SA 534: Analysis of Social Institutions and Processes

Course Objective

The objective of this course is to familiarize the students with some fundamental insinuations of society and orient them to develop knowledge about theoretical analysis of institutional relationships and processes.

Unit I. Introduction

(10)

- A. Meaning of Institution, Definitional problems
- B. Institution through Time and Space
- C. Institutionalization, process of institutional Growth
- D. Micro and Macro Level Institutions

Unit II. Micro Social and Cultural Institutions

(40)

- A. (i) Marriage: Origin, Basic Functions and Dynamics; Types of Marriage, Social Implications of Divorce, Widowhood, Remarriage, Remaining Single
- (ii) Sexuality: Homosexuality, Heterosexuality, Bisexuality, Transsexuality; Significance of Study of Marriage in Sociology/Anthropology
- B. The Family and Household: Meaning of the Term: Family as a Genealogical Unit, Household as the Functional Dimension of Family, Simple and Complex Households, Nuclear and Extended Families; Household as a Reproductive, Economic and Political Unit; Relationship of Household with other Broader Organizations such as Community and the State; Household Dynamics: Views from Modernization, Functionalist, Conflict and World System Perspectives; Functional Importance of Family and Households; Family Values and Violence
- C. Kinship: Kinship as a System of Kin-based Affinity and Relationship, Kinship Structure or the Order of Kin-Based Affinity and Distance, Fictive Kinship, Kin Relations, Cohesion and Divisions; Kinship Loyalties, Political Processes and Economic Development, Technology and Dynamics in Kin Relations: Beyond Biology and Descent as of basis of Kinship, Kinship as Culture of Relatedness
- D. Community as Institution: Why Community is an Institution; Various Meanings of the Term: Community as a Place to Live, Community as a Spatial Unit, Community as a Way of Life, Community as a Collective Identity, Community as a Unit of Development, Community as an Arena of Social Interaction; Community as a Persisting Social System: the Functional Paradigm; Political, Economic, Normative and Pattern Maintenance Components of the Community; Conflict, Violence, Structural Inequality and Differences: the Conflict Paradigm; Local Community and Larger Society: Effects of National and Global Forces on Community Based Way of Life of People

Unit III. Macro Social and Cultural Institutions (45)

- A. Economic Institutions and Social Cultural Life: Economy as an Adaptive Component of Social System, Economic System as a System of Production, Distribution and Use of Goods and Services in Society; Changes in Economic Institution and Related Types of Human Relationship through Time: Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic Technologies and Socio-Economic Organizations; Social Correlates of Foraging, Agricultural and Industrial Systems; Features and Conditions of Growth and Development of Feudal, Capitalist and Socialist Modes of Production; Connection Between Local and Global Economies: Market Based Analysis and Analysis Based on Inequality and Exploitative relations.
- B. Political Institution and Social Cultural Life: Concept of Power and Politics; Politics in Tribal and Kin Based Groupings of Human Collectivities; The Nation State: Meaning and Nation Building Processes; Types of State Control: Coercion and Hegemony; Patterns and Processes of Use of Power in Despotic/Dictatorial, Liberal Democratic and Socialist forms of Political Regimes and Critique; State on Development and Predation; Imported Democracies and Primordial Loyalties: The context of the Third World; Social Movements and Intensity of Change of Political Regimes; Authority Structure and Hierarchies at Household and Local Community.
- C. Religious Institution and Social Cultural Life: Religion as a System of Belief in Super Natural Being; Rites and Rituals as One Dimension of Manifestation of Practice of Religion, Variations of Views about the Effect of Religion: Religion as a Promoter of Social Morality and Cohesion (Durkheim), Religion as an Ideology Formed for Legitimizing the Structure of Social Inequality (Marx), Religious Values and Their Impacts on the Operation of Economic Activities (Weber); Diversity of Religions and Religious Beliefs as Factor of Conflict and Cooperation among Groups of Population
- Unit IV. Ties that Bind: Individual, Society and Culture (15)

 Debate on Primacy of Society and Culture and the OverSocialized Conception of Man; Nature /Nurture Debate; Linking
 History and Biography; Mechanisms of Social Control; Collective
 Good, Social Justice and Individual Freedom
- Unit V. Ties that Repel: Inequality and Social Mobility (15)

