

**PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

SYLLABUS FOR M.PHIL/ PRE-PH.D

COURSE CODE	TITLE OF THE PAPER	NO OF CREDITS
SOCL 301	ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES	6
SOCL 302	ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS	6
SOCL 303	BACKGROUND PAPER	6
SOCL 304	DISSERTATION	12
SOCL 305	VIVA -VOCE	6

SOCL 301: ADVANCED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

UNIT I – Philosophical Foundation of Sociological Theory

Philosophical background of sociological theory; Modernism & Post-Modernism. Theory and empiricism.

UNIT II – Functionalism, Structuralism and Conflict Theory

Functionalism: Foundations, Basic Premises, Contributions of Talcott Parsons and Robert K. Merton, Critique.

Conflict Theory: Foundations- Karl Marx, Basic Premises, Contributions of Ralf Dahrendorf and Lewis A. Coser, Critique.

Structuralism: Foundations, Contributions of Levi Strauss, Critique.

UNIT III – Exchange Theory, Symbolic Interactionism, Phenomenology & Ethnomethodology

Exchange Theory: Foundations, Basic Premises, Contributions of George C. Homans and Peter M. Blau, Critique.

Symbolic Interactionism: Foundations, Basic Premises, Contributions of G.H.Mead, Erving Goffman and Herbert Blumer, Critique.

Phenomenology & Ethnomethodology: Foundations- Edmund Husserl & Harold Garfinkel, Contributions of Alfred Schutz and Peter Berger & Thomas Luckman.

UNIT IV – Neofunctionalism and Neomarxism

Neofunctionalism: Jeffrey Alexander.

Neomarxism & Frankfurt School: Antonio Gramsci, Louis Althusser and Jürgen Habermas

UNIT V – Current debates in Sociological Theory

Agency V/s Structure: A. Giddens; P. Bourdieu

Micro V/s Macro: Norbert Elias, Randall Collins, George Ritzer

Post Structuralism: Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida

Post Modernism: Frederic Jameson, Jean Baudrillard and David Harvey

Social theory Beyond Post-Modernism.

References:

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Anthony Giddens. 1984. The Constitution of Society. Outline of a Theory of Structuration,
Cambridge, Polity Press.

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Bryn Turner, Chris Rojek and Craig Calhoun (Ed). 2005. The Sage Handbook of Sociology.
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- Jeffrey C, Alexander, Bernard Giesen, Richard Munch and Neil J. Smelser. 1987. The Micro-Macro Link. London, University of California Press.
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SOCL 302: ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS

Unit I: Philosophical Issues in Social Research

Philosophy of social research: Positivism; Epistemology; Hermeneutics.

Unit II: Quantitative Methods

Problems of Quantitative and measurement; Survey techniques: Research design; Sampling; Questionnaire; Interview schedule; Scaling.

Unit III: Qualitative Research Techniques

Methodological dilemmas and issues in qualitative research; Ethnography; Observation; Interview guide; Case study; Content analysis; Oral history, Life history, Genealogy, Participatory Rural Appraisal.

Unit IV: Statistics in social research

Measures of Dispersion: Standard/Quartile Deviation; Correlational Analysis, Regression Analysis; Application of Computers in Social research.

Unit V: Methods of Analysis: Methodological individualism vs. holism; Historical and Comparative method.

Unit VI: Skills for doing Research – Formulation of research Questions; Review of Literature; Methods of data analysis; Writing a Research proposal and Research paper.

References:

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Bryman, Alan. 1988. Quality and Quantity in Social Research, London, Unwin Hyman.

Burawoy M. and Joseph Blum, (ed). 2000. Global Ethnography: Forces, Connections and Imaginations in a Postmodern World. California, University of California Press.

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SOCL 304: DISSERTATION

Independent Research work under the guidance of a Faculty Member.

Evaluation on the basis of submission of the Research Project Report and viva-voce