

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN SOCIOLOGY

				Semester:	5	Paper No:	12
Paper Title:	AGRARIAN SOCIOLOGY						

COURSE SUMMARY

Objectives: This course explores the traditions of enquiry and key substantive issues in agrarian sociology. It is comparative in nature, but pays attention to Indian themes. It also introduces emerging global agrarian concerns.

- Outline:**
- 1. Agrarian Societies and Agrarian Studies**
 - 1.1 Agrarian Societies
 - 1.2 Agrarian Studies

 - 2. Key Issues in Agrarian Sociology**
 - 2.1 The Agrarian Question
 - 2.2 The Moral Economy
 - 2.3 Agrarian Commodity Systems

 - 3. Themes in Agrarian Sociology of India**
 - 3.1 Labour and Agrarian Class Structure
 - 3.2 Markets, Land Reforms and Green Revolution
 - 3.3 Agrarian Movements
 - 3.4 Caste, Gender and Agrarian Realities

 - 4. Agrarian Futures**
 - 4.1 Agrarian Crisis
 - 4.2 The Global Agrarian Order

COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY

1. Agrarian Societies and Agrarian Studies (Weeks: 1-2)

1.1 Agrarian Societies

- 1.1.1. Dumont, Rene. 'Agriculture as Man's Transformation of the Rural Environment', in Teodor Shanin (ed.) *Peasants and Peasant Societies*, Harmondsworth: Penguin. 1971. Pp. 141-149
- 1.1.2. Ludden, David. (1999), 'Agriculture' from, *An Agrarian History of South Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1999, Pp . 6-35

1.2 Agrarian Studies

- 1.2.1. Beteille, Andre. 'The Study of Agrarian Systems: An Anthropological Approach', from *Marxism and Class Analysis*, New Delhi: Oxford. 2007. Pp. 84-93
- 1.2.2. Thorner, Daniel and Alice Thorner. 'The Agrarian Problem in India Today', from, *Land and Labour in India*, Bombay: Asia Publishing House. 1962. Pp. 3-13

2. Key Issues in Agrarian Sociology (Weeks: 3-6)

2.1 The Agrarian Question

- 2.1.1. Haroon Akram-Lodhi, A. and Cristobal Kay. 'Surveying the Agrarian Question: Part 1, Unearthing Foundations, Exploring Diversity; Part 2, Current Debates and Beyond'. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 1 &2, January/April 2010, 177–199 & 255–280

2.2 The Moral Economy

- 2.2.1. Scott, James C. 'The Economic and Sociology of Subsistence Ethic', From, *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in South East Asia*, New Haven: Yale University Press. 1976. Pp 13-34
- 2.2.2. Popkin, Samuel L. 'The Rational Peasant', from, *The Rational Peasant: The Political Economy of Rural Society in Vietnam*, Berkley: University of California Press. 1979. Pp. 1-31

2.3 Agrarian Commodity Systems

- 2.3.1. Friedland, William. 1984. "Commodity Systems Analysis: An Approach to the Sociology of Agriculture". *Research in Rural Sociology and Development* 1: 221–235

3. Themes in Agrarian Sociology of India (Weeks 7-12)

3.1 Labour and Agrarian Class Structure

- 3.1.1. Patel, S. J. 'Agricultural Laborers in Modern India and Pakistan' from Gyan Prakash (ed.) *Worlds of Rural Labourer in Colonial India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press. 1992. Pp. 47-74
- 3.1.2. Thorner, Alice. 'Semi-Feudalism or Capitalism? Contemporary Debate on Classes and Modes of Production in India', Parts: 1-3, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 17, No. 49 (Dec. 4, 1982), pp. 1961-1968; No. 50 (Dec. 11, 1982), pp. 1993-1999; No. 51 (Dec. 18, 1982), pp. 2061-2064
- 3.1.3. Mencher, Joan P. 'Problems in Analyzing Rural Class Structure', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 9, No. 35 (Aug. 31, 1974), pp. 1495+1497+1499-1503

