

**HS203      Understanding Society**

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Credit : 3-0-0-3

Prerequisite: Consent of the faculty member

Students intended for: B.Tech

Elective or Core: Elective

Semester: Even/Odd

**Course objective:** This course offers insights into understanding society from three different but intertwined perspectives i.e. Sociological, Historical and Psychological. Its content covers a range of basic concepts, social institutions and theories, both classical and contemporary, in order to present an overall picture of society.

**Course content:**

- **Basic Sociological Concepts:** Society, Community, Social Structure, Function, Status & Role, Power & Authority, Social Groups – Primary and Secondary, Socialization and Culture
- **Classical Sociological Thought and Perspectives:** Aguste Comte (Positivist)- Emile Durkheim (Functionalist), Karl Marx (Conflict), Max Weber (Structural Functionalist)
- **Historical Concepts and Perspectives:** Evolution of Indian Society, Historical dimensions of Caste, Class, Religion and Gender, Changes and Continuities in Indian Society
- **Psychological Concepts and Perspectives:** Introduction: Nature and scope of social psychology. Groups: Structure, functions and effects; social facilitation, social loafing and social conformity, Communication: Verbal and nonverbal processes; language and social interaction; barriers to communication, Social perception: Impression formation, role of non-verbal cues; attribution process; theories of Kelly and Weiner, Attitudes: Formation, measurement and change. Prejudice and discrimination: Sources and dynamics; techniques of overcoming prejudice, Pro-social behavior: Cooperation and helping behavior; personal, situational and socio-cultural determinants of helping.

**Recommended Reading List**

Alex Inkeles.1964. What is Sociology?: an Introduction to the Discipline and Profession.Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall Publishing.

Anthony Giddens.2006. Sociology. Cambridge: Polity Press. (5th edition)

Michael Haralambos.2008. Sociology: Themes and Perspectives. Collins Publishing (7<sup>th</sup> edition).

Penguin Dictionary of Sociology.2006. Penguin publishing (5th edition).

Shankar Rao (2011) Sociology: Principles of Sociology. New Delhi: S. Chand & Company Ltd (Revised version).

T.B. Bottomore.1962. Sociology: A Guide to Problems and Literature. Routledge Publication

Alcock, J. E., Carment, D. N., Sadava, S. N., Collins, J. E. & Green J. M. (1998). *A textbook of social psychology*. Scarborough, Canada: Prentice Hall.

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. (2010). *Social Psychology* (7th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Baron, R. A., & Byrne, D. (1998). *Social psychology* (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New Delhi: Prentice Hall of India.

Taylor, S. E., Peplau, A. L., & Sears, D. O. (2006). *Social Psychology* (12th Ed.). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Dumont, L. 1980. *Homo Hierarchicus*. University of Chicago Press

Ghurye, G.S. 1932. *Caste and Race in India*. London: K. Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co.