Learning Outcomes based Curriculum Framework for Ph D in Sociology
(Program Structure and Syllabus of Coursework)

1. Preamble

The PhD program is a five year long academic program that spreads over ten semesters with an aim to cultivate and nurture the spirit of scholarly engagement among learners with a sociological perspective. The program begins with a rigorous course-work component followed by guided research in close association with a supervisor. The coursework includes core courses that orient learners towards a deeper engagement with theoretical perspectives and methodological issues in the discipline of sociology complemented by the elective courses reflecting the contemporary debates in specific domains of specialisation. The major part of the program is devoted to the process of planning and working towards developing a PhD thesis in the guidance of the supervisor and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in a specified domain.

2. Introduction (The present need and the approach in the curriculum)

The PhD program in the department was initiated in the year 2008 with a vision to initiate a process of deeper understanding of social processes and institutions. The program is geared towards developing among learners a rigorous methodological orientations and the aptitude to identify the gaps in existing research and, thereby, contributing towards the process of generation of knowledge in the disciplinary domain of sociology with a particular focus on Northeast Indian society. The syllabi of the PhD coursework, therefore, reflects the focus on theoretical, methodological, epistemic and ethical issues on one hand, and compliments it with an array of elective courses with specialisation in emergent areas of discipline.

3. Qualification descriptors for the graduates

PhD graduate in sociology is expected to demonstrate a number of qualifications that include

Knowledge & Understanding

a. In-depth understanding of theoretical debates and methodological issues

b. Cutting edge knowledge in specific domains

Skills & Techniques

1. The ability to use appropriate methodological approach for a specific research problem
2. The ability to design appropriate tools for data collection and select applications for data analysis.
3. The ability to communicate the findings of research to the academic community and society at large.

Competence

1. Critical reading of texts, policy documents and reports and other sources and an engagement with the community through systematic process of fieldwork.
2. Planning and designing of research with the help of appropriate tools and techniques.
3. Technical writing for the academic community adhering to the norms of research ethics and communicating on socially relevant issues for a wider audience.

4. Graduates Attributes

The graduating student of the PhD program in Sociology is expected to reflect particular qualities and abilities of a learner which include not just their **in-depth knowledge of the subject domain** but also include the abilities of **analytical and critical thinking** that helps them to **apply their knowledge** in a given context. A PhD graduate is trained in the process of **systematic pursuit of**

advancement of knowledge through a synthesis of **theoretical and methodological engagement** in a defined area of research and **effective communication of** their understanding in different platforms.

5. Program structure of the PhD Coursework

Course category	No of courses	Credits per course	Total Credits
I. CORE COURSES	2	4	8
II. ELECTIVE COURSE (2 out of 7 offered)	2	4	8
III RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ETHICS	1	2	2
Total			18

6 Program Outcomes

PO 1: The graduate acquires the ability of comprehensive and in-depth reading of the relevant literature and the capacity to review the same.

PO 2: The graduate gains the ability to identify gaps in a specified domain of knowledge and formulate specific research questions.

PO 3: The graduate develops the professional skills and techniques associated with the process of designing, selecting, and using appropriate tools and techniques of research using qualitiative and/or quantitative approach, and the ability to analyse primary and secondary data.

PO 4: The graduate develops the capacity to engage in the process of knowledge generation in the subject domain, particularly in the context of north east India.

PO 5: The graduate gains the ability of effective communication through academic and popular writing and other social engagements while adhering to the ethics of research.

7. Mapping of course with program outcomes (POs)

	PO 1	PO 2	PO3	PO4	PO5
SC 731 Theoretical Perspectives	x	x	-	-	x
SC 732 Research Methodology	x	-	x	-	x
SC 741 Urban Sociology	x	x	-	X	x
SC 742 Sociology of Mass Media	x	x	-	X	x
SC 743 Masculinity Studies	x	x	-	X	x
SC 744 Sociology and Public Policy	x	x	-	X	x
SC 745 Doing Ethnography	x	-	x	-	x
SC 746 Land, Livelihood and Agrarian Structure	x	x	-	X	x
SC 747 Gender, Community and State	x	x	-	X	x
*CPE-RPE Research and Publication Ethics	-	-	-	-	x

*Research and Publication Ethics is a UGC mandated course

8. Evaluation plan:

The program follows a comprehensive and systematic plan of evaluating. During the coursework period, the core and elective courses are assessed by respective course instructors as per the criterion developed by each of them in the beginning of the course. The assessment methods focus on a variety of competencies reflected in written assignments in the form of long essays or term papers, seminars and paper presentations, book reviews, and in pre-announced written tests. After successful completion of the coursework, the scholars engage more deeply with the area of their identified research with supervisor and present their plans of research. A doctoral committee is constituted for every scholar to assist, guide and monitor the progress made by them through a progress seminar which is organised every semester. In this period the scholar engages deeply with theoretical and methodological debates in their area of interest and carry out their own study. The research work culminates in a dissertation that is assessed by three examiners, ie. supervisor and two external examiners. The assessment of the dissertation is followed by an oral defence evaluation by the candidate.

