

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES (SLS)

SLS offers a range of interdisciplinary and overlapping programmes that support, encourage and redefine liberal arts education through cutting-edge interdisciplinary courses, interactive pedagogy and learning that goes beyond classroom spaces.

MA SOCIOLOGY

The MA Programme in Sociology is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills that will make them engaged citizens of the world capable of critical thinking and reflective action. It focuses on orienting students to the relationship between text and context, self and society, and the past and present. It is hoped that students develop a reflexive awareness of the historicity of the social and the ability to locate the history of the discipline within the sociology of knowledge production. The Programme envisages its students as compassionate, engaged researchers and active learners committed to the principles of social justice. Graduates from our Programme are thus taught to think across disciplines and to ask questions from multiple vantage points while maintaining a firm sociological 'grounding' when exploring specific research issues.

DESCRIPTION OF CORE COURSES

Social Theory 1: Classical Theory

This course explores frameworks of analysis, perspectives and paradigms that seek to explain society and aspects within it. It starts by exploring some foundational ideas and philosophies underlying social theories and then goes on to discuss the founders of theoretical discourses in sociology. The founding sociologists concentrated on are Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and Georg Simmel.

Social Theory 2: Contemporary Theory

Our reading of contemporary theory is comparative and historical in ways that productively extend students' knowledge of classical social theory. This course examines exemplary works that address a range of social issues and develop varied theoretical standpoints — from later strands in hermeneutics to contemporary forms of discourse analysis, post-Marxism, post-structuralism, post-modernism, post-colonialism and feminism — which are germane to a wide variety of substantive fields in the social sciences.

Social Research

This course begins by introducing the epistemological foundations of a major methodological tradition in social sciences – Positivism and

its implications for the pursuit of research. Building on the debates on Positivism, the course trains students in the formulation of research problems, research design and various techniques of data collection. Here the objective of the course is to expose students to various statistical methods of data analysis and computer aided packages such as MS Excel, SPSS and AtLasti.

Sociology of Indian Society

This course introduces students to the growth and development of sociology in India and the debates pertaining to it. It traces the trajectories of 'can there be a Sociology of India' debate initiated in 1957 by Dumont and Pocock. Whether the tradition - modernity continuum is still a relevant frame, whether there are distinct schools as articulated by some scholars or whether historicising Indian society is a way out - are some of the questions the course will address. In addition, the course examines the dominant and central themes, namely village dynamics, caste and Kinship networks, of the early sociology in India and how the disciplinary focus gradually came to include themes on gender, sexuality, dalit studies, and media.

Culture, Hierarchy and Difference

This course examines the ways in which culture re/produces difference, hierarchy and inequality and produces individuals as cultural subjects. Reimagining a conventional course on Social Stratification, this course aims at theoretically understanding culture as a site where hierarchy and difference are played out. Besides, theoretically traversing subaltern and cultural studies pathways, issues in Indian culture and polity are some of the key debates.

Protests, Movements and Transformations

Social Movements and Protests as social phenomena are increasingly becoming ubiquitous in today's world. Instead of perceiving social movements as 'crowd pathology or 'mass hysteria', Sociology asserts that social movements are diverse, creative and progressive as they carry alternative voices and ultimately reconstruct society. While protests are the strategic manifestations of any social movement, social and political transformation is what they seek to achieve. The aim of this course is to make the students understand how social agents collectively strive for social change by questioning the established power structures of any society.

Economy, Polity and Society

This course aims to capture Indian society in transition, and studies the specific character of economic and political modernisations in India. It moves away from the trinity model whereby market, state and society appear as three distinct entities, towards an examination of the complex process of institution building shaped by colonial modernity and nation building in post-colonial India. The course exposes students to the changing political economy of India. Apart from looking at state and market as grand institutions articulating and drafting rules of governance, the course visits the idea of everyday state and market. The objective here is to view institutionalisation from the bottom.

