



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

S.Y. B.A

Course: A.ANT.3.01

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
- 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

1. Beteille, Andre (1992). "Caste, Class and Power." In *Social Stratification*, Dipankar Gupta (ed.). New Delhi: Oxford, 339-352.
2. Brewer, John D. (2000). *Ethnography*. Philadelphia: Open University Press.
3. Bryman, Alan (ed.). (2001). *Ethnography*. London: Sage Publications Ltd.
4. Fabian, Johannes. (2006). "The other revisited: Critical afterthoughts," *Anthropological Theory*, **6**(2): 139–152.
5. Hammersley, Martyn & Atkinson, Paul. (2008). *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. Third Edition. London: Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group).
6. Srinivas, M. N. (1959). "The Dominant Caste in Rampura." *American Anthropologist*, **61**(1): 1-16.

Unit II

1. Auyero, Javier. (2007). "Confused because exposed: Towards an ethnography of environmental suffering." *Ethnography*, **8**(2): 123–144.
2. Ellen, R. (2001). "Environment and Anthropology," in *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, N. J. Smelser & P. B. Baltes (eds.). London: Elsevier. 4556-4560.
3. Gille, Zsuzsa. (2001). "Critical Ethnography in the Time of Globalization: Toward a New Concept of Site." *Cultural Studies, Critical Methodologies*, **1**(3): 319-334.
4. Milton, Kay. (1996). *Environmentalism and cultural theory: exploring the role of anthropology in environmental discourse*. New York: Routledge.

Unit III

1. Archetti, E. P. (2001). Anthropology of Sport. in *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, N. J. Smelser & P. B. Baltes (eds.). London: Elsevier. 1491314916.
2. Messner, Michael A. (2002). *Taking the field : women, men, and sports*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
3. Nalapat, Abilash & Parker, Andrew. (2005). "Sport, Celebrity and Popular Culture: Sachin Tendulkar, Cricket and Indian Nationalisms." *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, **40**(4): 433–446.
4. Sugden, John. (2007). "Inside the Grafters" Game: An Ethnographic Examination of Football's Underground Economy." *Journal of Sport & Social Issues*, **31**(3): 242-258.

Unit IV

1. Barton, Bernadette. (2007). "Managing the Toll of Stripping : Boundary Setting among Exotic Dancers," *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. **36**(5): 571-596.
2. Donnan, Hastings. (2010). *The anthropology of sex*. New York: Berg.
3. Hammers, Corie. (2009). "An Examination of Lesbian/Queer Bathhouse Culture and the Social Organization of (Im)Personal Sex." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. **38**(3): 308-335.
4. Newmahr, Staci. (2008). "Becoming a Sadomasochist : Integrating Self and Other in Ethnographic Analysis." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. **37**(5): 619-643.

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’

Evans-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

- 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 2

- 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 3

- 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 4

- 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. The Saffron Screen? Hindu Nationalism and the Hindi Film. B. Meyer and A. Moors. (eds.). *Religion, Media and the Public Sphere*. Bloomington, Indiana University Press: 273 – 289.
- Krishnan, Prabha. (2011). *The Self Healing the Self*. Mumbai: Research Centre for Women's Studies, SNDT Women's University.