St. Xavier’s College – Autonomous
Mumbai

Syllabus
For 3rd Semester Courses in Anthropology
(June 2013 onwards)

Contents:
Theory Syllabus for Courses:
A.ANT.3.01 - ETHNOGRAPHY: THEMES AND ISSUES I
A.ANT.3.02 - ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION
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 [12 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: Environment and Culture [11 lectures]
  a. Sociological Possibilism, Cultural Ecology,
  b. Bioenergetics and systems view, cognitive approaches
  c. Neo Darwinist approaches, Historical Ecology, political agendas

Unit III: Sports and Anthropology [11 lectures]
  a. Gender, nationhood, politics.
  b. Manufacturing Heroes, icons and celebrities.
  c. Audience and supporters.

Unit IV: Anthropology of Sex [11 lectures]
  a. The Meaning of sex, Sexual representations amongst anthropologists
  c. Sex and Space

CIA: Individual/Group Projects – Critically reviewing an actual Ethnography.
List of Recommended Reference Books

Unit I

Unit II

Unit III

Unit IV
SYBA

COURSE: A.ANT.3.02

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 1: An Overview of Anthropological approaches to religion [12 Lectures]
Edward Tylor
Talal Asad – ‘The construction of religion as an anthropological category’
Evan-Pritchard on Nuer Religion
Religion as a Cultural System – Clifford Geertz
Victor Turner – liminality, communitas

UNIT 2: Religious Language [11 Lectures]
Myth as religious language
Structural study of myths
Religious language as performance
Religion, Language and Power
Understanding the image of Sita

UNIT 3: Religious Behaviour [11 Lectures]
Ritual and ritualization: Ritual ‘fields’, ritual performances and ‘social theatre’
Asceticism as performance
Martyrdom: Truth and Sacrifice: Sati Immolations in India.
Pilgrimage: Rivers and Regional Consciousness
Sorcery, Witchcraft and the evil eye

UNIT 4: Contemporary Developments [11 Lectures]
‘Freedom of speech’ and religious limitations
Marketing Religions
Global religion and the re-enchantment of the world: the case of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal
New age cults
Representations of religion in film, video and internet
Religious Fundamentalism: Hindu Nationalism and the Hindi Film
List of Recommended Reference Books

**Unit 1**

- Note: For full bibliographies of these works, please consult the course syllabus and other recommended reading materials.

**Unit 2**


**Unit 3**

Unit 4


