

**M.A. Part II Sociology
Contemporary Social Theories**

Semester IV



Subject Code: MSL 41602

Lectures: 60

Objectives:

- To introduce the students to the contemporary trends in social theory.
- To compare and contrast various theoretical viewpoints.
- To equip students for research in sociology.

Unit 1: Introduction to Social Theory

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- Origins of Social Theory
 - Classical and medieval ideas about society
 - The 17th century-the social contract
 - The 18th century- the Age of Reason
 - The Scottish Enlightenment
- The main elements of theory
 - Westernization
 - Industrialization
 - Rationalization
 - Post industrialization
 - Globalization
- The main themes of theory
 - The struggle for necessary resources
 - Power
 - Action and structures
 - Micro versus macro
 - Models of change (conflict and continuity)

Unit 2:Marxism From 1930s to 1970s

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- Frankfurt school and critical theory
 - Basic tenets of critical theory
 - Mass society and anti-enlightenment
 - Influence of critical theory on social theory
- Gramsci
 - Hegemony
 - Civil society

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Althusser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Theory of ideology 	
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Unit 3: Post Structuralism	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The movement from first wave to second wave structuralism • Michel Foucault -Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discourses of history ○ Discourse and power ○ Power-knowledge • Derrida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Logo centrisism ○ Difference 	

Unit 4: Recent Trends in Sociological Theory	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-modernism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baudrillard –Consumer society ○ Fredrik Jameson- The cultural logic of capitalism • Habermas- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ System and lifeworld • Giddens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Structure and agency dilemma • Bourdieu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integration approach-habitus and field 	

Assignments and library hours – 12 hours

Recommended Text Books:

1. Ransome Paul Social Theory Rawat Publication,2010
2. Ritzer G. and Barry Smart (ed) (2001), Handbook of Social Theory, London: Sage Publication. P. No. 179, 201, 308, 324, 439,
2. Ritzer George (ed) (2005), Encyclopedia of Social Theory, London: Sage Publication.
3. Bryan Turner, Chris Rojek and Craig Calhoun (ed) (2005), The Sage Handbook of Sociology, London: Sage Publication.
4. Adams and Sydie (ed): Sociological Theory, Vistar Publication, N, Delhi, 2001.
5. Giddens A. and Turner J. (1988), Social Theory Today, California: Stanford University Press.

6. Seidman Steven (1994), *Contested Knowledge- Social Theory in the Post-modern Era*, London Blackwell Publication.

Reference Books:

1. Smart Barry (2002), *Michel Foucault*, Routledge, London.
2. Cassell Philip (ed) (1987), *The Giddens Reader*, London: Macmillan Publication.
3. Charles Lemert (1995), *Sociology After the Crisis*, New York: Westview Press.
4. Alan How, *Critical Theory*, Palgrave Macmillan 2003
5. Anthony Giddens (1984), *The Constitution of Society. Outline of a Theory of Structuration*, California: University