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
- c. Sex and Space

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

List of Recommended Reference Books

Unit I

**Unit II**

**Unit III**
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

**Unit II**

**Unit III**

**Unit IV**