

PHD Course work

Course SOC/MPhil/1.1 Compulsory Course :Sociological Theory, 4 credits 50 marks course

Course SOC/MPhil/1.2 Compulsory Course: Research Methods, 4 credits 50 marks course

Courses:

Sociological Theory

Compulsory Course SOC/MPhil/1.1

1st Semester

Credits: 4/Full Marks 50

This course is meant for the M Phil and the Ph D students of Sociology. It intends to provide a sound theoretical foundation to the first time researchers in social fields. The course will give insight into the unfolding of the principal dilemma of sociological theorizing viz. the agency - structure dilemma, the exclusive choices made by theorists and a few attempts to integrate both in a single theoretical frame.

1. Visions of Sociological Theory, The New Agenda and Contemporary Crisis 8 lectures
2. Structural Functionalism : Parsons 6 lectures
3. Conflict Theory: Dahrendorf , Coser, Critical Theory of Habermas 10 lectures
4. Exchange Theory: Homans 4 lectures
5. Interactionist theory: Blumer and Kuhn, Goffman. 6 lectures
6. Phenomenology 4 lectures
7. Ethnomethodology 4 lectures
8. Rational Choice Theory 4 lectures
9. Post modern theory : Foucault 4 lectures
10. Agency – Structure Integration: Giddens, Archer, Bourdieu 10 lectures

Readings:

Archer M, 1988, Culture and Agency: The Place of Culture in Social Theory

Berger, P. L ,Luckmann T, 1966, The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge

Blumer H, 1969, Symbolic Interaction

Bourdieu P, 1984, Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste
1990, Homo Academicus

Coser L, 1956, The Functions of Social Conflict

Dahrendorf, R, 1959, Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society

Foucault M, 1975, Dis

cipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison

Giddens A, 1984, The Constitution of Society: Outline of the Theory of Structuration

Goffman ,E, 1959, The presentation of Self in Everyday Life.

Habermas J, 1981, The Theory of Communicative Action

Homans G C, 1965, 'Bringing Men Back In' American Sociological Review 29: 807-828

Lemart C (ed.) 1993. Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings

Parsons T and Shils A,(eds.) 1976, Toward a General Theory of Action

Ritzer G. 1996, Modern Sociological Theory

Turner J H .1974 The Structure of Sociological Theory

Turner B S (ed.) 2009, Social Theory

Research Methods

Compulsory Course SOC/MPhil/1.2
1st Semester

Credits: 4/Full Marks 50

The Course:

The course aims to address the methodological issues in social sciences. It does this at two levels: one, primarily revisits some of the philosophical debates at stake in philosophy of science; and two, rehearse some of the modalities of doing research in specific contexts. The course does bring to the fore the contentious issues in the debates concerning science, knowledge, reality and the truth. It aims to displace the long standing hiatus that exists between theory and method and looks at how diverse theoretical perspectives are expressions of how methodological debates can be sustained and research can be conducted in concrete terms. Theories work through metaphors and metaphors impinge upon our understanding of how social reality can be conceived at various and at times disparate levels. The course documents different technologies or modalities of comprehending the social universe and conducting research, thereby tracing their genesis to activities that might not have been strictly disciplinary or sociological. It also looks how each of these different modalities have undergone transformations and critique from within. And finally the course addresses the question of ethics in social research. Not solely in terms of confidentiality, anonymity, justice and the informed role of a researcher, but addresses more significant questions of who controls research and for whose benefit, how research questions are informed by governmentalities in vogue. In other words, the course introduces ethics more as a political question.

Themes for discussion

1. Issues at stake in the Philosophy of Sciences:

Science and objectivity; Pursuit of science in an open society, Falsification

Structure of science and Structure of scientific revolution, Paradigm

Pursuit of science and epistemic queries

Positivism, Intuition and Hermeneutics

Standpoint Theories and Feminist Epistemologies and their implications for methodological debates

15 lectures

2. Methods as order and Order as method

Ordering and Classifying the world

Formulating a Problem, Limiting the Universe and Problematizing the Social

Anti method or Can Method ever be Eclectic? Method and Incommensurabilities

15 Lectures

3. Modalities of Conducting and Analysing Research:

Survey as a Modality and its Constituents

The nature of quantitative research: knowing what, whom, how, when to research; the main preoccupations of quantitative researchers; concepts and their measurement; reliability and validity; methods of inquiry; secondary analysis; content analysis; quantitative data analysis: univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis, statistical significance.

