

Draft Course Outline for Integrated Students

Theories of Society

This course introduces students with the social, political, economic and intellectual context in which sociological theory was developed over two centuries along with different approaches and perspectives to the study of society. This would also deal with the contributions of the forerunners of the discipline as well as masters of sociological thought who gave a systematic shape to the subject.

Unit I: Introduction to Theories of Society

Emergence of Social Theory - Montesquieu and Rousseau.

Conceptualizing society - Herbert Spencer, George Simmel -sociability.

Origin of Positivism: Condorcet, Saint Simon and August Comte

Unit II: Consensus Model of Society

Herbert Spencer- Institution.

Emile Durkheim - Social Fact, Collective Conscience, Social Solidarity.

Talcott Parsons - Pattern Variable, AGIL.

Unit III: Conflict Model of Society

Karl Marx - Dialectics, Class Conflict.

C. Wright Mills – Elite.

Lewis Coser (functionalist interpretation of conflict) and Ralf Dahrendorf.

Unit IV: Interactionist Perspective

Hermeneutic Understanding of Max Weber - Status, Rational Society, Social Action, Authority.

Legacy of Max Weber and George Simmel.

Pragmatism of G.H. Mead, Symbolic Interactionism of Herbert Blumer and Dramaturgy of Goffman.

Unit V: Voluntaristic/Exchange Theory

George Homans and James Coleman

Unit VI: Standpoint Theory.

Dorothy E Smith - Gender.

W.E. B. Du Bois - Race and Double Consciousness.

Key Readings:

1. Aron, R. (1971). *Main Currents in Sociological Thought*. Penguin Books.
2. Allen, K. (2006). *The Social Lens: An Invitation to Social and Sociological Theory*. Sage.
3. Wallace, R.A. and Wolf, A. (1995). *Contemporary Sociological Theory: Continuing the Classical Tradition*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
4. Coser, L. *Masters of Sociological Thought: Ideas in Historical and Social Context*, (2nd ed.) New York :Harcourt , 1977.
5. Turner, B.S. (Ed.) (2009). *The New Blackwell Companion to Social Theory*. Sussex. Blackwell. (Introduction, Chapter One, Chapter nine)
6. Talcott Parsons, Edward Shils, Kaspar D Naegele and Jesse R Pitts's (ed.) (1961). "*Theories of Society*". New York: Free Press. (Preface, Chapter Nine and twelve of Part A, Chapter one and two of Part B).
7. Calhoun, C. et al (Ed.) (2002). *Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Massachusetes: Blackwell. (Chapter 3,4,5,7,8, 22).
8. Joseph, J. (Ed.), (2005) *Social Theory: A Reader*. Edinburg: Edinburg University Press.
9. Adams, B. N. and Sydie, R.A. (2001). *Sociological Theory*. California: Pine Forge Press-Sage.
10. Shils, E. A., and Finch, H. A. (eds.) (1949). *The Methodology of the Social Sciences: Max Weber*. New York: Free Press.
11. Giddens, A., and Turner, J. (eds.) (1987) *Social Theory Today*. Cambridge: Polity.