

CORE-3: SOCIOLOGICAL THOUGHT

Sociology originated as an intellectual response to the crisis confronting the mid nineteenth century European society. Its development over two centuries has been influenced by a variety of socio-economic and political conditions. It is now established as a multi-paradigmatic academic discipline, with its body of theoretical knowledge enriched and its methodological techniques and procedures systemized. This paper is intended to familiarize the students with the social, political, economic and intellectual contexts in which sociology emerged as a distinctive discipline. It deals with the contributions of the forerunners of the discipline and with the contributions of the founders who gave a systematic shape to the subject.

Objectives: After going through these two papers, the student can

- Gain an understanding of some of the classical contributions in Sociology, and their contemporary relevance.
- Learn about the methodological shift in the discipline over the years.

Learning Outcomes: This paper is expected to clarify and broaden the student's knowledge about the theoretical and methodological contributions of the classical contributors to the subject and the contemporary relevance of these theories.

Unit-1 : Auguste Comte : Law of the Three Stages, Hierarchy of Sciences, Positivism

Unit-2 : Herbert Spencer : Organismic Analogy, Theory of Social Evolution

Unit-3 : Karl Marx : Dialectical Materialism, Class struggle, Alienation, Sociology of Capitalism

Unit-4 : Emile Durkheim : Division of Labour in Society, Rules of Sociological Method, Theory of Suicide.

Unit-5 : Max Weber : Social Action, Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism, Ideal type, Bureaucracy, Authority

Essential readings:

1. Aron, Ramond. 1967(1982 reprint) Main currents in sociological thoughts (2 volumes). Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books
2. Barnes, H.E. 1959. Introduction to the history to the sociology The University of Chicago press
3. Coser, Lewis A. 1979. Masters of Sociological Thought. New York : Harcourt Brance Jovanovich
4. Fletcher, Ronald. 1994.The Making of Sociology (2 volumes) Jaipur-Rawat
5. Morrison, Ken.1995 Marx, Durkheim, Weber: Formation of Modern Social Thought. London; sage
6. Ritzer, George. 1996. Sociological Theory New Delhi. Tata-McGraw Hill
7. Singh, Yogendra. 1986 Indian Sociology: social conditioning and emerging Trends. New Delhi: Vistaar
8. Zeitlin, Irving.1998 (Indian Edition). Rethinking Sociology: A critique of Contemporary Theory. Jaipur: Rawat.