Mixed methods research: Mixed Methods as the Third research community; the fundamentals of mixed methods research; generating questions in mixed methods research; mixed methods research design; data collection strategies, analysis and inference process.

Ethnography as way of conducting research

Historical data and their use in sociological research; Uses of public record offices of various kinds; From Written to oral history as a modality of doing research

Time, Narrative and Memory as a Way of configuring and reconfiguring the Historical

Content Analysis: its Historical and Contemporary Uses

Discourse Analysis; Questions of Assumption and Intent; Critique and Limits to a Critique

25 Lectures

4. The Question of Ethics in Social Research

Anonymity, Confidentiality, Justice and Role of Researcher

Right to Representation, will to knowledge and Power

Governance, Institutions of knowledge making and the Question of Ethics

5 Lectures

Readings:

Popper, K. 1945. *Open Society and Its Enemies*. Vol1-2. London: Routledge.

_____. 1963. *Conjectures and Refutations*. California: Berkeley.

Kuhn, T. 1962. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Tibbetts, P. 1982. The Positivism-Humanism Debate in Sociology: A Reconsideration. *Sociological Inquiry*.

52(3):184-199

Denzin, N.K. and Y. Lincoln eds. 2003. *Turning Points in Qualitative Research: Tying Knots in a Handkerchief*. California: Altamira Press.

Biber, S and P. Leavy eds. 2007. *Feminist Research Practice*. New York London Sage.

Foucault, M. 1989. *The Order of Things: The Archaeology of Human Sciences*. London: Routledge.

_____. 1972. *The Archaeology of Knowledge and the Discourse on Language*. Tr by A.M Sheridan Smith. New York: Pantheon Books.

Feyerabend, P. 2010. *Against Method: Outline of an Anarchist Theory of Knowledge*. London: Verso.

Bryman, A. ed. 2001 *Ethnography*. Vol. 1. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications

Marvasti, A.B.. 2004. *Qualitative Research in Sociology*. London: Sage.

DeVaus, D.A. 2002. *Surveys in Social Research*. 5th Edition. New York: Allen and Unwin.

Silverman, D. ed. *Qualitative Research: Theory, Method and Practice*. London: Sage.

Denzin, N.K.. 2009. *Qualitative Inquiry Under Fire*. California: Left Coast Press.

Denzin, N.K. and Y. Lincoln. 1998. *The Landscape of Qualitative Research*. London: Sage.

Denzin, N.K. 1992. *Symbolic Interactionism and Cultural Studies: The Politics of Interpretation*. London: Blackwell.

Watson, C.A. ed. 1999. *Being There: Fieldwork in Anthropology*. London: Pluto Press.

Barker, C. and Dariusz Galasinski. 2001. *Cultural Studies and Discourse Analysis*. New York London: Sage.

Geertz, C. 1973. *Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books.

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1976. *Witchcraft, oracles and Magic among the Azande*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Carr, E.H. 1964. *What is History?* London: Penguin.

Goddard, A and Neil Carey. 2017. *Discourse The Basics*. London: Routledge.

Caplan, P. 2003. ed. *The Ethics of Anthropology: The Debates and Dilemmas*. London: Routledge.

Cresswell, J.W. (2014). *Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Thousand Oaks: California, Sage.

Babbie, E. (2007). *The Practice of Social Research*. 11th Edition. Thomson/Wadsworth.

Teddlie, C. & Tashakkori, A. (2010). *Foundations of Mixed Methods Research*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Martin, W.E. & K.D. Bridgman. (2012). *Quantitative and Statistical Research Methods: From Hypothesis to Results*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass.