1	To introduce students to the major classical and contemporary theories in Political Sociology
LO-2	To develop students' understanding of political processes in India and South Asia, including caste, class, kinship, religion, nationalism, governance, law, social movements, and development, through empirical case
LO-3	To cultivate critical thinking by engaging students with debates on socio-political issues
Course OUTCOMES (CO)	
On Completion of this course, the student will be able to	
CO-1	Explain and compare major theories of political sociology and apply them to analyze contemporary political phenomena such as inequality, governance, and social movements.
CO-2	Critically evaluate the nature of the Indian state, postcolonial politics, caste-class dynamics, citizenship, and identity-based mobilisations using relevant theoretical frameworks.
CO-3	Demonstrate the ability to Interpret case studies and empirical data, analyze power relations in social institutions, Construct theoretically informed arguments in written and oral formats.

Unit I: Introducing Political Sociology (15L)

- What is Political Sociology? Scope and Key Concerns
- Classical Origins: Karl Marx and Max Weber
- Marx, Weber and Conservation Practice
- Power Elites and Reproduction of Inequality

Unit II: Power, Authority, and Legitimacy (15L)

- Bourdieu and Reproduction of Classes
- Antonio Gramsci: Class, Hegemony, and Political Mobilisation
- Steven Lukes and Three Dimensions of Power
- Ranajit Guha: Dominance without Hegemony and General Configuration of Power

Unit III: Class, Inequality, and Political Economy (15L)

- Political Sociology of Agrarian Change and Land
- Urban Informality and Class Politics
- Labor, Precarity, and Informal Workers' Movements
- Political Lives of Labour in India

Unit IV: Social Movements and Collective Action (15L)

- Classical and New Social Movement Theories
- Political Process Model and Resource Mobilisation
- Subaltern Movements: Adivasi, Dalit, Women
- Case Study: Chipko Movement

Books and references

1. Agarwala, R. (2013). *Informal Labor, Formal Politics, and Dignified Discontent in India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Baruah, S. (1999). *India Against Itself: Assam and the Politics of Nationality*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
3. Bottomore, T. B. (1979). *Political Sociology*. New York: Harper & Row.
4. Chatterjee, P. (1993). *The Nation and Its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
5. Connell, R. (2007). *Southern Theory: Social Science and the Global Dynamics of Knowledge*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
6. Deshpande, S. (2003). *Contemporary India: A Sociological View*. New Delhi: Penguin India.
7. Dirks, N. B. (2001). *Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
8. Escobar, A. (1995). *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
9. Guha, R. (1997). *Dominance without Hegemony: History and Power in Colonial India*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
10. Jeffrey, R. (2000). *India's Newspaper Revolution: Capitalism, Politics and the Indian-language Press*. New Delhi: Oxford.
11. Li, T. M. (2007). *The Will to Improve: Governmentality, Development, and the Practice of Politics*. Durham: Duke University Press.
12. Lukes, S. (2005). *Power: A Radical View*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic.
13. Mitchell, T. (1991). The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and their Critics. *American political science review*, 85(1), 77-96.
14. Nilsen, AG. And Roy, S. (Eds.) (2015). *New Subaltern Politics: Reconceptualising Hegemony and Resistance in Contemporary India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
15. Pratiksha Baxi (2014). *Public Secrets of Law: Rape Trials in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
16. Scott, J. C. (1990). *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
17. Shah, G. (Ed.) (2002). *Social Movements and the State*. New Delhi: Sage.
18. Tarrow, S. (1998). *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
19. Touraine, A. (1981). *The Voice and the Eye: An Analysis of Social Movements*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

BA. (Hons) Sociology

Course	Title	Content	Hours/Weeks	Credit
SOH-MN-552-C	Society and Social Issues	U-1 Understanding of Social Problems U-2 Structural and economic dimensions of social problems U-3 Inequality, Deviance and Contemporary social problems U-4 Organizational and institutional responses to social problems	4 Hrs	4

OTHER MINOR COURSE: SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ISSUES

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course Title & Code	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Pre-requisite(s) of the Course (if any)
	Lecture	Tutorial	Practical / Practice		
Society and Social Issues (SOHMN-552-C)	4	0	0	10 + 2 from a recognized board in any stream	Basic Knowledge of Sociology

LEARNING OBJECTIVES (LO)

LO-1	Understand the meaning, causes, and consequences of major social problems.
LO-2	Introduce students to sociological perspectives on social issues.
LO-3	Enable students to identify and analyze contemporary social, economic, and political problems.

Course OUTCOMES (CO)

On Completion of this course, the student will be able to

CO-1	Define and explain key social problems affecting society.
CO-2	Analyze social issues using basic sociological theories and concepts.

CO-3	Critically engage with contemporary social challenges like poverty, casteism, crime, and climate change.
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Unit I: Understanding of Social Problems (15 L)

- Meaning and characteristics of social problems
- Causes and Consequences of social problems
- Social Justice
- Sociological perspectives on social problems: Functionalist and Conflict

Unit II: Structural and Economic Dimensions of Social Problems (15 L)

- Population growth and its social implications
- Poverty and unemployment
- Migration and Urbanization
- Rural–urban inequalities and their social consequences

Unit III: Inequality, Deviance and Contemporary Social Problems (15 L)

- Casteism, Communalism, Regionalism
- Social deviation: Drug addiction and alcoholism
- Family change and problems of ageing
- Contemporary social concerns; Mental health, Digital divide, Environmental degradation and climate change

Unit IV: Organizational and Institutional Responses to Social Problems (15 L)

- Role of the State in addressing social problems
- National institutional response: NITI Aayog;
- International organizations and social problems: UN and SDGs, ILO, IMF
- Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Suggestive Reading:

1. Ahuja, Ram. (2014). *Social Problems in India*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.
2. Madan, G.R. (2004). *Indian Social Problems* (Vol. I & II). New Delhi: Allied Publishers.
3. Rao, C.N. Shankar. (2013). *Sociology: Principles of Sociology with an Introduction to Social Thought*. New Delhi: S. Chand & Company.
4. Merton, Robert K. (1968). *Social Theory and Social Structure*. New York: Free Press.
5. Horton, Paul B. & Leslie, Gerald R. (1980). *The Sociology of Social Problems*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.
6. Coser, Lewis A. (1971). *Masters of Sociological Thought*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
7. Beteille, André. (2012). *Caste, Class and Power: Changing Patterns of Stratification in a Tanjore Village*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
8. Giddens, Anthony. (2017). *Sociology*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

9. Srinivas, M.N. (1996). *Village, Caste, Gender and Method*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
10. Desai, A.R. (1986). *India's Path of Development: A Marxist Approach*. New Delhi: Popular Prakashan.
11. Ritzer, George. (2011). *Sociological Theory* (8th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
12. Sharma, Rajendra K. (2013). *Indian Social Problems*. New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers.
13. Bhandarkar, P.L. & Varma, R. (2010). *Social Problems and Social Change in India*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.
14. Davis, Kingsley. (1981). *Human Society*. New York: Macmillan.
15. Dube, S.C. (1990). *Indian Society*. New Delhi: National Book Trust