Vidyasagar University

Midnapore-721102, West Bengal

The SYLLABUS for

POST-GRADUATE Programme

in

SOCIOLOGY

Under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS)
(Semester Programme)



[w.e.f. 2022-23]

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Preamble

The Department of Sociology of Vidyasagar University is happy to present the updated MA Sociology syllabus from the academic year 2022-2023 onwards. MA Sociology is a two–year programme consisting of Four Semesters. The Syllabus is of 1000 marks with total 98 credits. All the courses are compulsory.

Programme Outcome (PO)

M.A in Sociology will help the students to

- Enhance the logical and analytical skills to understand the various problems which are faced by our society.
- Inculcate a research mind among the students.
- Contribute to nurture sensitivity, creativity and applied skills among the students.
- Basic and advanced theoretical and methodological knowledge will be acquired.
- Enhance skills and capabilities and provide possibility of employment.

Programme Specific Outcome (PSO)

The major objective of the course is to

- Acquaint the learners with the conceptual and theoretical orientations in sociology by providing updated knowledge on classical sociological thought, Post Marxian traditions, Classical Sociological Theories, and Modern sociological theories.
- Culture, gender, work, Indian Society, and social psychological issues provide the learners the orientation.
- Imparts knowledge on Research Methodology and social statistics.
- Provide the learners with hands-on experience in ethnographic fieldwork and dissertation, which will train them on field-level data collection, data coding and analysis, and completely executing a research project.
- Move ahead in higher studies in the subject or related disciplines.
- Improve the analytical and argumentative skills of the learners which are extremely essential for securing jobs today.

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COURSE STRUCTURE

Semester	Paper Code	Paper title	Full Marks	No. of Lectures (hours)	Credit (Lecture – Tutorial - Practical) (L-T-P)
I	SOC-101	Classical Sociological Thought	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-102	Post-Marxian Traditions	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-103	Research Method – I	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-104	Social Statistics	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-105	Culture and Society	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	TOTAL		250	250	25
II	SOC-201	Classical Sociological Theory	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-202	Modern Sociological Theory	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-203	Sociology of Space	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	C-SOC-204	Sociology of Health (CBCS)	50	40	4(3-1-0)
	SOC-205	Sociology of Gender	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	TOTAL		250	240	24
III	SOC-301	Society in India: Contemporary Issues	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-302	Sociology of Work and Organization	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-303	Research Method - II	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	C-SOC-304	Sociology of Media and Society (CBCS)	50	40	4(3-1-0)
	SOC-305	Ethnographic Field Project	50	50	5(1-0-4)
	TOTAL		250	240	24
IV	SOC-401	Sociology of Development and Globalization	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-402	Social Demography	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-403	Sociology of India	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	SOC-404	Dissertation and Viva Voce	50	-	5(0-0-10)
	SOC-405	Social Psychology	50	50	5(4-1-0)
	TOTAL		250	200	25
GRAND TOTAL			1000		98

The total credit for the course is 98 and the Full mark is 1000.

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Distinctive features of course content :

- **Value-added course:**

SOC-101	Classical Sociological Thought
SOC-105	Culture and Society
C-SOC-204	Sociology of Health (CBCS)

- **Employability / entrepreneurship/ skill development :**

SOC-103	Research Method – I
SOC-303	Research Method – II
SOC-104	Social Statistics
SOC-305	Ethnographic Field Project
SOC-404	Dissertation and Viva Voce
SOC-405	Social Psychology

- **Digital content:**

C-SOC-304	Sociology of Media and Society (CBCS)

- **Ethics, gender, human values, environment & sustainability:**

SOC-205	Sociology of Gender

- **The new course introduced:**

SOC-302	Sociology of Work and Organization
SOC-403	Sociology of India
SOC-105	Culture and Society

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SEMESTER I

Course No: SOC 101: Classical Sociological Thought 50 Marks 5 credits

Course Outcome

This course provides an introduction to the history of sociological thought. The sociological perspectives of Marx, Durkheim, and Weber which provide exposure to European social history and the formation of modern social thought are covered comprehensively. On successful completion of this course, students will have ideas of these classical thinkers in the context of philosophical traditionswhich will help them to develop a social and political understanding of society.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Introduction**: Modernity and Sociological Theory: Social & Intellectual Forces.
2. **Emile Durkheim**: Social Facts, Division of Labour, Suicide, Religion.
3. **Karl Marx:** Class, Historical Materialism, Social change, Capitalism
4. **Max Weber**: Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism, Methodology, Social Action, Bureaucracy, and Rationality.
5. **George Simmel**: Formal Sociology, Individual and Society – Concept of Sociation, the Philosophy of Money.
6. **Vilfredo Pareto**: Logical and Non-Logical Action, Residues and Derivatives, Circulation of Elites.

