

ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORIES

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE -8 (DSC-8) – Anthropological Theories

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical / Practice		
Anthropological theories- DSC-8	04	03	Nil	01	Passed 12	NIL

Course Objective

- This is an introductory course on the main theoretical approaches which historically and traditionally guided anthropological research and understanding of society and culture.
- The course would involve theory as well as practical.
- The practical will skill the students to apply the approaches critically to study of actual social issues and problems.

Course Learning Outcomes

- The students will be able to explain the major theoretical paradigms in anthropology and link it with the social, political and economic contexts in which they have emerged.
- They should also be able to explain clearly how these ideas have contributed to the process, structure, pattern and search for meanings by human beings.

Syllabus of DSC-8

Unit 1 (15 Hours)

Anthropological Paradigms, Nature of Anthropological Knowledge, Interface with evolutionary theory and colonialism, changing perspectives on Evolutionism, Diffusionism and Culture area theories.

Unit 2 (10 Hours)

Durkheim and social integration, Functionalism and Structural-functionalism and British Social Anthropology; Culture and Psychology

Unit 3 (10 Hours)

Structuralism: Claude Levi-Strauss and Edmund Leach

Unit 4 (10 Hours)

Symbolic and Interpretative approaches; Decolonization and Antistructure, and Contemporary anthropology

Practical (30 Hours)

Practical would focus upon developing skills wherein following exercises will be undertaken by the students so as to enable them to connect the anthropological theories to the empirical world of living.

1. Identify a topic relating to contemporary issue and formulate research questions and clearly identify the theoretical perspectives from which they are derived.
2. Identification of variables of a study.
3. Various types of hypothesis ; Formulation of hypothesis; hypothesis testing and exploratory research
4. Identification of universe and unit of study with justifications.
5. Choice of appropriate research technique and method in the context of theoretical framework. Data collection and analysis

References

- Applebaum H.A. (1987) Perspectives in Cultural Anthropology. Albany: State University of New York.
- Barnard A. (2000). History and Theory in Anthropology. Cambridge: Cambridge University.
- Bernard, H. R. (2017). Research methods in anthropology: Qualitative and quantitative approaches. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Mark Moberg (2013). Engaging Anthropological Theory : London and NY: Routledge McGee
- Pelto, P. J., & Pelto, G. H. (1978). Anthropological research: The structure of inquiry. Cambridge University Press.
- R.J. and Warms R.L. (1996) Anthropological Theories: An Introductory History.

Additional Readings

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. The Interpretation of Cultures. New York: Basic Books

Moore M. and Sanders T. (2006). Anthropology in Theory: Issues in Epistemology, Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Teaching Learning Process

The students will be encouraged to reflect and apply the ideas introduced to them. Case studies and ethnographies will be read and students will be taught to how to analyze the theoretical perspectives used therein. Wherever possible documentaries and short ethnographic movies will also be shown and discussed in the class

Keywords: Evolutionism, Diffusionism, Durkheim and social integration, Functionalism and Structural- functionalism and British Social Anthropology Durkheim and social integration, Functionalism and Structural-functionalism and British Social Anthropology, Symbolic and Interpretative approaches.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.