Syllabus template

Semester: III

Programme : SOCIOLOGY

Course : Sociological Theory I	

Paper code: C2SO230321T	Credits: 4

Hours/week : 4 hours/week	

Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC : Core	

Theory / Practical / Composite : Theory	

No of Modules : 2	

Course Overview: This course introduces students to the major traditions of sociological theory by integrating classical, conflict, and critical perspectives to develop a comprehensive understanding of social structure, power, and change. Combining Structural Functionalism and Conflict Theory with Critical Theory, the course examines how societies are organized, how inequalities and conflicts emerge, and how culture, ideology, and domination shape social life. Through the works of key theorists such as Parsons, Merton, Marx, Dahrendorf, Coser, Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Habermas, and Bourdieu, students engage with foundational concepts and debates in sociological thought. The course emphasizes both theoretical understanding and critical application, enabling learners to analyze contemporary social institutions, cultural practices, and forms of inequality while developing the ability to compare, evaluate, and synthesize multiple theoretical perspectives.

Course Outcome:

1. Recall the key concepts, assumptions, and major contributors of classical and modern sociological theories, including Structural Functionalism, Conflict Theory, and Critical Theory.

2. Explain the central arguments and theoretical perspectives of thinkers such as Parsons, Merton, Marx, Dahrendorf, Coser, Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Habermas, and Bourdieu in understanding social structure, power, and change.

3. Apply sociological theories to interpret social institutions, cultural practices, and patterns of inequality in contemporary societies.

4. Analyze similarities and differences among functionalist, conflict, and critical theoretical frameworks with respect to their views on social order, conflict, ideology, and domination.

5. Critically evaluate the relevance and limitations of classical and critical sociological theories in explaining modern social realities such as capitalism, culture, power, and symbolic domination.

6. Formulate independent sociological arguments by integrating multiple theoretical perspectives to assess complex social phenomena and propose theoretically informed interpretations.

Prerequisites: -

SYLLABUS

UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I.	**Module 1** 1. Structural Functionalism: Parsons & Merton 2. Conflict Theory: Marx, Dahrendorf & Coser	**2 hours/week**	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6

II.	**Module 2** Critical Theory: Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Habermas, Bourdieu	**2 hours/week**	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6
III.				
IV.				

Text Books

1. Turner, Jonathan. 1995. The Structure of Sociological Theory, Jaipur: Rawat Publications.

2. Wallace, Ruth and Wolf, Alison. 1995. Contemporary Sociological Theory, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

3. Ritzer, George. 1996. Modern Sociological Theory, New York: The Mc-Graw Hill

Suggested readings

1. Sharrock, Hughes and Martin. 2003. Understanding Modern Sociology, Sage Publications.

2. Held, David. 1980. Introduction to Critical Theory: Horkheimer to Habermas, Berkeley, Los Angeles: University of California Press

3. Bourdieu, Pierre. 1986. 'The Forms of Capital' in J. Richardson Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education, Westport, CT: Greenwood. Jenkins, R. 2002. Pierre Bourdieu (2nd ed.). Routledge.

4. Swartz, David. 1997. Culture and Power: The Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

5. Seidman, Steven. 1996. 'From European Social Theory to American Sociological Theory: Talcott Parsons and the Autonomy of Theory' in Contested Knowledge: Social Theory in the Postmodern Era, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishers, pp: 91-113.

6. Bottomore, Tom. 2003. The Frankfurt School and its Critics, Routledge.

Web Resources

1. SOCIOLOGY- Theodor Adorno https://youtu.be/4YGnPgtWhsw?si=AM9-IrKhOiLIVrnV

2. Sociological Thinkers (Swayam): https://onlinecourses.swayam2.ac.in/e-learning/preview/cec25_hs79

Evaluation
Theory
CIA: 30 Semester Exam: 70

Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Module :
Total Marks – 70 Modules -2 (35 marks each)
Module A
1 long question out of 2:1X15=15 2 short questions out of 4: 2X10=20
Module B
1 long question out of 2: 1X15=15 2 short questions out of 4: 2X10=20

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels

CO1	Recall the key concepts, assumptions, and major contributors of classical and modern sociological theories, including Structural Functionalism, Conflict Theory, and Critical Theory.	K1
CO2	Explain the central arguments and theoretical perspectives of thinkers such as Parsons, Merton, Marx, Dahrendorf, Coser, Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Habermas, and Bourdieu in understanding social structure, power, and change.	K2
CO3	Apply sociological theories to interpret social institutions, cultural practices, and patterns of inequality in contemporary societies.	K3
CO4	Analyze similarities and differences among functionalist, conflict, and critical theoretical frameworks with respect to their views on social order, conflict, ideology, and domination.	K4
CO5	Critically evaluate the relevance and limitations of classical and critical sociological theories in explaining modern social realities such as capitalism, culture, power, and symbolic domination.	K5
CO6	Formulate independent sociological arguments by integrating multiple theoretical perspectives to assess complex social phenomena and propose theoretically informed interpretations.	K6