

Syllabus
Panjab University, Chandigarh
M.A. Sociology
SOC O 832 : (Family in Cross Cultural Perspective)

Objective

Students' exposure to this course intends to facilitate their comparative understanding of family and gender relations in different societies. Another aim is to make the students aware whether the family is the basic institution in all societies and whether family as an institution is near the point of extinction or restructuring itself and as a consequence many alternative lifestyles to traditional marriage and family living are emerging.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER-SETTER AND THE CANDIDATES

- (i) The theory question paper will be of 80 marks and 20 marks will be for internal assessment. Duration of the paper will be 3 hours.
- (ii) For private candidates, who have not been assessed earlier for internal assessment, the marks secured by them in theory paper will proportionately be increased to maximum marks of the paper in lieu of internal assessment.

The paper setter must put note (ii) in the question paper.

The syllabus has been divided into four units.

There shall be 9 questions in all. The first question is compulsory and shall be short answer type containing 10 short questions spread over the whole syllabus to be answered in about 30 to 35 words each, carrying 20 marks i.e. 2 marks each. Rest of the paper shall contain 4 units. Each unit shall have two long questions and the candidates shall be given internal choice of attempting one question from each Unit –4 in all. Each question will carry 15 marks.

Unit-I

Family and Gender-Relations

In Highly-Developed, Developing and Under-Developed Countries

- Japan, Belgium
- India, Iran, Brazil
- Afghanistan and Ethiopia

Unit-II

Universality of Family

- Family As a Universal Social Institution- Views of Bronislaw Malinowski, George Murdock, Talcott Parsons, Norman W. Bell and Ezra F. Vogel
- Fate of Family among the Blacks in The Islands of West Indies, Parts of Central America and the U.S.A.;
- The Nayers of Central Kerala in India.

Unit-III

Future of Family

- Withering Away Theory
- Indispensability Theory
- Restructuring of Family

Unit-IV

Emerging Alternative Lifestyles

- Singlehood – Never Married
- Cohabitation – Living Together Without Marriage
- Single parent – Male/Female Headed Households
- Group Living – Communes (The Kibbutz of Israel)