 Dimension of Social Stratification, Intensity of Stratification, Inequality and Stratification and Differentiation by Age, Gender, Caste, Ethnicity Class, and Income; Global Inequality and Stratification, Inequality and Stratification and Life Chances, Inequality, Stratification and Conflict

Unit VI. Social and Cultural Change

(15)

Causes of social and cultural change: Technology; Market, Mass Media, Modernization and Globalization; Globalization vs. Localization, The State and Planned Social Change, Intensity of Social Change: Social Movements, Reform and Revolution

Unit VII. Utility of Sociology/Anthropology and Study of Social Institutions (10)

- Comprehension of Self as a Social/Cultural Being
- Comprehension of Society and Social Change
- Individualism and Equality
- Anthropology and Sociology of senses

REQUIRED READINGS

Unit I. Introduction

- Alexander, Jeffrey C. and Bernhard Giesen 1987. "From Reduction to Linkage: The Long View of the Micro-Macro Link". In Jeffrey C. Alexander et. al. *The Micro-Macro Link*. University of California Press: Berkeley/Los Angels/London. Pp 1-44.
- 2. Johnson, Harry M.1984. *Sociology: A Systematic Introduction*. New Delhi: Allied Publishers, Chapter on "Institutionalization."

Unit II Micro Institutions (A.i) Marriage and (C) Kinship

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- Berreman, Gerald D. 1975. "Himalayan Polyandry and the Domestic Cycle". American Ethnologist. Vol. 2 issue 1. pp 127-138.
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- 7. Lamm, Robert P. 1998. Sociology. The McGraw-Hill Companies: New York. Pp 375-404,
- 8. Luintel, Youba R. 2004. "Agency, Autonomy and the Shared Sexuality: Gender Relations in Polyandry in Nepal Himalaya". *Contribution to Nepalese Studies*. Vol 31. Number 1.
- 9. Madan T.N. 1965. Family and Kinship: A Study of the Pandits of Rural Kashmir. Bombay: Asia Publishing House.

- Mair, Lucy 1984. An introduction to Social Anthropology. (2nd ed). New Delhi: Hindustan Publishing Corporation. Chap. 5. pp. 69-82, Chap. 6. pp.83-108.
- Messerschmidt 1976. The Gurungs of Nepal. New Delhi. Chapter on Kinship only.
- 12. Morgan, Lewis. 1965. "System of Consequinity". In Parsons et. al (eds). Pp 169-171.
- 13. Murdock, G.P. 1949. Social Structure. New York: Macmillan. Chap on Kinship.
- 14. Murdock, G.P. *Social Structure*. New York: Macmillan, 1949, Chap. 3, "Consanguineal Kin Groups" pp. 41-64 and Chap. 6, "Analysis of Kinship" pp. 91-112.
- Prabhu, P.N. 1979. Hindu Social Organization. (4th ed). Bombay:Popular Prakashan. Chap. 5. pp 145-163, Chap.6. pp 201-217.
- Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. and Daryll, F. (eds). African System of Kinship and Marriage. New York: Oxford, Chap. 1 Introduction pp 1-85.
- 17. Westermarck, E. A Short History of Human Marriage. London: Macmillan.
- 18. Carsten, Janet. 2000. "Introduction: Cultures of Relatedness." In Cultures of Relatedness: New Approaches to the Study of Kinship, ed. Janet Carsten,1-36. Cambridge University Press.
- 19. Carsten, Janet. 1995. "The Substance of Kinship and the Heat of the Hearth:Feeding, Personhood and Relatedness among Malays in Pulau Langkawi."American Ethnologist 22:223-41
- Franklin, Sarah and Susan McKinnon. 2001. "Relative Values: Reconfiguring Kinship Studies." In Relative Values: Reconfiguring Kinship Studies, eds. Susan McKinnon and Sarah Franklin, 1-25. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
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- Peletz, Michael G. 1995. "Kinship Studies in Late Twentieth-Century Anthropology." Annual Review of Anthropology 24:343-372.