3.2 Markets, Land Reforms and Green Revolution

- 3.2.1. Amin, Shahid. 'Unequal Antagonists: Peasants and Capitalists in Eastern UP in 1930s', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 16, No. 42/43 (Oct. 17-24, 1981), pp. PE 19-25, 28, 29
- 3.2.2. Bandopadhyay, D. 'Reflections on Land Reform in India since Independence' from T. V. Satyamurthy (Ed.) *Industry and Agriculture in India Since Independence*, Delhi: Oxford University Press. Pp. 301-327
- 3.2.3. Baker, Christopher J. 'Frogs and Farmers: The Green Revolution in India, and its Murky Past' from, Tim P. Bayliss-Smith and Sudhir Wanmali (Ed.) *Understanding Green Revolutions: Agrarian Change and Development Planning in South Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1984. Pp. 37-51
- 3.2.4. Dhanagare, D. N. 'Green Revolution and Social Inequalities in Rural India' from, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 22, No. 19/21, Annual Number (May, 1987), pp. AN: 137-139, 141-144.

3.3 Agrarian Movements

3.3.1. Gough, Kathleen. 'Indian Peasant Uprisings' *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 9, No. 32/34, Special Number (Aug., 1974), 1391-1393+1395-1397+1399+1401-1403+1405-1406

3.3.2. Brass, Tom. 'The New Farmer's Movements in India', from, Tom Brass (ed.), *The New farmer's Movements in India*, Essex: Frank Cass. (1995). Pp.1-20

3.4 Caste, Gender and Agrarian Realities

3.4.1. Jackson, Cecile. 'Gender Analysis of Land: Beyond Land Rights for Women?', *Journal of Agrarian Change*, Volume 3 (4) (October, 2003) Pp. 453-478

3.4.2. Omvedt, Gail. 'The Downtrodden among the Downtrodden: An Interview with a Dalit Agricultural Labourer' *Signs*, Vol. 4, No. 4, The Labour of Women: Work and Family (Summer, 1979), pp. 763-774

4. Agrarian Futures (Weeks: 12-14)

4.1. Agrarian Crisis

4.1.1 Feder, Ernest. 'The New World Bank Programme for the Self-Liquidation of the Third World Peasantry', *Journal of Peasant Studies*, Volume 3, Issue 3, 1976. Pp. 343-352

4.1.2 Vasavi. A. R. 'Agrarian Distress in Bidar: Market, State and Suicides', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Volume 34, Number 32. (1999). Pp. 2263-2268

4.2. The Global Agrarian Order

4.2.1 Buttel, Frederick H. Some Reflections on Late Twentieth Century Agrarian Political Economy. *Cadernos de Ciência & Tecnologia*, Brasília, v.18, n.2, p.11-36, maio/ago. 2001

Note:

- A. The suggested readings may be used for student presentations.
- B. Students may be encouraged to review and make presentations of significant body of literary work depicting agrarian realities that has emerged from world literature as well as *Bhasha* literatures of India.

SUGGESTED READINGS

- Dalton, George. 'Modern Transformation of European Peasantries' in R. P. Mishra and Nguyen Dung (Ed.) *Third World Peasantry: A continuing Saga of Deprivation, Volume II*, New Delhi: Sterling. 1986, Pp.25-46
- Patnaik, Utsa. (ed.) *The Agrarian Question in Marx and His Successors Volume I*, New Delhi: Left Word, 2007.
- De Janvery, Alain. *The Agrarian Question and Reformism in Latin America*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990.
- Breman, Jan. (1974), *Patronage and Exploitation: Changing Agrarian Relations in South Gujarat, India*, Berkley: University of California Press. Pp. 36-80.
- Gough, Kathleen. 'Rural Change in Southeast India, 1950s to 1980s. 578 pages. Delhi: Oxford University Press. 1989.
- Gupta, Akhil. *Postcolonial Developments: Agriculture in the Making of the Modern India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Harriss, John. *Capitalism and Peasant Farming: Agrarian Structure and Ideology in North Tamil Nadu*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1982.
- Byres, T. J. 'The New Technology, Class Formation, and Class Action in the Indian Countryside', *Journal of Peasant studies*, Volume 8, Issue 4, 1981, Pp 405-454.
- Hobsbawm, E. J. 'Peasants and Politics', *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 1, October 1973, 3–20
- Zamosc, Leon. *The Agrarian Question and Peasant Movement in Columbia: Struggles of National Peasant Association, 1967-81*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.
- Agarwal, Bina. *A Field of One's Own: Gender and Land Rights In south Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Bernstein, Henry. *Class Dynamics of Agrarian Change*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing, 2010.