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Course No: SOC 102: Post-Marxian Traditions 50 Marks 5 credits

Course Outcome

This course critically interprets the Marxian studies on 'logic of culture', 'logic of capitalism', class, state, etc. in light of post-Marxian realities. Furthermore, the paper extends the debates on the relevance of Marx in the globalized era.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Background of Critical Theory**
2. **Frankfurt School**
    i. Theodor W. Adorno and Horkheimer
        a. Culture industry –standardization
        b. Authoritarian Personality.
    ii. Marcuse: One Dimensional Man
3. **Antonio Gramsci**
4. **Louis Althusser**
5. **Habermas's Critical Perspective**: Public Sphere and Communicative Action.

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Course No: SOC 103: Research Method - I **50 Marks 5 credits**

Course Outcome

This course attempts to introduce basic elements of quantitative methods employed in social research. Students will learn basic ideas about epistemology, and ontology in social research. It will also provide an understanding of social phenomena and proceedtoward an application of these skills in social research.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Introduction to social research**: Epistemological and Ontological Foundations of Research.
2. **Situating Social Research and Problem Formulation:** Hypothesis formulation
3. **Research Design**
4. **Doing Survey research**: Nature and Scope; Steps in survey research, Tools of data collection
5. **Sampling:** Meaning, Types and Strategies
6. **Presentation of Research Results**

References

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Course No: SOC 104: Social Statistics **50 Marks 5 credits**

Course Outcome

This course provides an outline of basic statistical methods including descriptive and inferential statistics. Through these, students will be able to understand, various issues of measurement, collection, organization, and understanding of quantitative data.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Introduction to Statistics in Sociology**
    i. Basic concepts
    ii. Linkage between statistics and sociology
2. **Measuring Variables**
    i. Levels of measurement
    ii. Reliability and validity in measurement.
3. **Descriptive Statistics**
    i. Frequency distributions and Graphing Techniques
    ii. Measures of Central Tendency
    iii. Measures of Dispersion
    iv. An introduction to Contingency Tables
    v. Correlation
    vi. Regression and Prediction
4. **Inferential Statistics**
    i. Testing statistical Hypothesis: Null and Alternative Hypothesis
    ii. Chi-square
    iii. t-Test
    iv. Analysis of variance.
5. **Computer application in statistical analysis**
    i. MS Excel
    ii. SPSS.

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Course No: SOC 105: Culture and Society **50 Marks 5 credits**

Course Outcome

This course provides knowledge and understanding about social and cultural concepts and their application to personal, social, and cultural identity and interactions within societies and cultures. This course will help students to develop intercultural understanding andresponsible attitudes toward indigenous culture.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Basic concepts**:
    i. Meaning and definition of culture
    ii. Elements of culture
2. **Theories of culture:**
    i. Raymond Williams: Culture is Ordinary
    ii. Stuart Hall: Cultural Studies
3. **Visual Culture:**
    i. Basic concept in semiology
    ii. Theory of Roland Barthes
    iii. Image and Power
    iv. Construction of meaning,
    v. Ideology and context
4. **Indigenous Culture:**
    i. Indigenous people
    ii. Indigenous culture
    iii. Knowledge and economic development
    iv. Indigenous people in the contemporary world
5. **Globalization and Culture**

References

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SEMESTER II

Course No: SOC 201: Classical Sociological Theory **50 Marks 5 credits**

Course Outcome

This course traces the development of sociological theory broadly from functionalism to Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology. The historical conjuncture marking the course is 1945, and essentially reviews the development of sociological theories in that context and thereafter which will provide the students to understand major theorists in various schools.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Functionalism and Neo-Functionalism**
    i. **Functionalism**: Talcott Parsons, Robert K. Merton
    ii. **Neo-Functionalism**: Jeffrey Alexander
2. **Conflict Theory**
    i. Randall Collins, Gerhard Lenski
    ii. Ralf Dahrendorf and Lewis Coser
3. **Exchange Theory**
    i. George Homans and Peter Blau
4. **Interactionist and Phenomenological Perspective**
    i. George Herbert Mead, Herbert Blumer, Erving Goffman
    ii. Edmund Husserl, Alfred Schutz
5. **Ethnomethodology:**
    i. Harold Garfinkel

References

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Course No: SOC 202: Modern Sociological Theory **50 Marks 5 credits**

