

ADVANCED SOCIAL THEORIES

Course Code: SOC-507
Course Mode: L-T-P-C: 3-1-0-4
Course Type: Core Course
Semester: Autumn

Objectives of the Course:

Building on the understanding of the key ideas of the earlier courses on sociological theories, this course engages with advanced social theories. It introduces students to the post modern turn that casts a doubt on the possibility of sociological theory itself. Finally the course highlights new developments in the sociology of the changing world.

UNIT- I **Basic Concepts**

Post-modernity; Post-colonialism; Power and Knowledge; Agency-Structure; Habitus; McDonaldisation

UNIT II **Critical Theories**

- Jurgen Habermas - Public Sphere and Communicative Action
- Adorno and Horkheimer - Dialectics of Enlightenment
- Judith Butler- Feminist Theory

UNIT III **Postmodern Theories**

- Michael Foucault - Discourse, Knowledge &Power
- Lyotard - The Postmodern Condition
- Jacques Derrida - Deconstruction

UNIT IV **The Changing World Order**

- Anthony Giddens- Structuration, The Constitution of Society, The Consequences of Modernity
- Pierre Bourdieu - Outline of a Theory of Practice
- Ulrich Beck - Risk Society

Essential Readings:

- Adorno T. W & Max Horkheimer 1969. *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. Continuum
- Beck, Ulrich. 1992. *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity* London: Sage
- Bourdieu, P. 1990. *The Logic of Practice*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Butler Judith 1990. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and Subversion of Identity* New York: Routledge
- Calhoun, Craig 1995. *Critical Social Theory*, Oxford: Blackwell
- Craib, Ian. 1992. *Modern Social Theory: From Parsons to Habermas* (2nd edition). London: Harvester Press.
- Derrida Jacques 1978. *Writing and Difference* (Translated by Alan Bass) University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Foucault, Michel 1982. *The Archaeology of Knowledge & The Discourse on Language* London: Vintage
- Giddens, Anthony. 1983. *Central problems in social theory: Action, structure and Contradiction in social analysis*. London: Macmillan.
- Habermas, Jurgen. 1987. *The Theory of Communicative Action*, Vol. 1 and 2 Cambridge: Polity Press
- Lyotard, Jean, Francois. 1985. *Postmodern condition*, Minneapolis, University of Minneapolis Press.
- Rosenau, Pauline Marie 1992. *Post-Modernism and the Social Sciences: Insights, Inroads and Intrusions*, Princeton: Princeton University Press
- Seidman, Steven 1997. *Post-Modern Turn*, London: Blackwell
- Zeitlin, I. M. 1998. *Rethinking Sociology: A Critique of Contemporary Theory*. Jaipur: Rawat.
- Agger, Ben 1991. 'Critical Theory, Post-Structuralism, Post-modernism: Their Sociological Relevance' *Annual Review of Sociology* 17: 105-131

Further Reading:

- Giddens Anthony and Turner Jonathan Edt. 1987. *Social Theory Today*; Polity Press, UK.
- Giddens, Anthony 1997. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bourdieu, P. 1984. *Distinction*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Bourdieu, P. 1988. *Practical Reason: On the theory of action*, Stanford: Stanford University Press
- Giddens, Anthony 1998. *The Third Way: The Renewal of Social Democracy*, London: Polity Press
- Smart Barry: 2002. *Michel Foucault*, London. Routledge