Faith, Religion and Society

Religion, as a social phenomenon, is of critical importance in the contemporary world. The impact of positivism and classical modernity's fetish for science, however, brought about a momentary eclipse of the ideas of faith and divinity, and god appeared to be on the death bed in the social science discourse. The questions of and about life and death, the worldly and otherworldly continued to engage human minds. The course is important as it introduces students to the world of divinity and the structures of domination within it; and prepares them to make sense of the dynamics of diversity that exists and defines the world of faith and spirituality.

Relationships and Affinities

Study of society is a study of human relationships —through blood, marriage, adoption, friendship, and labour. The need for this course emanates from the complex and continuously changing nature of inter-personal relationships in modern, globalised societies. The theoretical perspective of the course is influenced by micro-sociology as the analytical point of departure is relationships and intimacies rather than heterosexual marriage and family.

Sociology Elective Courses*

Social Exclusion
Agrarian Societies
Law and Society
Culture, Health and Systems of Healing
Science, Technology and Society

*Sociology Elective Courses are offered according to interests (and availability) of faculty members as well as expressed preferences of students. Course details will be provided before the commencement of each semester.

The Programme encourages students to take at least 8 credits of Elective Courses outside the discipline of Sociology to experiencing other knowledge areas. Non-Sociology courses taken by Sociology students have included Space and Spectatorship, Gender and Education, and Gendered Memory: Women Writings from the North East.

DURATION 2 years (4 semesters) Full Time

NUMBER OF CREDITS 64

FEES* Rs.1,250 per credit + Rs.500 per semester for Student Welfare Fund + Rs. 5,000 refundable caution deposit.

Partial/ full fee waivers and scholarships available. (*subject to approval)

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION English

AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI (AUD)
LOTHIAN ROAD, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI 110 006



PROGRAMME FEATURES

Develops the writing, research, library research, and presentation skills through Workshop on Expressions

Course on Organisational Exposure introduces students to a range of sites/organisations in and around Delhi that engage in social science research, policy making and advocacy

Develops the skills necessary to write a Dissertation with the experience of applying the knowledge that one gathers in a theoretical course on Social Research

Close guided interaction with supervisors on area of research, field site, and research questions while framing the Dissertation Proposal prior to writing it

Encourages hands-on experiences to connect theory with praxis.

COURSE DESCRIPTION*

SEMESTER 1

Core Courses

- Social Theory 1
- Sociology of Indian Society
- Culture, Hierarchy & Difference
- Protests, Movements and Transformations

SEMESTER 2

Core Courses

- Social Theory 2
- Social Research
- Workshop on Expressions (2)

Elective

- Elective 1

SEMESTER 3

Core Courses

- Economy, Polity and Society
- Faith Religion and Society
- Modern Indian Social Thought (2)
- Dissertation proposal (2)

Elective

- Elective 2

SEMESTER 4

Core Courses

- Relationships and Affinities
- Dissertation

Elective

- Elective 3
- Elective 4

*(all courses are of 4 credits except where indicated)

ADMISSIONS 2014

SEATS

42 (including reservations in accordance with the Government of NCT of Delhi norms).

HOSTEL

AUD has about 40 seats for women in its Hostel in Kashmere Gate and about 20 seats for men in Dwarka.

ELIGIBILITY (Essential)

Bachelors degree with minimum 45% marks (or equivalent grade) from a recognised University in any discipline (relaxation of 5% for candidates belonging to SC/ ST/ PD categories).

Candidates appearing for the final year examination of a degree can also apply.

ONLINE APPLICATION

1 May to 16 June 2014

ENTRANCE TEST

4 July 2014

ON CAMPUS APPLICATION

26 May – 16 June 2014

INTERVIEWS

10 – 11 July 2014

*Consult AUD website for entrance specific information.

Application Fees: Rs.400
(Rs.200 for SC/ST/PD)



For more information: www.aud.ac.in
Contact us: +91-11-2386 4060, 2386 3742
Write to us: deansls@aud.ac.in or rukmini@aud.ac.in

MA SOCIOLOGY

2014-2016

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