Course Outcome

This course traces the development of contemporary trends in sociological theory broadly from structuralism and post-structuralism to Post Modernity. It reviews the changes and development of sociological theories in the context of a new perspective which will provide the studentswith the knowledge essential to understanding social reality in the present-day context.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Structuralism:**
    i. Claude Levi Strauss
2. **Post Structuralism:**
    i. Jacques Derrida
    ii. Michel Foucault
3. **Reflexive Modernity**:
    i. Anthony Giddens
    ii. Ulrich Beck
4. **Post Modernity**:
    i. Zygmunt Bauman
    ii. Pierre Bourdieu
    iii. Jean Baudrillard

References

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Course No: SOC 203: Sociology of Space **50 Marks 5 credits**

Course Outcome

This course will provide a sociological perspective on the origin, development, and characteristics of rural and urban societies. The course will deal with both the structural and processual aspects of change in urban and agrarian societies.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Different Types of Spaces**

   Rural Society, Urban Society, Industrial Society, Post-Industrial Society, Traditional and Modern societies, Peasantry, Agrarian Social Structure, Rural-Urban Continuum, Rurbanism.

2. **Difference between Rural and Urban Spaces**

   The emergence of Social Differentiation, Occupational Specialization, Division of Labour, Urbanism as a Way of Life, City, and Village.

3. **Rural and Urban Societies- Dichotomy vs Continuum Debate**

   Urbanization, Migration, Rural and Urban Development policies, effects of land reforms, Green Revolution.

4. **Whither The Indian Villages- Debate and Discourse**

   Rural and Urban Poverty, Marginalized Groups (Bonded labour, Landless, Tenants, Artisans, etc), Uneven Development of Regions, Social Discontent and Movements.

References

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Course No: C-SOC 204: Sociology of Health **50 Marks 4 credits**

Course Outcome

This course aims at providing various perspectives on understanding the relationship between medicine, health, and society. The main objectives are: a) To sensitize students to health-related issues; b) To understand the issues related to community health; c) To understand the role of the State in the area of health.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Introduction**

   Concepts - Health, Medicine, Illness, Sickness, Disease, and Society
2. **Theoretical perspectives on health and medicine within sociology**
   i. Functional approach
   ii. Conflict approach
   iii. Interactionist approach
3. **Disease, illness, and sickness**
   i. Natural history of the disease
   ii. Human environment
   iii. Social etiology
   iv. Social Epidemiology
   v. Ecology of disease
4. **Community Health**
   i. Concept of integrated health services
   ii. Community health problems in India
   iii. Public health care systems in India.
5. **The State and Health**
   i. National Health Policy
   ii. Right to Health
   iii. Health Insurance
   iv. Issues of Gender and Reproductive health

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Course No: SOC 205: Sociology of Gender **50 Marks 5 credits**

Course Outcome

This course will critique androcentric social theory and introduce students to feminist theory and methodology. In the early part of the course, this course will focus attentionontheoreticaldebates. In the latter half, it will explore gender inequalities in various institutional contexts and understand the women's movement in India and the issues that have been central to it. Contemporary gender issues get reflected in the media and students are encouraged to maintain a journal tracking media coverage of gender issues.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Basic Concepts and Theoretical Background to Gender**:
   Patriarchy, Public-Private Debate, Gender and Sex, Equality difference: Sexuality
2. **Feminist Theory:** Different waves of feminism
   i. Liberal feminism
   ii. Marxist feminism
   iii. Socialist feminism
   iv. Radical feminism
   v. Eco-feminism
3. **Understanding the Women's Movement in India**
   i. The reform movement in India
   ii. Women's movement in Indian National Congress
   iii. Second wave women's movement in India
4. **The Family as a Social Institution and its impact on Gender Relations**
5. **Gender and Violence**

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SEMESTER III

Course No: SOC 301: Society in India: Contemporary Issues 50 Marks 5 credits

Course Outcome

This paper attempts to understand how sociologists have grappled with social developments in India and have tried to contribute to sociological knowledge. This paper will introduce the students to various perspectives advanced by sociologists on Indian society and concludes by mapping the current debates in Indian sociology.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Historical context of Indian Society:** Colonialism and Nationalism
2. **Indian Society**
   i. Caste
   ii. Adivasi
   iii. Family and kinship
3. **Basic Concepts:** Sanskritization, Dominant Class, Westernization, Dialectics of Tradition and Modernity
4. **Emerging Issues**
   i. Communalism and Secularism
   ii. Education
   iii. Social Exclusion

