



Indraprastha College for Women University of Delhi

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2026

Course Name:	B.A. (Hons.) Sociology
Paper Title:	Understanding Ethnographies (DSC-15)
Unique Paper Code:	2302103503
Semester:	V
Faculty:	Deeksha Gangwar
Year:	2026-27

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	1	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
	Understand the course structure, readings, and assessment scheme.	2	Course Introduction & Orientation
I	Understand what ethnography is and how the ethnographic object is constructed.	3	Clifford & Marcus, 'Introduction: Partial Truths' — Lecture 1 (writing, fiction, partiality)
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	4	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
I	Understand what ethnography is and how the ethnographic object is constructed.	5	Clifford & Marcus, 'Introduction: Partial Truths' — Lecture 2 (power, voice, limits of representation)
I	Understand what ethnography is and how the ethnographic object is constructed.	6	Nader, 'Ethnography as Theory'
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	7	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
I	Understand what ethnography is and how the ethnographic object is constructed.	8	Blasco & Wardle, 'Introduction', How to Read Ethnography
I	Understand what ethnography is and how the ethnographic object is constructed.	9	Synthesis & discussion: What is Ethnography?

III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	10	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
I	Understand what ethnography is and how the ethnographic object is constructed.	11	Kumar, Friends, Brothers, and Informants, Ch. 2
I	Understand what ethnography is and how the ethnographic object is constructed.	12	Kumar, Ch. 22 + discussion (Unit I complete)
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	13	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	14	Fieldwork — Srinivas, ‘Insider Versus Outsider’, Part 1
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	15	Fieldwork — Srinivas, Part 2 + discussion
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	16	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	17	Fieldwork — case studies (Unit II(a) wrap-up)
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	18	Visual Ethnography — introduction & key concepts
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	19	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	20	Visual Ethnography — Abraham, ‘Wedding Videos in North Kerala’
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	21	Visual Ethnography — discussion & case studies (Unit II(b) wrap-up)
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	22	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	23	Digital Ethnography — introduction & key concepts
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	24	Digital Ethnography — Pink et al., ‘Researching Experience’, Part 1

III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	25	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	26	Digital Ethnography — Pink et al., Part 2
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	27	Digital Ethnography — discussion & case studies (Unit II(c) wrap-up)
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	28	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	29	Auto-ethnography — introduction & key concepts
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	30	Auto-ethnography — Narayan, ‘How Native is a “Native” Anthropologist?’
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	31	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
II	Engage with the major techniques of ethnographic research: fieldwork, visual, digital, and auto-ethnography.	32	Auto-ethnography discussion + Unit II synthesis (Unit II complete)
	Consolidate and assess learning from Units I and II.	33	Mid-Semester Test / Internal Assessment
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	34	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
	Review and integrate learning across Units I, II, and III ahead of the end-semester examination.	35	Buffer Day 1 (catch-up / flexible)
	Review and integrate learning across Units I, II, and III ahead of the end-semester examination.	36	Buffer Day 2 (catch-up / flexible)
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	37	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
	Review and integrate learning across Units I, II, and III ahead of the end-semester examination.	38	Pre-Diwali revision & recap: Units I & II
	Review and integrate learning across Units I, II, and III ahead of the end-semester examination.	39	Buffer Day 3 (catch-up / flexible)
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	40	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)

	Review and integrate learning across Units I, II, and III ahead of the end-semester examination.	41	Linking ethnographic theory to practice: preparing for Unit III
	Review and integrate learning across Units I, II, and III ahead of the end-semester examination.	42	Buffer Day 4 (catch-up / flexible)
	Review and integrate learning across Units I, II, and III ahead of the end-semester examination.	43	Post-Diwali recap & discussion
III	Build sustained skills in reading, understanding, and critically analysing a full-length ethnographic text.	44	Compulsory Text Day — Coming of Age in Samoa (Margaret Mead)
	Review and integrate learning across Units I, II, and III ahead of the end-semester examination.	45	End-of-term review: Units I, II & III synthesis
	Review and integrate learning across Units I, II, and III ahead of the end-semester examination.	46	Course wrap-up & end-semester exam preparation

Unit	Contents/Syllabus
I	Ethnographic Enquiry and Representation (9 Hours) a. What is Ethnography? — defining ethnography as method, text, and mode of enquiry. b. Constructing the Ethnographic Object — the relationship between the ethnographer, the field, and the object of study.
II	Types of Ethnography (15 Hours) a. Fieldwork — the insider/outsider debate and methodological concerns in fieldwork. b. Visual Ethnography — images, video, and technologies of representation. c. Digital Ethnography — researching experience and practice in digital worlds. d. Auto-ethnography — reflexivity and the question of the “native” anthropologist.
III	Compulsory Text for Use in the Syllabus (21 Hours) Mead, Margaret. Coming of Age in Samoa. A close, sustained reading of a single full-length ethnographic text, to build the patience to read, understand, and critically analyse texts about an unfamiliar culture, on the premises outlined in Units I and II.
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers
1.	Clifford, James and George E. Marcus, eds. ‘Introduction’ in Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography: A School of American Research Advanced Seminar. University of California Press, 1986. Pp. 1-19.
2.	Nader, Laura. ‘Ethnography as Theory’ in HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory 1, no. 1, 2011, Pp. 211-219.
3.	Blasco, Paloma Gay, and Huon Wardle. ‘Introduction’ in How to Read Ethnography. Routledge, 2007. Pp. 1-12.

4.	Kumar, Nita. Friends, Brothers, and Informants: Fieldwork Memoirs of Banaras. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992. Chapter 2 and 22, Pp. 36-47 and 216-225.
5.	Srinivas, M.N. 'The Insider Versus the Outsider in the Study of Cultures.' In Methodology and Fieldwork. Edited by Vinay Kumar Srivastava. Oxford University Press, 2002. Pp. 413-420.
6.	Abraham, Janaki. 'Wedding Videos In North Kerala: Technologies, Rituals, And Ideas About Love And Conjuality' in Visual Anthropology Review 26.2 (2010), Pp. 116–127.
7.	Pink, Sarah, Heather Horst, John Postill, Larissa Hjorth, Tania Lewis, and Jo Tacchi. 'Researching Experience' in Digital Ethnography: Principles and Practice. Sage Publications, 2016. Chapter 2: 19-39.
8.	Narayan, Kirin. 'How Native is a 'Native' Anthropologist?' in American Anthropologist 95, no. 3, 1993. Pp. 671-686.
9.	Mead, Margaret. Coming of Age in Samoa. (Compulsory Text, Unit III).

Paper Components			
Credits	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
4	3	1	0
Assessment Scheme			
S.No.	Component	Marking Scheme	Total Marks
1	Internal Assessment - Assignment - Class Test - Attendance		30
		12	
		12	
		6	
2.	Continuous Assessment (Tutorial) - Activity 1 - Activity 2 - Attendance		40
		15	
		20	
		5	
3.	Practical - Continuous Assessment - End Term Written/Practical Exam - Viva		NA
4.	End Semester Examination		90