9. DETAILED SYLLABUS

SC 731 Theoretical Perspectives **(L3 - T1 - P0 - CH 4 - CR 4)**

Course Outcome

CO1: Ability to test the relevance of classical sociological theory in addressing social realities.

CO2: Ability to critically question the epistemic foundations of western sociological theory.

CO3: Ability to identify the relevant theoretical and apply the same to oneôs area of interest.

Unit I: Conceptualising Structure

- Idea of Collective
- Historical Materialism
- Structuralism

Unit II: Structure and Subjectivity

a) Interpretative Sociology
b) Phenomenology
c) Symbolic Interactionism

Unit III: Negotiating Agency and Structure

a) Structure-Agency debate
b) Power and subject formation

Unit IV: Modernity and its Discontents

a) Understanding modernity
b) Postmodernism
c) Decolonising Theory

Reference Book(s)/Article(s)

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SC 732 Research Methodology **(L3 - T1 - P0 - CH 4 - CR 4)**

Course Outcome

CO 1: To critically engage with the philosophical debates in social science research
CO 2: To reflexively locate onesô epistemological and ontological positions while doing research
CO 3: To critically engage with the emerging methods of data collection & analysis and apply it in their research process
CO 4: To design and conduct ethnographic research and social surveys
CO 5: To address ethical issues in designing, conducting, and writing research reports

Course Content

Unit I: Philosophy and Approaches

a) Epistemology and Ontology
b) Objectivity and Subjectivity
c) Feminist and subaltern critique
d) Decolonising Methodology

Unit II: Ethnography

a) Meanings as Objects of Study
b) Ethnographic Method and Writing
c) Ethnographic Representation

Unit III: Quantification in Social Sciences

a) Statistics- Applications
b) Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
c) SPSS
d) Statistics ï Limitations

Unit IV: Methods of Doing Research

a) Ethics, Politics and Culture in Research
b) Interviewing: Structured and Unstructured
c) Case study, Life History, Oral Narratives, Visual methods
d) Qualitative Data Analysis: Narratives, Conversational, Textual, and Visual Analysis
e) Software for Qualitative data analysis

Reference Book(s)/Article(s)

Alcoff, L., & Potter, E. (1993). *Feminist epistemologies*. New York: Routledge. Allaine, C and Malkki, L. (2007). *Improvising Theory: Process and Temporality in Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

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SC741 Urban Sociology **(L3 - T1 - P0 - CH 4 - CR 4)**

Course Outcome

CO 1: Acquire an understanding of the various sociological perspectives on urbanization.

CO 2: Be acquainted with the manifestations of urbanizations across the world.

CO 3: To gain knowledge of the existing and emerging models of urban planning and governance.

CO 4: Develop an understanding of the emerging cultural practices, concerns and challenges of urbanization.

Course Content

Unit I: Introduction

a) Historical Perspective

b) Chicago School

c) Critical Perspectives

Unit II: Contextualizing Urbanization

a) Global North

b) Global South

c) Indian context

Unit III: Urban Planning and Governance

a) Governance Models

b) Urban Planning and Policy

c) Emerging Models

Unit IV: Contemporary Urban Issues and Challenges

a) New Cultural forms/practices

b) Ecological Concerns

c) Emerging Challenges

Reference Book(s)/Article(s)

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SC742 Sociology of Mass Media (L3 - T1 - P0 - CH 4 - CR 4)

Course Outcome

CO 1: Ability to explain the transformation in mass media from its earliest form to the present.

CO 2: Ability to dissect the interconnections between mass media, state and politics.

CO 3: Ability to understand the working of mass media and make use of its services.

Course Content

UNIT I: Mass Media and Society: Interface and Transformation

a) Message, Medium, and Audience/Readers

b) Traditional Media, New Media, and Social Media

UNIT II: Mass Media and Society: Approaches

a) Semiotics

b) Critical Theory

c) Cultural Studies Post-modern

UNIT III: Media, State, and Politics

a) Media as Public Sphere

b) Media Regulation

c) Media and Politics

UNIT IV: Mass Media in India

a) Genealogies of State Media

b) Private media and Consumerism

c) Politics and Nationalism in Indian media

Reference Book(s) / Article(s)

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SC 743 Masculinity Studies **(L3 - T1 - P0 - CH 4 - CR 4)**

Course Outcome

CO 1: Critically engage with the theoretical approaches and the empirical contexts of performing multiple masculinities

CO 2: To have dialogues with feminisms, sexualities and queer politics

CO 3: Critically examine performance of masculinities in the margins and inclusive narratives emerging from diverse contexts

CO 4: Critically engage with dominant as well as alternative masculinities in Indian contexts and the debates around it

Unit I: Understanding Masculinities

a) Masculinities as Ideologies and Performances
b) Masculinity Studies: Dialogue with Feminisms, Sexualities and Queer Politics
c) Modernity, Nationalism and Masculinities

Unit II: Masculinities in the Margins

a) Black Masculinities
b) Gay Masculinities
c) Trans Masculinities

Unit III: Inclusivity and Heteroflexibility

a) Becoming Queer
b) Affective Masculinities
c) Body and masculinity

Unit IV: Contours of Masculinities in India

a) Hegemonic and Toxic Masculinities
b) Alternate Masculinities and trans communities
c) The state and the Article 377 debate
d) LGBTQAI+ Movements

Reference Book(s)/Article(s)

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SC744 Sociology and Public Policy

(L3 - T1 - P0 - CH 4 - CR 4)

Course Outcome

CO 1: Ability to define the concepts and theoretical perspectives related to policy research in the domain of sociology. CO 2: Ability to examine these concepts in the specific context of India.

