



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

School of Social Sciences

DD 26, Sector I, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700064

Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

Syllabus of Sociology (BDP) B.A. (Hons.) Course Code : ESO

Elective Sociology Syllabus Programme Objective:

• As stake holders of the ODL platform, our main objective is to facilitate access to education and to utilize education as a resource to be availed by every citizen, irrespective of gender, caste and creed, easy and affordable access to quality education in general and in the paradigm of Social sciences, in particular. The basic philosophy of our aim is to “Reach the Unreached”.

• The teaching-learning process of Sociology is closely related to the study of contemporary society and its underpinnings; it aims to understand the social fabrics in an interpolative way with its critical ramifications. The mission and objective of the programme is to motivate the prospective learners to get acquainted with the latest interpolations as well as a research methodology of sociology as a discipline to tackle such multiple sociality. It aims to cater the growing demands of the learners not only for those who want to be a teachers or researchers, but also to those who intend to be administrators, journalists or even professionals and NGO officials.

• The relevance of the present programme, that is, B.A. in Elective Sociology, is suited with the NSOU’s mission and goal. The course is designed in such a way so that it can offer updated knowledge in the subject following the latest regulations of all the appropriate statutory bodies of government (both state and union). In order to spread the study of sociology in an optimum level, the programme is conducted in both English and Bengali language though the learners have the liberty to write either in Bengali or in English in the examinations.

Expected Programme Outcome:

• The Programme is designed with an understanding of certain expected outcome. The basic components of the syllabus offer an updated and equitable distribution of knowledge about social ambits with both theoretical corpus and empirical instances. Therefore, it is expected that learners will get a critical and thorough knowledge about the methodology and social perspectives in detail. The syllabus is formulated in such a way that it would enhance the both the cognitive skills and practical knowledge of the learners in true sense of the term. It will further equip the learners in terms of employability, skill enhancement and general adaptability. It would cater the needs of both the professional world and academic sphere.

Graduate Attributes:

Some of the Graduate Attributes comprising of the skills, personal qualities and understanding which all students will have the opportunity to develop through their experience at NSOU are: -

- An inquisition that shall provoke the pursuit of knowledge.
- An understanding and reverence for the concepts, principles and methods of the



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university, cutting across disciplinary boundaries.

- Elocution of complex ideas as per the needs and capacities of particular audiences.
- A stout inter-disciplinary approach to learning that will trigger further strengthening of the academic circle at large.
- A strong sense of ethical, social and global duties and responsibilities.
- Execution of disciplinary knowledge to contribute to the academia and society at large.
- Engagement with the scholastic community and civil society at large, for the development and achievement of broader academic and other ends.

Curriculum Design:

Bachelor's Degree Programme (BDP) in Sociology (ESO):

Course Duration:

Three Years

Course Structure:

1. Compulsory Subjects:

2. Foundation Course:

(a) Bengali (FBG) 4 Credits

(b) English (FEG) 4 Credits

(c) Humanities and Social Science (FHS) 8 Credits

(d) Science and Technology (FST) 8 Credits.

3. Elective Subject:

Eight Papers (8×8 Credits) 64 Credits

4. Subsidiary Course:

Three papers (3×8 Credits) 24 Credits

5. Compulsory Subject:

a. Application Oriented Courses (Any One)

b. (a) Basic Accountancy (AOC-01) 8 Credits

c. (b) Food Processing (AOC-02)

d. (c) Household Chemistry (AOC-03)

6. Environmental Studies: 4 Credits

Total 124 Credits

ESO Syllabus structure

Paper-I	Introducing Sociology
Paper-II	Indian Society
Paper-III	Sociological Thought
Paper-IV	Sociological Theory
Paper-V	Rural and Urban Sociology
Paper-VI	Social Institutions



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Paper-VII	Social Demography and Social Change
Paper-VIII	Social Problems and Social Research

Paper I: Introducing Sociology

Module-1:

Nature & Scope : Definition-Sociological questions—Methods of study—Scientific status; Sociological & other forms of knowledge of Society : Sociology & common sense—Sociology&SocialAnthropology—Sociology&SocialPsychology—Sociology & History—Sociology & Political Science : Development of Sociology : Industrial Revolution—French Revolution—Enlightenment & Educational Revolution—A broad overview on Indian Sociology; Basic issues : Individual & Society—Persistence & change-Cohesion & conflict—Globalisation &Localisation.

Module-2:

Group and Organization: Primary & Secondary Groups—Reference Groups—Bureaucracy—Self-helpGroups;StatusandRole:Ascribedstatusandachievedstatus— Role Set—Role Strain & Role conflict—Status-role incongruence; Stratification: Social Inequality &Social Change—Slavery, Caste, Estates, Class— Class and Class consciousness—Gender stratification; Network-Details fromIGNOU.

Module-3:

Culture: Culture and Civilization—Culture and Sub-culture—Social Origins of Culture—CultureInstitutionMedia;ComponentsofCulture-Beliefsandattitude—Nouns and Values—Ideology and Science; Socialization : Process of Socialization—Agencies of Socialization—Changing patterns—Socialization, Culture, Social Structure; Culture, Social Control & Deviance : Types of Social Control—Agencies—Deviance—Social Control and SocialOrder.

