

Syllabus template

Semester: I				
Programme : Sociology				
Course : Urban Studies				
Paper code: M2C4SO26014T			Credits: 6	
Hours/week : 4 hours/week				
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC : Core				
Theory / Practical / Composite : Theory				
No of Modules : 2				
<p>Course Overview: The Urban Studies course provides an integrated exploration of urban environments, combining foundational theories with contemporary issues and ethnographic perspectives. Students begin by engaging with classical and modern urban theories—such as those of Durkheim, Weber, Marx & Engels, Simmel, the Chicago School, and later thinkers like Lefebvre, Benjamin, and Sassen—while critically examining debates between urban sociology and urban studies. Building on this theoretical base, the course delves into urban processes including city planning, infrastructure, rights, and resistance, and investigates the lived realities of Indian cities through themes like religion, caste, finance, technology, leisure, politics, and the environment. By synthesising these approaches, students develop the analytical skills to interpret, evaluate, and propose solutions to complex urban challenges, preparing them for advanced sociological inquiry and practical engagement with urban issues.</p>				
Course Outcome:				
1. Recall key concepts, classical theories, and major contributors in urban sociology, including Durkheim, Weber, Marx & Engels, Simmel, and the Chicago School.				
2. Summarise ethnographic findings related to Indian cities, including aspects of religion, caste, finance, technology, leisure, and politics.				
3. Apply classical and contemporary urban theories to analyse real-world urban phenomena and processes.				
4. Analyse the interplay of social factors such as caste, religion, finance, and technology in shaping urban life in India.				
5. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of urban policies and planning strategies using theoretical and ethnographic evidence.				
6. Propose innovative solutions to urban problems, drawing on insights from both modules and relevant theories.				
Prerequisites:				
SYLLABUS				
UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I.	<p>Module I- 1. Studying the Urban: Situating the urban and the city (sociological, anthropological, historical and</p>	2 hours/week	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6

	geographical analysis) 2.Theories of the Urban: a) Classical Perspectives. b) Ecological Theory: Chicago School c) Political Economy Theory: Henri Lefebvre. d) Global City Theory: Saskia Sassen e) Cultural Approach: Walter Benjamin.			
II.	Module II- 3.Urban Processes: 1. Planning Modern Cities 2. Rights and Resistance 4.Reading Ethnographies of the Indian City (Any 2): 1. Religion & Caste 2. Finance & Technology 3. Leisure & Consumption 4. Politics & Legal Processes 5. Environment & Violence	2 hours/week	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6
Text Books				
1. Prell, U., & Radosh, L. (2022). <i>The City: An Interdisciplinary Introduction to Urban Studies</i> (U. Reusch, Ed.; 1st ed.). Verlag Barbara Budrich. Pp 17-78				
2. Saunders, P. (1981). <i>Social Theory and the Urban Question</i> . Hutchinson/Routledge, London.				
3. Gottdiener, M., Hohle, R., & King, C. (2019). <i>The New Urban Sociology</i> (6th ed.). Routledge.				
Suggested readings				
1. Ash Amin (2007) Re-thinking the urban social, City: analysis of urban trends, culture, theory, policy, action, 11:1, 100-114.				
2. Isin, Engin F. (2003). Historical sociology of the city. In: Delanty, Gerard and Isin, Engin F. eds. <i>Handbook of historical sociology</i> . London, UK: Sage, pp. 312–325.				
3. Lefebvre, H., Bononno, R., & Smith, N. (2003). From the City to Urban Society. In <i>The Urban Revolution</i> (pp. 1–22). University of Minnesota Press.				

4. Sassen, Saskia (2008). Urban sociology in the 21st century. In R. J. J. S. (Ed.), <i>Sage Reference</i> (pp. [476-486]).
5. Harvey, D. (2003), The right to the city. <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> , 27: 939-941.
6. Benjamin, Walter.(1999) <i>The Arcades Project</i> . Translated by Howard Eiland and Kevin McLaughlin. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. (select pages)
7. Larkin, B. (2013). The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> , 42, 327–343.
8. Roy, A. (2009). Why India Cannot Plan Its Cities: Informality, Insurgence And The Idiom Of Urbanization. <i>Planning Theory</i> , 8(1), 76–87.
9. Ranganathan, M. (2022). Towards a Political Ecology of Caste and the City. <i>Journal of Urban Technology</i> , 29(1), 135-143.
10. Gidwani, V., & Kumar, S. (2019). Time, Space, and the Subaltern: The Matter of Labor in Delhi's Grey Economy. In T. JAZEEL & S. LEGG (Eds.), <i>Subaltern Geographies</i> (pp. 142–166). University of Georgia Press.
11. Ahmad, Z. (2018). <i>Delhi's meatscapes: Muslim butchers in a transforming mega-city</i> . Oxford University Press (select chapter/s).
12. Chaudhuri, Supriya (2021). "Spaces of the Sacred: Religious Practice in Urban Interstices". <i>Religion and Urbanity Online</i> , edited by Susanne Rau and Jörg Rüpke. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2021.
13. Nair, Janaki (2007). <i>The Promise of the Metropolis: Bangalore's Twentieth Century</i> . Oxford University Press, 2007. (select pages)
14. Phadke, S., Khan, S., & Ranade, S. (2014). <i>Why loiter?: Women and risk on Mumbai streets</i> . Gurgaon: Penguin Books India. (select pages)
15. Dupont, V. (2011). The dream of Delhi as a global city. <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> , 35(3), 533–554.
16. Desai, R. (2012). Entrepreneurial urbanism in the time of Hindutva: City imagineering, place marketing, and citizenship in Ahmedabad. In R. Desai & R. Sanyal (Eds.), <i>Urbanizing citizenship: Contested spaces in Indian cities</i> (pp. 31–57). Sage Publications.
17. Coelho, K., & Raman, N. V. (2013). From the Frying Pan to the Floodplain: Negotiating Land, Water, and Fire in Chennai's Development. In A. M. Rademacher & K. Sivaramakrishnan (Eds.), <i>Ecologies of Urbanism in India: Metropolitan Civility and Sustainability</i> (pp. 145-168). Hong Kong University Press.
Web Resources
1. Rethinking the Multiplicity of Urban Infrastructure. https://urbanmattersjournal.com/issue/urban-infrastructure/
2. TED Talk: A bold plan to house 100 million people. https://www.ted.com/talks/gautam_bhan_a_bold_plan_to_house_100_million_people?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare
3. Periurban Cartographies: Kolkata's Urban Ecologies and Settled Ruralities. https://youtu.be/YAey6uX13jo?si=2cp2YHzT184P2qys
4. Examining urban local governance in India through the case of Bengaluru. https://prsendia.org/theprsblog/examining-urban-local-governance-in-india-through-the-case-of-bengaluru?page=39&per-page=1
Evaluation Theory CIA: 30 Semester Exam: 70
Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Module : 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 key concepts, classical theories, and major contributors in urban sociology, including Durkheim, Weber, Marx & Engels, Simmel, and the Chicago School.	K1
CO2	Summarise ethnographic findings related to Indian cities, including aspects of religion, caste, finance, technology, leisure, and politics.	K2
CO3	Apply classical and contemporary urban theories to analyse real-world urban phenomena and processes.	K3
CO4	Analyse the interplay of social factors such as caste, religion, finance, and technology in shaping urban life in India.	K4
CO5	Critically evaluate the effectiveness of urban policies and planning strategies using theoretical and ethnographic evidence.	K5
CO6	Propose innovative solutions to urban problems, drawing on insights from both modules and relevant theories.	K6