CO 3: Ability to apply their understanding and use it in the monitoring and evaluation study.

Course Content

Unit I: Contextualising Public Policy

a) Issues and Approaches to the Study of Public Policy

b) Understanding Sociology and Public Policy

UNIT-II: Theories on Public Policy

a) Theoretical perspectives on public policy

b) Ethics and Public Policy

c) Social Norms

UNIT-III: Power and Public Policy

a) Political Power and Public Policy

b) Agenda Setting in Policy Making

UNIT IV: Monitoring and Evaluation

a) Understanding Monitoring and Evaluation

b) Policy Monitoring and Evaluation in Indian Context

Reference Book(s) / Article(s)

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SC 745 Doing Ethnography

(L3 - T1 - P0 - CH 4 - CR 4)

Course outcome

CO 1: Capability to describe the concepts and approaches related to ethnographic study.

CO 2: Ability to examine these concepts during their field study.

CO 3: Ability to apply their understanding to various critical issues related to ethnographic research.

Course Content

UNIT I: Aspects of Ethnography

a) Philosophy of Ethnography

b) Changing Conceptions of Sociological and Anthropological Field Research

UNIT II: Ethnography and Subjectivity

a) Taking field notes

b) Issues of subjectivity

UNIT III: Writing Ethnography

a) Identity and Ethnography

b) Authorship

c) Writing

UNIT IV: Critical Ethnography

a) Politics in Ethnography

b) Reflexivity and Ethnography

Reference Book(s) / Article(s)

Abu-Lughod, L. (2016). *Veiled Sentiments.* LA: University of California Press

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SC746 Land, Livelihood and Agrarian Structure

(L3 - T1 - P0 - CH 4 - CR 4)

Course Outcome

CO 1: Ability to explain the social and economic relations in rural India.

CO 2: Ability to understand the issues and problems of agrarian structure

CO 3: Ability to use the theoretical understandings of agrarian relations in everyday life.

Course Content

Unit I: Understanding Rural Sociology

a) Village Studies

b) Approaches and Methods

Unit II: Rural Societies in India

a) Composition and Social Institutions

b) Agrarian Structure

Unit III: Movement and Mobilisation

a) Peasant Movement

b) Land Reforms

c) Contemporary Peasant Mobilisations

Unit IV: Livelihood Issues in Rural India

a) Agrarian Distress

b) Out-Migration

Reference Book(s) / Article(s)

Agarwal, B. (1995). *A field of one's own: Gender and land r* New Delhi: Cambridge

Agarwal, B. & Agarwal, A. (2017). Do farmers really like farming? Indian farmers in transition. *Journal of Oxford Developmental Studies, 45*(4)

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SC747 Gender, Community and State (L3 - T1 - P0 - CH 4 –CR)

Course Outcome

CO 1: Understanding of the feminist theoretical and methodological positions vis-à-vis concepts of state, community, religion and notions of group identity.

CO 2: Application of the gained knowledge in reviewing the politics of knowledge production

CO 3: Synthesising the understanding towards examination and articulation of contemporary issues in the Global South.

Course Content

Unit I: Introduction

a) Woman and Community
b) Third World Women and Colonialism

Unit II: State and Politics of Representation

a) Patriarchal State and Citizenship rights
b) Redistribution & Recognition

Unit III: Gender and Nation

a) Women and nationalism
b) Cultural majoritarianism
c) Transnationalism and womenôs politics in a Post-national state

Unit IV: Gender and Religion

a) Women in Religious tradition
b) Secularism and its critique
c) Faith, Piety and womenôs movement

Reference Book(s) / Article(s)

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CPE-RPE RESEARCH AND PUBLIC ETHICS

L 2 T P CR 2

Course outcomes

CO 1: Develop awareness about publication ethics and publication related misconduct CO

2: Ability to develop an understanding about philosophy of science and ethics

CO 3: Ability to develop skills to use indexing, citation data base and plagiarism tools

Course content

UNIT 1: Theory

a) RPE 01 Philosophy and ethics

1. Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
2. Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions

b) RPE 02 Scientific conduct

1. Ethics with respect to science and research
2. Intellectual honesty and research integrity
3. Scientific misconduct: Falsification, fabrication and plagiarism
4. Redundant publications: duplication and overlapping publications, salami slicing
5. Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

c) RPE03 Publication Ethics

1. Publication ethics: definition, introduction, and importance
2. Best practices/standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME etc
3. Conflicts of interest
4. Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behaviour and vice versa, types
5. Violation of publication ethics, authorship, and pBT5/F2trTm0 gnc¥i0t812oQq0.0000088t95.e of moral