

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY

			Semester:	4	Paper No:	9
Paper Title:	SOCIOLOGY OF KINSHIP					

COURSE SUMMARY

Objectives: This course introduces general principles of kinship and marriage by reference to key terms and theoretical statements substantiated by ethnographies. The trajectories and new directions in kinship studies are highlighted.

Outline:

1. Introduction

1.1 Key Terms: Descent, Consanguinity, Filiation, Incest
Taboo, Affinity, Family, Residence

1.2. Approaches

1.2.1. Descent

1.2.2. Alliance

1.2.3. Cultural

2. Family, Household, Marriage

3. Recasting Kinship

3.1. Relatedness

3.2. Kinship and Gender

3.3. Re-imagining Families

3.4. New Reproductive Technologies

COURSE CONTENTS AND ITINERARY

1. Key Terms and Approaches: [Weeks 1-5]

- 1.1. Radcliffe-Brown, A. R. and Daryll Forde, 1950, "Introduction" in Radcliffe-Brown and Daryll Forde (eds.), *African Systems of Kinship and Marriage*, London: Oxford University Press, Introduction, pp.1-39.
- 1.2. Evans-Pritchard, E.E., 2004(1940), "The Nuer of Southern Sudan", in Robert Parkin and Linda Stone (eds.), *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, pp. 64-78.
- 1.3. Fortes, Meyer, 1970, "The Structure of Unilineal Descent Groups" in Meyer Fortes, *Time and Social Structure and Other Essays*, University of London: The Athlone Press, pp. 67-95.
- 1.4. Leach, Edmund, 1962, "On Certain Unconsidered Aspects of Double Descent Systems", *Man*, Vol. 62, pp. 130-134.
- 1.5. Lévi-Strauss, Claude, 1969, *The Elementary Structures of Kinship*, London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, Chaps. 1 & 2, pp. 3-25.
- 1.6. Dumont, Louis, 1968, "Marriage Alliance", in David Shills (ed.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, U.S.A.: Macmillan and Free Press, pp. 19-23.
- 1.7. Schneider, David, 2004(1972), "What is Kinship All About?", in Robert Parkin and Linda Stone (eds.) *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, pp. 257-274.
- 1.8. Das, Veena, 1994(1976), "Masks and Faces: An Essay on Punjabi Kinship" in Patricia Uberoi (ed.), *Family, Kinship and Marriage in India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp.198-222.
- 1.9. *Shah, A.M., 1998, "Changes in the Indian Family: An Examination of Some Assumptions", in A. M. Shah, *The Family in India: Critical Essays*, New Delhi: Orient Longman, pp.52-63.
- 1.10. *Freeman, J. D., 1958, "The Family Systems of the Iban of Borneo", in J. Goody (ed.), *The Developmental Cycle in Domestic Groups*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 15-52.

[Readings marked * are repeated in Section 2]

2. Family, Household and Marriage [Weeks 6-9]

- 2.1. Shah, A.M., 1998, "Changes in the Indian Family: An Examination of Some Assumptions", in A. M. Shah, *The Family in India: Critical Essays*, New Delhi: Orient Longman, pp.52-63.
- 2.2. Freeman, J. Derek, 1958, "The Family Systems of the Iban of Borneo", in Jack Goody (ed.), *The Developmental Cycle in Domestic Groups*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 15-52.
- 2.3. Leach, Edmund R., 1961, "Polyandry, Inheritance and the Definition of Marriage with Particular Reference to Sinhalese Customary Law", in Edmund R. Leach (ed.), *Rethinking Anthropology*, London: The Athlone Press, pp. 105-113.
- 2.4. Gough, Kathleen E., 1959, "The Nayars and the Definition of Marriage" in *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, 89: 23-34.
- 2.5. Uberoi, Patricia, 1995, "When is a Marriage not a Marriage? Sex, Sacrament and Contract in Hindu Marriage", *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, n.s. 29, 1&2: 319-45.

3. Recasting Kinship: [Weeks 10-12]

- 3.1. Carsten, Janet, 1995, "The Substance of Kinship and the Heat of the Hearth: Feeding, Personhood, and Relatedness among Malays in Pulau Langkawi" *American Ethnologist*, 22 (2): 223-241.
- 3.2. Gold, Ann Grodzins, 1994, "Sexuality, Fertility, and Erotic Imagination in Rajasthani Women's Songs ", in *Listen to the Heron's words: Re-imagining Gender and Kinship in North India* by Gloria Goodwin Raheja and Ann Grodzins Gold, Delhi: OUP, pp 30-72.
- 3.3. Weston, Kath, 1991, *Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship*, New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 103-136.
- 3.4. Kahn, Susan Martha, 2004(2000), "Eggs and Wombs: The Origins of Jewishness", in Robert Parkin and Linda Stone (eds.), *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, U.S.A.: Blackwell, pp. 362-77.

Representations of kinship, marriage and family in biographies, popular culture and films are to be explored by students through weekly presentations and projects.