Module-4 :

Society as a Process : Society and the Time-process—The process of adjustment to



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a total environment—Internal Processes—Strain & Conflict—Cooperation & Conflict;
Social Conflict : Conflict as a process—Forms of conflict—Marx's contributions—
Interaction, Conflict and Contradiction; Social Mobility: Meaning and Types—Mobility and
Stratification—Process of Conformity and Deviance—Socialization, Social control and
Mobility ; Social Change : Meaning of Social Change—Social Evolution and Social
Development—Social Progress—Explanations of change.



Paper II : Indian Society

Module-1 :

Nature of Indian Society : Unity in Diversity—Evolution of Indian Society (Sociocultural dimension)—Indian's Social Structure (Village Community and Urban Community)—Varna and Jati;

Module-2 :

Family and Kinship : Family, Marriage ; Kinship.

Module-3 :

Social Stratification in India : Class and caste; The Tribal Order; Religion and Stratification—The Communal Groups ; Religion in Tribal Societies.

Module-4 :

Social Change in India : Sanskritization, Modernisation and Westernization : Social Movements-Ecology and Gender, Demographic Factors in Social Change: Urbanization, Development and Planning; Contemporary social problems.

Paper III : Sociological Thought

Module-1 :

Foundation of Sociological Thought in Europe : Emergence of Sociology in Europe- Industrial Revolution and Intellectual Revolutions; Early Founders : Saint Simon and August Comte; Political—Philosophical Foundations : Montesquieu ; Marxian Watershed.

Module-2 :

Classical Thinkers : Herbert Spencer and George Simmel ; Emile Durkheim; Max Weber and V. Pareto ; Radcliffe Brown and Malinowski.

Module-3 :

Development of Sociological Thought : Contribution of American Writers-Veblen, Cooley, Mead, Park and Sorokin; Contribution of Continental Writers—Mosca, Mitchell, Manheim, W. I. Thomas and F. Znaniecki ; Modern Thinkers-Talcott Parsons, Robert Merton, C. W. Mills



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Module-4 :

Indian Thinkers : Raja Rammohan Roy and Bhudeb Mukhopadhyay, Vidyasagar, Bankim Chandra, Vivekananda, Sibnath Sastri, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Bhupendra Nath Dutta, G. S. Ghurye, Binoy Sarkar, Dhurjati Prasad and Radha Kamal.

Paper IV : Sociological Theory

Module-1 :

Functional Theory: Holistic Traditions-Positivist Approach, Durkheimian Approach; Radcliffe - Brown (Structural-Functionalism), Malinowski (Functionalism) ; Merton's Personian Functionalism-Merton's Critique of Functionalism.

Module-2 :

Conflict Theory : Marxist Tradition, Simmel's Contribution, Dahrendorf's Contribution; L. Coser's Conflict-Functionalism.

Module-3 :

Exchange Theory and Symbolic Interactionism : Anthropological Tradition-Malnovski's contribution, Levi-Strauss and Modern anthropological tradition ; Sociological Tradition : Homans, P. Blau; Symbolic Interactionism and Dramaturgical analysis-a brief outline.

Module-4 :

Phenomenology and Critical Sociology : Emergence of Phenomenology ; A brief outline of Phenomenological theory (with a critical evaluation); Ethnomethodology a brief outline; Critical Sociology : a brief outline with reference to the works of Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse and Habermas.

Paper V : Rural and Urban Sociology

Module-1 :

Urbanism : Features of urbanism ; Urbanism as a way of life ; Re-urbanization and the Post-II War pattern of urban development ; Problems of Urbanism.



Module-2 :

Theories of Urbanism (Patterns of growth) : Central place theory ; Burgers and the Concentric Zone theory ; Sector theory ; Multiple-Nuclei theory.

Module-3 :

Rural-Urban Continuum : The concept of continuum ; Development of modern cities; Urbanism in the Third World; Urban Social Movements.

Module-4 :

Indian Rural Society : Village Social Structure ; Village Economy-Economic aspect of caste ; Village power Structure—Panchayati Raj; Rural Development Programme.

Paper VI : Social Institutions

Module-1 :

Institutions of Family and Marriage : Meaning of Institutions and distinction between Institution and Association ; Family and Marriage defined and their interrelations explained; Functions of Family and Marriage.

Module-2 :

Economic Institutions : Importance of Economic Institutions in human society; Institutions of Property - The evolution of the institution; Capitalism as an institution ; Karl Marx and Max Weber on the relation between Economy and Society.

Module-3 :

Political Institution : Evolution of Political Institutions in human society-origin of State; Relation between Economic and Political Institutions; Political Parties – their institutional significance; Role of Pressure groups in human society.

Module-4 :

Religion and Educational Institution : Defining Religion-Relation between Magic and Religion; Social Function of Religion ; Marx's explanation of Religions as a Social Institutions; Education and the processes of Socialization and Social control.



