

Undergraduate Program in Anthropology

Anthropology of Religion, Politics and Economy

Semester IV

Paper 10

Marks: 150 (Theory = 75; Internal Assessment = 25; Practical / Project = 50)

Theory

Unit I:

Approaches to the study of anthropology of religion; magic, science and religion; Animism, Animatism, Totemism, Naturism; witchcraft and sorcery; religious specialists: shaman, priests, mystics.

Unit II:

Economic institutions: principles of production, distribution, and consumption in simple and complex societies. Various forms of exchange: barter, trade and market; Forms of currencies; Reciprocities: generalized, balanced and negative.

Unit III:

Political institutions: concepts of power and authority; types of authority; state and stateless societies; law and justice in simple and complex societies.

Unit IV:

The relationship between religion, politics and economy; religious conversion, religious movements, emergence of new religious sects in the global order.

Practical: Visual Anthropology

This paper deals with analysis of visuals such as photographs and films pertaining to cultural practices dealing with institutions of religion, economy and politics.

Theory and Representation: Anthropology and Images: Ethnophotography and ethnographic films and mass media. Theories of representation, modern media and political advocacy.

Anthropology of Art and Aesthetics: Critical reflection on the relation of images, objects and persons. Objects and images from other societies valued as 'art'.

Ethnographic Film and Cinema Studies: This unit consists of screenings followed by seminars. The emphasis will be on key feature, documentary and ethnographic films with a focal theme- the examination of the „language of film'.

Practical Implications: Explore traditional and experimental means of using visual and audio-visual media to research, represent and produce anthropological knowledge. Critical engagement with policy and the use of audio-visual and internet based media in advocacy and activism. The students are required to do the following exercises:

1. Basic principles of producing ethnographic films: text and its focus, camera angles, lighting and decision making behind the camera.
2. Analyze the visual data from classical ethnographies signifying how „otherness“ is constituted.
3. A gendered analysis of visuals produced during colonial and postcolonial times.
4. Hypertext and multimedia as analytic end points.
5. Collection, reporting and analysis of photo-ethnographic data.
6. Digital mirror: computer assisted exercises leading to production of ethnographic text.

Readings:

1. Lambek. M (ed). (2008) *A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion*. [Unit I and II (Page: 1-16, 21-32, 90-98, 210-220)]
2. Eller. J.D. (2007). *Introducing Anthropology of Religion*. New York: Routledge. [Unit I and II (Page: 71-81)]
3. Glazier, Stephen D. (1997). *Anthropology of Religion: A Handbook*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. [Unit I and II (Page: 103-120, 121-136, 139-160)]
4. Frick G.D. and Langer R. (2010). *Transfer and Spaces*. Harrassowitz (Germany). [Unit I and II (Page: 43-64)]
5. Evans-Pritchard E.E. (1937). *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande*, Oxford: Clarendon Press. [Unit II (Page: 21-147, 387-540)]
6. Frazer J.G. (1978). *The Illustrated Golden Bough*, London: Macmillan. [Unit II (Page: 34-46, 47-52)]
7. Barbara M. (2011). *Cultural Anthropology*. New Jersey: Pearson Education. [Unit II, III, IV (Page: 293, 107-132, 243-25)]
8. Ember C.R. et al (2011). *Anthropology*. New Delhi: Dorling Kindersley. [Unit II, III, IV (Page: 282-321, 430-438, 464, 469-471)]
9. Herskovits M.J. 1952. *Economic Anthropology: A Study in Comparative Economics*. New York: Alfred A Knopf Inc. [Unit III (Page: 124-203)]

10. Malinowski B. (1922) *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*. London: Routledge. **[Unit III (Page: 81-104)]**
11. Polanyi K. et al (1957), *Trade and Market in the Early Empires*. Chicago: Henry Regnery Company. **[Unit III (Page: 218-238)]**
12. Balandier G. (1972). *Political Anthropology*. Middlesex: Penguin. **[Unit IV (Page: 1-13, 34-40, 123-157)]**
13. Spencer. J. (2007). *Anthropology, Politics, and the State: Democracy and Violence in South Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **[Unit IV (Page: 96-117)]**
14. Weber M. (1978). *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. University of California Press. **[Unit IV]**
15. Fortes M. & Evans-Pritchard (1940). *African Political Systems*. London: Oxford University Press. **[Unit IV (Page: xi-xxiii; 97-238)]**
16. Ingold T. (2011). *Redrawing Anthropology. Materials, Movements, Lines* Ashgate **[Practical]**
17. Banks M. and Ruby J. (2011). *Made do Be Seen. Perspectives on the History of Visual Anthropology*. University of Chicago Press **[Practical]**
18. Schneider A. and Wright C. (2010) *Between Art and Anthropology: Contemporary Ethnographic Practice*. Berg Publishers **[Practical]**
19. Henley P. (2010). *The Adventure of the Real. Jean Rouch and the Craft of Ethnographic Cinema*. Chiacago University Press **[Practical]**
20. Pink S. (2010). *Doing Sensory Ethnography*. Sage Publications **[Practical]**
21. Grimshaw A. and Ravetz A. (2009). *Observational Cinema. Anthropology, Film, and the Exploration of Social Life*. Indiana University Press **[Practical]**