II. A.ii Sexuality

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- 2. Lamm, Robert P. 1998. Sociology. The McGraw-Hill Companies: New York. Pp 375-404,

II. B The Family and Household

- Bottomore, T.B. 1986. Sociology: A Guide to Problem and Literature. New Delhi: Blackie and Son (India) Limited. Chap.10. "The Family and Kinship" pp. 168-184.
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- 6. Goode, William J. 1979. The family. New Delhi: Prentice-Hall of India. Chap. 5, "Forms of Households".
- 7. Gray, John and David J. Mearns. 1989. Society from Inside Out. Delhi: Sage Publication. See Hindu Joint Family Only.
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- Shah, A.M. The Household Dimension of Family in India, New Delhi: Orient Longman, "Introductory Note", Chap.1 and Conclusion.
- 11. Sparkes, Stephen and Signe Howell (ed). 2003. The House in Southeast Asia: A Changing Social, Economic and Political Domain. London:RoutledgeCurzon. Pp 1-33.
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- 13. Wilk, Richard R. (ed), The Household Economy: Reconsidering the Domestic Mode of Production, Bouler: West View Press, 1989, Chap.1, Dimensions and Dilemmas of Householding" pp 3-10, Chap. 2 "Strategies of Resource Management in Household Economies: Moral Economy or Political Economy?, Chap.8. "Authority and Conflict in Slavonian Households: The Effect of Social Environment on Intra-Household Process" pp. 149-170.

II. D. Community as Institution

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- 2. MacIver, R.M. and C.H. Page 1996. Society: An Introductory Analysis. Delhi: Macmillan India Limited, Chap. 12, "The Community" pp. 281-309.
- Poplin, Dennis E. 1972. Communities: A Survey of Theories and Methods of Research, New York: The Macmillan Company. Chap. 4 Constructed Types of Community Theory, pp 108-145; Chap. 5 Social System Theory, Functionalism and Community, pp. 148-179
- 4. Sanders, Irwin T. 1975. The Community, New York: The Ronald Press Company. Chap. 3 Theoretical Approaches to Community,

- pp 21-49; Chap. 21: Community Development, pp 445-461; Part IV The Community in Process, pp. 265-345.
- Scherer, Jacqueline 1972. Contemporary Community: Sociological Illusion or Reality, London: Tavistock Publications. Chap. 5 (Community and Boundaries: the Beginning and End of Communities), Chap. 6 (Community and Structure, Conflict and Power: The Political Aspect)
- 6. Taylor, Michael. 1982. Community Anarchy and Liberty, London: Cambridge University Press. Chap 2.5 (Community and Stateless Social Order pp.90-94).
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III. A. Economic Institution and Social Cultural Life

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III.B. Political Institution and Social Cultural Life

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- 8. Charles E Lindblom 1978. *Politics and Markets: The World's Political-Economic Systems*, Part IV, VI and VII. New Delhi: Ambica Publication. (Originally Printed in USA by Basic Books, 1977)
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 "Authority, Influence and Constraints in State and Society", Chap.
 15 "Liberalism and the Alternative Liberal Design" and Chap. 16
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- Leftwich, Adrian 2000. States of Development: on the Primacy of Politics in Development, Chap.6 "The Politics of Democratic Government in the Third World" pp. 127-151. Cambridge: Polity Press.

III.C. Religious Institution and Social Cultural Life

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- Coser, Lewis A. Masters of Sociological Thought, Jaipur: Rawat Publications, 2002, Chap. On Emile Durkheim, pp.136-139 ("The Sociology of Religion"),
- 3. Hill, Michael, *A Sociology of Religion*, London: Heinemann, 1976, Chap. 5 "The Theoretical Background to 'The Weber Thesis' " and Chap. 6 "Protestantism and Capitalism" pp. 117-139).
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Unit IV Ties that Bind: Individual, Society and Culture

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- Bottomore, T.B. 1975. Sociology: A Guide to Problems and Literature, 2nd ed., Bombay: Blackie and Son. Chap. 12-16 pp. 217-272
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Unit V Ties that Repel: Inequality and Social Mobility

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- 4. Beteille, Andre 1969. Social Inequality. Harmondsworth: Penguin. Relevant Chapters only.
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- 9. Fanon, F. The Wretched of the earth (Global Inequality)
- 10. Gough, K. 1991. Class and Economic Structure in Thanjavur. In Gupta D. (ed). Social Stratification. Oxford. Pp 276-287.
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Unit VI Social and Cultural Change

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Unit VII Utility of Sociology/Anthropology and Study of Social Institutions

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