

PAPER –IV

SOCIAL THEORY (COMPULSORY)

Objectives:

- a) To provide the students of Sociology with the understanding of Sociological Theory.
- b) To train students in the application of these theories to social situations.

1. Historical Content of Sociological Theory

- Enlightenment and French Revolution 10 lectures
- Ideals of St.Simon
- Auguste Comte – Law of Three Stages, Positivism
- Herbert Spencer – Organismic model

2. Karl Marx

- Dialectical and Historical Materialism 10 lectures
- Modes of Production and Theory of Class
- Class Conflict
- Marx’s concept of Alienation

3. Emile Durkheim

- Social Facts 10 lectures
- Division of Labour
- Theory of Suicide
- Elementary Forms of Religious Life

4. Max Weber

- Social Action, Power and Authority 10 lectures
- Methodology – Verstehen approach, Ideal Types
- The Protestant Ethic and The Spirit of Capitalism
- Sociology of Religion (India, China)

5. Social System Theory

- Parsons Theory of Social Action and Pattern Variables
- Theory of Social System 10 lectures
- Merton’s Middle Range Theory
- Theory of Function

- 6. Ethnomethodology** 08 lectures
- Dramaturgy of Erving Goffman
 - The ideas of Alfred Schutz
 - Examples of Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology
- 7. Frankfurt School** 08 lectures
- Origin of the Frankfurt School
 - Main tenets of Critical Theory
 - Habermas critique of Science and Rationality
- 8. Giddens' Critique of Social Theory** 10 lectures
- Naturism and Positivism
 - The Theory of Structuration, Agency and Actions
 - Reconceptualizing Structure and System
 - Reconceptualizing Institutions
- 9. What is Postmodernism** 09 lectures
- Postmodernism – An Introduction.
 - Michel Foucault's Central Theories and Methods
 - Foucault Theory of Discourse
 - Madness and Civilization

Reading List

- Abraham Francis, 1982, Modern Sociological Theory, Delhi, Oxford University Press.
- Abraham, F., 1991, Sociological Thought, Madras, Macmillan.
- Adams, B.N and Sydie, R .A, 2001, Sociological Theory, New Delhi, Vistaar Publication.
- Aron Raymond, 1965, Main Currents in Sociological Thought I & II, Great Britain, Weidenfeld & Nicolson.
- Coser Lewis, 1971, Masters of Sociological Thought (2nd ed), Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.
- Fletcher Ronald, 2000, The Making of Sociology – A Study of Sociological Theory Beginnings and Foundations, New Delhi, Rawat Publications.
- Ritzer, George, 1988, Sociological Theory (2nd ed.), New York, Mc –Graw – Hill Publication.
- Ritzer George, 1996, Modern Sociological Theory (4th ed.), New York, Mc- Graw – Hill Publication.

- Turner, Jonathan, 2001, The Structure of Sociological Theory (4th ed.), Jaipur, Rawat Publication.