Paper VII : Social Demography and Social Change

Module-1:

Social Change : Meaning of Social Change ; Relation between Social Change and Social Evolution (and progress) ; Factors of Social Change; Social Change and Social Revolution.

Module-2:

Theories of Social Change: Marxist explanation of Social Change; Thorstein Veblen's technological theory of change; Geographical explanation of Social Change; Modern approach to the study of Social Change—Indirected change vs. directed change through social movements.

Module-3 :

Social Demography : Demography-Nature & Scope ; Sources of Demographic data; Size and growth of India's population; Factors affecting fertility, mortality and migration.

Module-4 :

Theories of Population : Pre-Malthusian theories of population ; Malthusian theory of population ; Theory of optimum population; Marxist theory of population; Theory of Demographic transition.

Paper VIII : Social Problems and Social Research

Module-1 :

Crime and Delinquency : Causes of Crime-Theories concerning the treatment of Criminals-White Collar Crime-Problem of Juvenile Delinquency-Remedial measures and programme; Problem of Child Abuse : Types and Causes of Child Abuse-Areas of Child Labour—Remedial measures and programme; Problem of Youth : Alienation—Students' Movement-Remedial measures and programme.

Module-2 :

Problem of Women : Violence against Women-Nature and Forms-Discrimination against Women-its Institutional and Social aspects-Remedial measures and programme; Problem of Old Age : Nature of the problem – physiological, psychological, Social and Economic aspects-Remedial measures and programme ; Problem of Communalism—



Causes and Incidences of Communal Violence in Independent India—Remedies—Meaning of Secularism—Programme for the implementation of secular ideas; Problem of Environment : Forms of Environment pollution—their causes-Remedial measures and programme.

Module-3:

Research Methodology : Theory and Research : The creation of Social Theory—Deductive and Inductive Theory Construction—Concepts, Variables, Propositions and Hypotheses-Links between Theory and Research; The Research Process: Social Science as Science-Stages of Social Research—Types of Research-Uses and Abuses of Social Research-Value free Sociology; Research Design : Purposes of Research-Problem formulation and Research Design-Different types of Research Design—Major steps in a Research Design; Conceptualisation and Operationalization : Concepts-Operationalizing Definitions-Validity-Meaning and Types-Reliability-Meaning and Types; Qualitative Research Technique. Techniques and methods of Qualitative Research—participant Observation/Ethnography; Interview guide-Case Study Method-Content analysis-Oral history, Narratives-Life history, Genealogy.

Module-4 :

Research Methodology including Social Statistics : Survey Research—General Components of Survey Research—Types of Surveys—Design of Questionnaires, Face to Face Interview & Telephone Surveys—Deciding if a Survey is Appropriate for your topic. ; Field Research and Observational Studies ; General Components of a Field Study—The Design of Field Studies—Strategies for Analysis—Validity and Reliability in Field Studies—Deciding if a Field Study is Appropriate for your Topic; Frequency Distribution and Graphing Techniques : Grouping of Data—Cumulative Frequency and Cumulative Percentage Distribution—Graphing Techniques—Misuse of Graphing Techniques—Forms of Frequency Curves—Other Graphic Representations—Levels of Measurement and Different Graphic Presentation; Percentiles : Cumulative Percentiles and Percentile Rank and Reference Group—Centiles, Deciles and Quartiles; Measures of Central Tendency: The Arithmetic Mean—The Median—The Mode—Comparison of Mean, Median and Mode—Criteria for the Choice of an Average—The Mean, Median, Mode and Skewness.



System of examination :

1st Semester-FBG,FEG,ESO-1

2nd Semester-FHS, ESO-II

3rd Semester-FST,ESO,III

4th Semester-ESO-IV,V

5thSemester-ESO-VI,VII

6thSemester-ESO-VIII,AOC&Env.Studies

Paper-1



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Course Code : ESO**

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Tel. : 2283-5157

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Course Structure for the Bachelor's Degree Programme (BDP) in Sociology

1. Compulsory Subjects: Foundation Course	
(a) Bengali (FBG)	4 Credits
(b) English (FEG)	4 Credits
(c) Humanity and Social Science (FHS)	8 Credits
(d) Science and Technology (FST)	8 Credits
	<hr/> 24 Credits
2. Elective Subjects : Honours Course (ESO)	
Paper-I : Introducing Sociology	8 Credits
Paper-II : Indian Society	8 Credits
Paper-III : Sociological Thought	8 Credits
Paper-IV : Sociological Theory	8 Credits
Paper-V : Rural and Urban Sociology	8 Credits
Paper-VI : Social Institutions	8 Credits
Paper-VII : Social Demography and Social Change	8 Credits
Paper-VIII : Social Problems and Social Research	8 Credits
	<hr/> 64 Credits
3. Compulsory Subject: Application Oriented Course (Anyone)	
(a) Basic Accountancy (AOC-01)	
(b) Food Processing (AOC-02)	8 Credits
(c) Household Chemistry (AOC-03)	
4. Environmental Studies	4 Credits

Total Credits for the Course = (24+64+8+4) = 100 Credits or 1250 Marks.

Evaluation System :

Internal assessment : 30%

Term-end Examination : 70%