

BA.LL.B (HONS.) – III-SEMESTER

SOCIOLOGY-I

COURSE CODE:

Course Objective: This course introduces the discipline of sociology to law students. Law and legal systems are integral part of our society and they are always embedded in the socio-cultural context in which they operate. The law is shaped by societal norms and at the same time defines those societal norms as well. The way we define various social aspects such as gender, sexuality, caste, marriage, immigration, role of the state, place of the individual, crime and deviance, economy and market dynamics, etc., are all under the purview of law. Thus, a sociological perspective is introduced to students through this course in understanding law and how it is embedded within a social milieu.

Course Outcomes:

1. To introduce and understand the discipline of sociology and various conceptual, theoretical and sociological perspectives on society and law
2. To explore the terrain of research methods and their utility in social sciences
3. To analyze the connection between law and various societal factors and understand how professions and occupations are viewed in the current socio-cultural context
4. To identify the changing nature of social institutions and the impact of these transformations on the law
5. To critically evaluate the potential as well as limitations of law as a tool of social control

UNIT-I: Basic Concepts: Sociology: meaning, scope and subject matter, antecedents and emergence of the discipline, theoretical perspectives, and research methods. Society, Community, Association, Institutions, Social groups: Meaning and classification of social groups, family, traditional, and modern.

UNIT-II: Pioneers of Sociological Thought: Auguste Comte: Law of three stages, positivism, and religion of humanity; Emile Durkheim: social solidarity, division of labour, elementary forms of religion, and analysis of suicide; Karl Marx: Marxian concept of social change (dialectical materialism), capitalism & class struggle, and dominant ideology & false consciousness, Max Weber: religion & capitalism, class-status-power, social action, and power & authority.

UNIT-III: Contemporary Sociological Thought: Talcott Parsons: value consensus & social equilibrium, systems theory & functionalist prerequisites, and pattern variables; Robert Merton: reevaluating functionalist analysis, and analysis of deviance; Niklas Luhmann: systems theory, and Autopoiesis; Antonio Gramsci and Neo-Marxism; Ralph Dahrendorf and social conflict; Michel Foucault: discipline, surveillance, and power; Symbolic Interactionism - C. H. Cooley, George Herbert Mead, Herbert Blumer; Anthony Giddens and structuration; Modernity, Post modernity and Postmodernism.

UNIT-IV: Social order and social progress: Social change, meaning, factors; Distinction between social and cultural change; Social control: meaning and importance of social control, means of social control - public opinion and propaganda; rehabilitation and punishment; agencies of social control: religion, family and state; Social stratification - class, status, power, race, gender, sexuality, inter sectionality, and poverty.

UNIT-V: Sociology of Profession: Profession and Professionalisms, Distinction between profession and occupation, society and professional Ethics, Sociology of Law, Relationship between Law and society.

Reference Books:

1. T.K. Oommen & C.N. Venugopal, Sociology (Social Sciences for Law Students Series)
2. M.Haralambos, Sociology: Theme and Perspectives
3. T.B.Bottomore, Sociology: A Guide to problems and literature