

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN SOCIOLOGY

				Semester:	6	Paper No:	15
Paper Title:	METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ENQUIRY						

COURSE SUMMARY

Objectives: The course is a general introduction to the methodologies of sociological research methods. It will provide the student with some elementary knowledge of the complexities and philosophical underpinnings of research.

- Outline:**
- 1. The Logic and Ethics of Research**
 - 1.1 What is Sociological Research?
 - 1.2 Objectivity in the Social Sciences
 - 1.3 Reflexivity
 - 1.4 Ethics & Politics of Research
 - 2. Methodological Perspectives**
 - 2.1 Comparative
 - 2.2 Marxist
 - 2.3 Feminist
 - 3. Modes of Enquiry**
 - 3.1 Theory & Research
 - 3.2 Constructing the Object of Research

COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY

1. The Logic and Ethics of Research: [Weeks 1- 6]

1.1. What is Sociological Research?

1.1.1 Mills, C. W. 1959, *The Sociological Imagination*, London: OUP
Chapter 1 Pp. 3-24

1.1.2 Gluckman, M. 1978, 'Introduction', in A. L. Epstein (ed.), *The Craft of Social Anthropology*, Delhi: Hindustan Publishing Corporation, Pp. xv-xxiv

1.2. Objectivity in the Social Sciences

1.2.1. Durkheim, E. 1958, *The Rules of Sociological Method*, New York: The Free Press, Chapter 1, 2 & 6 Pp. 1-46, 125-140

1.2.2. Weber, Max. 1949, *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*, New York: The Free Press, Foreward and Chapter 2 Pp. 49-112

1.3. Reflexivity

1.3.1 Gouldner, Alvin. 1970, *The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology*, New York: Basic Books, Chapter 13 Pp. 481-511

1.4. Ethics & Politics of Research

1.4.1 Babbie, Earl. 1995, (7th Edition), *The Practice of Social Research*, Belmont: CA Wadsworth, Chapter 18 Pp. 445-466

2. Methodological Perspectives: [Weeks 7-10]

2.1. Comparative Method

2.1.1. Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. 1958, *Methods in Social Anthropology*, Delhi: Asia Publishing Corporation, Chapter 5 Pp. 91-108

2.1.2. Beiteille, A. 2002, *Sociology: Essays on Approach and Method*, New Delhi: OUP, Chapter 4 Pp. 72-94

2.2. Marxist Method

2.2.1. Marx, K. 1974, (Translated by Martin Nicolaus) *Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*, London: Penguin Books in association with New Left Review, Pp.7-63, 83-111

2.3. Feminist Method

2.3.1. Harding, Sandra 1987, "Introduction: Is there a Feminist Method?" in Sandra Harding (ed.) *Feminism & Methodology*:

Social Science Issues, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, Pp. 1-14

3. Modes of Enquiry: [Weeks 11-14]

3.1. Theory and Research

3.1.1 Merton, R.K. 1972, *Social Theory & Social Structure*, Delhi: Arvind Publishing House, Chapters 4 & 5 Pp. 139-171

3.2. Constructing the Object of Research

3.2.1 Bryman, Alan. 2004, *Quantity and Quality in Social Research*, New York: Routledge, Chapter 2 & 3 Pp. 11-70

3.2.2 Babbie, Earl. 1995 (7th Edition), *The Practice of Social Research*, Belmont: CA Wadsworth, Chapter 10 Pp. 255-277

3.2.3 Srinivas, M.N. et al 2002(reprint), *The Fieldworker and the Field: Problems and Challenges in Sociological Investigation*, New Delhi: OUP, Introduction Pp. 1-14(14 pages)]

SUGGESTED READINGS

These readings will be discussed and examined through student presentations.

1. Durkheim, E. 1970, *Suicide*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul
2. Myrdal, Gunnar. 1970, *Objectivity in Social Research*, London: Gerald Duckworth
3. Tilly, Charles. 2004, "Observations of Social Processes and their Formal representations" *Sociological Theory* 22:595-602
4. Oakley, Ann. 2000, *Experiments in Knowing: Gender and Method in the Social Sciences*, New York: The Free Press
5. Gupta, Akhil and James Fergusson. 1997, *Anthropological Locations: Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science*, University of California Press
6. Bourdieu, P. et al 2000, *The Weight of the World: Social Suffering in Contemporary Society*, Stanford University Press
7. Burawoy, Michael. 1979, *Manufacturing Consent: Changes in the Labour Process Under Monopoly Capitalism*, University of Chicago Press
8. Goldthorpe, John H. 2000, *On Sociology: Numbers, narratives and the Integration of Research and Theory*, Oxford: OUP
9. Porter, Theodore M. 1995, *Trust in Numbers: The Pursuit of Objectivity in Science and Public Life*, Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press