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Course No: SOC 302: Sociology of Work and Organization 50 Marks 5 credits

Course Outcome

Work is a fundamental aspect of our daily life that defines us as individuals and our identity and self. Understanding work and organization is a central aspect of sociology. The objective of the course is to make the learners understand the nature and process of work in society along with the transformations undergoinglikework with a focus on work in modern situations.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Work**
    i. Definition and Forms
    ii. Gendered division of labour
2. **Basic Concepts:**
    i. Work and Work Ethics
    ii. Work culture
    iii. Work and occupation
    iv. The Post-modern view of work
3. **Approaches to the study of organizations:**
    i. Scientific Management
    ii. Human Relations
    iii. Post Fordism
4. **Formal organizations:** Organizations as rational systems
5. **Technology, Globalization, and Work**
6. **Profession and Professionalism**

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Course No: SOC 303: Research Method - II 50 Marks 5 credits

Course Outcome

Research Methods will deal with qualitative research methods, such as participant observation, interviewing, case study, oral and life histories, and continue with the discussionon epistemological issues.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Philosophy of Social Science Research:** Positivism, Interpretivism, Hermeneutics
2. **Historical Development of Qualitative Method**
3. **Interview**
4. **Focus Group Discussion**
5. **Visual Sociology**
6. **Documentary Research and Life history**

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Course No: C-SOC 304: Sociology of Media and Society 50 Marks 4 credits

Course Outcome

The course aims to provide students with a basic understanding of the social andcultural impact of the media on society. The course will encourage students to look criticallyat the media and to evaluate the direction it is taking, especially about issues such asdemocracy. It will also look at developments such as the new communication technologies tosee how these are likely to impact society.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Terms and Concepts**
    i. Types of mass media
    ii. Concepts of ideology, hegemony, mass society, etc.
2. **Approaches to the Study of Media and Society**
    i. Frankfurt school
    ii. Active audience approach
3. **Symbolic Meaning in Media Texts**
    i. Semiotic approach
    ii. Discourse analysis
    iii. Analysis of selected texts
4. **Impact of Information Technologies on Society**
    i. Evolution, growth and impact of the internet
    ii. Debates on regulation and control
5. **Issues in Media and Society: Contemporary Perspectives**
    i. Media ownership and control
    ii. Globalisation
    iii. Social media: Issues of censorship and freedom
    iv. Regional press

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Course No: SOC 305: Ethnographic Field Project 50 Marks 5 credits

Course Outcome

The course aims to provide students with a basic understanding of ethnographic studies and field visits. The course will encourage students to take interest in fieldwork. This course also includes various techniques of data collection.

Course Outline (Term Paper: 30 marks, Viva-Voce: 20 marks)

1. **Concept of Ethnography**
2. **Importance and problems encountered**
3. **Techniques of data collection**
    i. Ethnographic Interview
    ii. Participant Observation
    iii. Case Study
    iv. Digital Ethnography
4. **Narrative analysis**
5. **Ethical Issues: Plagiarism, citation rules**

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SEMESTER IV

Course No: SOC 401: Sociology of Development and Globalization 50 Marks 5 credits

Course Outcome

This course aims to give the students an understanding of the globalization process, theprincipal mechanisms of international economic connections through which it works, and the idea of some of the debates it has evoked. It helps to understand the historical process ofglobalization, develop an overview of the competing approaches to globalization, to examinethe impact of the processes of globalization on the Indian society at large, and specifically onthe marginalized sections, and understand the resistance and challenges posed by variousmovements looking critically at globalization.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Concepts & History**
   - i. Concept- development, globalization
   - ii. History, characteristics, and dimensions (economic, political, and cultural)
2. **Theoretical Perspectives: Development**
   - i. Modernization Theory
   - ii. Dependency theory: Emmanuel Wallerstein World System Theory
   - iii. Neo liberal Theory
   - iv. Post Development Theory
3. **Theoretical Perspective: Globalization**
   - i. Anthony Giddens
   - ii. Manuel Castells
   - iii. David Harvey
   - v. R. Robertson
4. **Impact of Globalization**
   - i. Impact on society and culture
   - ii. Rise of civil society
5. **Consequences of Globalization and Development**
   - i. Environmental degradation: Displacement
   - ii. Issues of Sustainable Development
   - iii. Post Truth Regime

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Course No: SOC 402: Social Demography **50 Marks 5 credits**

