

Generic Elective 01:Course Code: SOCL01 GE1

Indian Society: Images and Realities

Course Objective:

This course seeks to provide an interdisciplinary introduction to Indian society.

Outline:

- 1. Ideas of India: Civilization, Colony, Nation and Society (3 Weeks)**
- 2. Institutions and Processes (9 Weeks)**
 - 2.1 Village, Town and Region**
 - 2.2 Caste, Religion and Ethnicity**
 - 2.3 Family and Gender**
 - 2.4 Political Economy**
- 3. Critiques (2 Weeks)**

Course Content and Itinerary

1. Ideas of India: Civilization, Colony, Nation and Society (3 Weeks)

1.1 Embree, Ainslie Thomas,. *Imagining India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989.

Chapter 1- Brahmanical Ideology and Regional Identities. Pp. 9 – 27

1.2 Cohn, Bernard. *India: Social Anthropology of a Civilization*, Delhi: OUP. Chapters 1, 3, 5 & 8 (1-7, 24-31, 51-59, 79-97)

2. Institutions and Processes (9 Weeks)

2.1 Village, Town and Region

2.1.1 Breman, Jan. 'The Village in Focus' from the *Village Asia Revisited*, Delhi: OUP 1997. Pp. 15-64

2.1.2 Cohn, Bernard, *An Anthropologist Among Historians and Other Essays*, Delhi: OUP, 1987, Chapters. 4 and 6. Pp.78-85 & 100 – 135

2.2 Caste, Religion and Ethnicity

2.2.1 Mines, Diane P. *Caste in India*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Association for Asian Studies, 2009. Pp. 1-35

2.2.2 Fuller, C. J. *The Camphor Flame: Popular Hinduism and Society in India*. Delhi: Viking, 1992. Chapter 1. Pp. 3 – 28.

2.2.3 Ahmad, Imtiaz et.al (eds). *Pluralism and Equality: Values in Indian Society and Politics*, Sage : New Delhi, 2000. Chapter: 'Basic Conflict of 'we' and 'they'' Between religious traditions, between Hindus, Muslims and Christians'. Pp.

2.3 Family and Gender

2.3.1 Dube, Leela. 'On the Construction of Gender: Hindu Girls in Patrilineal India', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 23, No. 18 (Apr. 30, 1988), pp. WS11-WS19

2.3.2 Gray, John N. & David J. Mearns. *Society from the Inside Out: Anthropological Perspectives on the South Asian Household*. New Delhi: Sage,

1989. Chapter 3. (Sylvia Vatuk) Household Form and Formation: Variability and Social Change among South Indian Muslims. Pp. 107-137

2.4 Political Economy

2.4.1 Chatterjee, Partha. *State and Politics in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997. Introduction: A Political History of Independent India. Pp. 1-39

3. Critiques (2 Weeks)

3.1 Omvedt, Gail. *Understanding Caste*. New Delhi: Orient Black Swan, 2011. Chapters. 5, 9, 11 and Conclusion. Pp. 30-38, 67 – 73, 83 – 90, 97 – 105

3.2 Sangari, Kumkum and Sudesh Vaid. *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. Introduction, Pp. 1 – 25