



St. Xavier's College – Autonomous Mumbai

Syllabus For III Semester Courses in Anthropology (June 2019 onwards)

Contents:

Theory Syllabus for Courses:

AANT0301 - ETHNOGRAPHY: THEMES AND ISSUES I

AANT0302 - ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION

S.Y. B.A

Course: AANT0301

Title: ETHNOGRAPHY: THEMES AND ISSUES I

Learning Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the ethnographic method. The course will also seek to make students aware of the different debates within the discipline regarding the practice and art of ethnographic fieldwork and the writing up of final texts.
2. To introduce students to the significant themes that contemporary anthropology and ethnography deals with. This will enable students to understand the relevance and applications of anthropology in order to better choose future subject combinations in the Third Year. This is thus seen as a 'bridge course.'
3. Students will learn to apply what they learn in each chapter through an actual ethnography. Analysing an ethnographic account will give them the tools and critical skills necessary to do their own ethnographic work.

Number of lectures: 45

Unit I: Ethnography

[15 lectures]

- a. Positivist, Realist and post-modern perspectives
- b. Reflexivity and the politics of ethnographic practice.
- c. Classical bounded fieldwork vs. contemporary fluid, multi-sited ethnography.

Unit II: Visual and Virtual Ethnography

[15 lectures]

- a. Methods and pitfalls in doing Visual and Virtual Ethnography.
- b. Virtual Ethnography & Gender.
- c. Flexible identities.

Unit III: Anthropology of Sex and Gender

[15 lectures]

- a. The Meaning of sex, Sexual representations amongst anthropologists
- b. Sex: Performance, Difference, language of Rights.
- c. Sex and Space

CIA: Individual/Group Projects – Critically reviewing an actual Ethnography.

List of Recommended Reference Books

Unit I

Beteille, Andre (1992). "Caste, Class and Power." In *Social Stratification*, Dipankar Gupta (ed.). New Delhi: Oxford, 339-352.

Brewer, John D. (2000). *Ethnography*. Philadelphia: Open University Press.

Bryman, Alan (ed.). (2001). *Ethnography*. London: Sage Publications Ltd.

Fabian, Johannes. (2006). "The other revisited: Critical afterthoughts," *Anthropological Theory*, 6(2): 139–152.

Hammersley, Martyn & Atkinson, Paul. (2008). *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. Third Edition. London: Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group).

Srinivas, M. N. (1959). "The Dominant Caste in Rampura." *American Anthropologist*, **61**(1): 1-16.

Unit II

Horst, Heather A. & Miller, Daniel. (2012) *Digital Anthropology*. London: Berg.

Parkin, Simon. (2015) *Death by Videogame*. London: Profile Books Ltd.

Postill, John and Pink, Sarah. (2012) *Social Media Ethnography*. Media International Australia, 145: 123- 134.

Grimshaw, Anna. (2008). "Visual Anthropology," in *A new history of anthropology*, Henrika Kuklick (ed.). Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Loizos, P. (2001). Visual Anthropology, in *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, N. J. Smelser & P. B. Baltes (eds.). London: Elsevier. 16246-16249.

Lutgendorf, Philip. (2002). "Evolving a monkey: Hanuman, poster art and postcolonial anxiety." *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 36 (1-2): 71-112.

Pinney, Christopher. (1997). "The Nation (Un)Pictured? Chromolithography and 'Popular' Politics in India, 1878-1995," *Critical Inquiry*. 23(4): 834-867.

Uberoi, Patricia. (2002). "'Unity in diversity?' Dilemmas of nationhood in Indian calendar art." *Contributions to Indian Sociology*. 36(1-2): 191-232.

Unit III

Barton, Bernadette. (2007). "Managing the Toll of Stripping : Boundary Setting among Exotic Dancers," *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. **36**(5): 571-596.

Donnan, Hastings. (2010). *The anthropology of sex*. New York: Berg.

Hammers, Corie. (2009). "An Examination of Lesbian/Queer Bathroom Culture and the Social Organization of (Im)Personal Sex." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. **38**(3): 308-335.

Newmahr, Staci. (2008). "Becoming a SadoMasochist : Integrating Self and Other in Ethnographic Analysis." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. **37**(5): 619-643.

S.Y.B.A

Course: AANT0302

Title: ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION

Learning Objectives:

1. Familiarise the students with the initial anthropological studies on religion.
2. Introduce the students to the later works of anthropologists who have studied the religious phenomena.
3. Explore some recent developments in anthropology of religion with reference to India.