Course Outcome

This course seeks to understand the relationship between demographic phenomena in the one hand and socio-cultural and economic phenomena on the other and provide the learner's idea about demographic processes and factors in India.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **The Field of Social Demography**
   i. Demography and Population Studies
   ii. Social Demography-Basic Demographic Concepts
   iii. Sources of Demographic Data.
2. **Theoretical Perspectives on Population**
   i. The Classical and Neo-Classical Schools - Marx and other socialist perspectives
   ii. Natural/ Biological Theories
   iii. Social Theories
   iv. Optimum population Theory
   v. Theory of Demographic Transition
3. **Age-Sex Composition**
   i. Age and Sex Composition- Factors Affecting Age-Sex Composition
   ii. Consequences of Age-Sex Composition
4. **Fertility**
   i. Measures of Fertility
   ii. Determinants of Fertility
   iii. Differential Fertility
5. **Mortality**
   i. Measures of Mortality
   ii. History of Mortality Trends
   iii. Causes of Mortality
   iv. Differential Mortality
6. **Migration**
   i. Measures, types and determinants of Migration
   ii. Reverse Migration

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Course No: SOC 403: Sociology of India **50 Marks 5 credits**

Course Outcome

This paper attempts to understand how sociologists have grappled with social developments in India and have tried to contribute to sociological knowledge. This paper introduces the learners to various perspectives advanced by sociologists on Indian society and concludes by mapping the current debates in Indian sociology.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Emergence and Growth of Sociology in India**
    i. Historical Perspectives
    ii. Institutions and Approaches
2. **Approaches to the Study of Indian society**
    i. G.S. Ghurye, Radhakamal Mukerjee
    ii. N.K. Bose, Surajit Chandra Sinha
    iii. A.R Desai, D.P. Mukherji
    iv. M.N Srinivas
3. **Critical Perspectives on Indian Society**
    i. Subaltern Studies
    ii. Feminist Perspectives
4. **Contemporary Debates in Indian Sociology:** 'Indigenisation' of Sociology

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Course No: SOC 404: Dissertation and Viva Voce 50 Marks 5 credits

Course Outcome

As per the guidelines of Vidyasagar University, a Dissertation is a mandatory part of thecurriculum in the Post Graduate Programme in Sociology. All students are encouraged to carryout independent field research having their research problems in consultation with thesupervisor. It involves identifying a research problem, carrying out field research, and preparing a report. It will be followed by viva-voce on their respective projects. Here, the guidelines forthe preparation of the dissertation are given underneath.

Course Outline (Report: 30 marks, Viva Voce: 10 marks)

GUIDELINES AND FORMAT FOR PG SOCIOLOGY DISSERTATION

The structure for the MA dissertation is broad and dissertations vary in format. This isbecause of differences in the research question/s and the theoretical and researchorientations of students or supervisors. However, certain elements areobligatory in all dissertations, these include:

1. **Preliminaries**
    i. Title Page
    ii. Certificate
    iii. Acknowledgment
2. **Text**
    i. Introduction and Relevance of the study
    ii. Relevance of the Study
    iii. Review of Literature
    iv. Objectives
    v. Methodology
    vi. Data Collection, Analysis, Interpretation, and inferences
    vii. Findings and suggestions
3. **Rules of citation:** Avoiding Plagiarism
4. **Bibliography**
5. **Annexure** It is included in the last section of the dissertation and should include the tool used and other supplementary data like statistics, photographs, etc.

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Course No: SOC 405: Social Psychology **50 Marks 5 credits**

Course Outcome

To familiarise the students with the importance of social-psychological processes and factors in understanding the social behavior and to enable the students to understand socialpsychological problems and develop remedies to overcome them.

Course Outline (Theoretical: 40 marks, Internal Assessment: 10 marks)

1. **Introduction and Approaches**
    i. Origin, Nature, and a brief history of social psychology
    ii. Symbolic interactionism and Ethnomethodology
2. **Social Perception and Cognition**
    i. Social Perception
    ii. Social Cognition
    iii. Attitude
3. **Prosocial Behavior and Intergroup Relations**
    i. Nature and determinants of prosocial behavior
    ii. Aggression: Nature, factors, and techniques of reducing aggression.
    iii. Inter-group relations
    iv. Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination

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Important Note:

- Fieldwork is compulsory for Students of the IIIrd (SOC/305) and IVth (SOC/404) Semesters.
- Students will have to visit their field of study during ethnographic studies or dissertation work at their own expense.
- Viva will be conducted along with Ethnographic Field Project and Dissertation which will be based on their own fieldwork experience and overall understanding of the subject.
- Internal examination will be conducted through written and presentation mode.

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