No. of Lectures: 45

UNIT I: An Overview of Anthropological approaches to religion [12 Lectures]

- a. Edward Tylor
- b. Talal Asad – ‘The construction of religion as an anthropological category’
- c. Evans-Pritchard on Nuer Religion
- d. Religion as a Cultural System – Clifford Geertz
- e. Victor Turner – liminality, communitas

UNIT II: Religious Language, Behavior and its performance/usage [22 lectures]

- a. Myth as religious language: Structural study of myths
- b. Religion, Language and Power
- c. Understanding the image of Sita
- d. Ritual and ritualization: Ritual ‘fields’, ritual performances and ‘social theatre’
- e. Asceticism as performance
- f. Martyrdom: Truth and Sacrifice: Sati Immolations in India.
- g. Sorcery, Witchcraft and the evil eye

UNIT III: Contemporary Developments [11 Lectures]

- a. ‘Freedom of speech’ and religious limitations
- b. Marketing Religions
- c. New age cults
- d. Representations of religion in film, video and internet
- e. Religious Fundamentalism: Hindu Nationalism and the Hindi Film

CIA: Written exam and Assignment

List of Recommended Reference Books

Unit I

Asad, T. The Construction of Religion as an Anthropological Category. Downloaded from http://www.iupui.edu/~womrel/Rel433%20Readings/01_SearchableTextFiles/Asad_ConstructionOfReligionAnthroCategory.pdf on March 08, 2012.

Defflem, M. (1991). Ritual, Anti-Structure and Religion: A Discussion of Victor Turner's Processual Symbolic Analysis. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 30 (1): 1 – 25.

Eller, J.D. (2007). *Introducing Anthropology of Religion: Culture to the Ultimate*. London and New York, Routledge: 1 – 28.

Fortes, M. (1987). *Religion, Morality and the Person: Essays on Tallensi Religion*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Geertz, C. (1973). *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York, Basic Books Inc: 87 – 125.

Glazier, S.D & C.A. Flowerday (eds.). (2003). *Selected Readings in Anthropology of Religion: Theoretical and Methodological Essays*. Westport & London, Praeger.

Hackett, R.I.J. (2005). *Anthropology of Religion*. J. R. Hinnels (ed.). *The Routledge Companion to the Study of Religion*. London and New Yourk, Routledge: 144 – 163.
Morris, B. (2006). *Religion and Anthropology: A Critical Introduction*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Unit II

Bradley, Tamsin. (2006). *Challenging the NGOs: Women, Religion and Western Dialogues in India*. London and New York: Tauris Academic Studies. Pp. 65-115.
Eller, J.D. (2007). *Introducing Anthropology of Religion: Culture to the Ultimate*. London and New York, Routledge: 82-108
Green, N. & M. Searle-Chatterjee. (eds.). (2008). *Religion, Language and Power*. London & New York, Routledge.

Unit III

Cormack, M. (ed.) (2002). *Sacrificing the Self: Perspectives on Martyrdom and Religion*. New York, Oxford University Press
Eller, J.D. (2007). *Introducing Anthropology of Religion: Culture to the Ultimate*. London and New York, Routledge: 109-133.
Flood, G. (2004). *The Ascetic Self: Subjectivity, Memory and Tradition*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
Harlan, Lindsay (2002). *Truth and Sacrifice: Sati Immolations in India*. M. Cormack. (ed.). *Sacrificing the Self: Perspectives on Martyrdom and Religion*. New York, Oxford University Press: 118-131.
Feldhaus, A. (2003). *Connected Places: Region, Pilgrimage and Geographical Imagination in India*. New York, Palgrave Macmillan: 17 – 43.
Dwyer, G. (2003). *The Divine and the Demonic: Supernatural affliction and its treatment in North India*. London and New York, Routledge: 51 – 81.

Unit IV

Asad, Talal (2011). *Freedom of speech and religious limitations*. C. Calhoun et al. (eds.). *Rethinking Secularism*. New York, Oxford University Press: 282-297.
Einstein, M. (2008). *Brands of Faith: Marketing Religion in a Commercial Age*. London and New York, Routledge.
Csordas, T.J. (2007). *Global religion and the re-enchantment of the world: the case of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal*. *Anthropological Theory*. 7(3): 295-314. DOI: 10.1177/1463499607080192.
Dwyer, R. (2005). *The Saffron Screen? Hindu Nationalism and the Hindi Film*.in B. Meyer and A. Moors. (eds.). *Religion, Media and the Public Sphere*. Bloomington, Indiana University Pres: 273 – 289.
Krishnan, Prabha. (2011). *The Self Healing the Self*. Mumbai: Research Centre for Women's Studies, SNDT Women's University.