Social stratification is one of the primary areas of research in sociology. This course aims to introduce students to the major theories and forms of social stratification. We will engage with empirical research on different dimensions of stratification and inequalities. We will look in particular at class, caste, gender, ethnicity, race and disabilities. Intersecting inequalities and mechanisms of reproduction of inequality will be discussed. While the focus will be on India, relevant research including empirical studies from outside the country will be discussed to contextualise the Indian case.

Readings – Readings are arranged under specific modules. However, they are interconnected and may be referred to under other modules as well. Core readings are essential. Suggested readings will be useful for a deeper engagement with the subject. Alterations to the list will be mentioned in class.

Tutorials – The course involves tutorials which are compulsory. Tutorial details will be confirmed in class.

Course Evaluation – this course is worth 4 credits (2 credits=final exam; 2 credits=combination of written mid-term test, tutorial essay with presentation/discussion/viva). Deadlines and details of the coursework will be given in class. All coursework: including exams, written work, tutorials, etc. is compulsory.

MODULE-WISE READINGS

MODULE 1: Introduction: Concepts and Theories
This section will introduce the systems and forms of stratification and key concepts. Theories, including functionalism and its critiques, will be discussed.

Readings:

Suggested Readings:

MODULE 2: Forms of Stratification: Caste
This module will cover the major theories on caste, with a focus on contemporary India. Empirical studies on caste, including on caste in the labour market etc. will be covered (here and in subsequent modules).

Readings:

Suggested Readings:

MODULE 3: Forms of Stratification - Class
The focus will be on Class in India. However, theories of class, including Marxist and Weberian theories (and their critiques) will be covered. We will cover empirical studies on class and its changing nature, and the rise of the middle class in India.

Readings:

Suggested Readings:

MODULE 4: Gender and Stratification
This module will cover concepts such as sex and gender, gender inequalities in the labour market, caste and its interaction with gender and research on masculinities.

Readings:

**Suggested Readings:**

**MODULE 5: Critical issues: Race, Ethnicity, Disability and Social Mobility**
While this course deals with some of the major forms of stratification – there has been an increasing engagement with other issues. This module covers some of these other issues which are emerging as critical for the study of social stratification; such as: race, ethnicity and disability as well as the significance of social mobility for the reproduction of inequalities.

**Readings:**

**Suggested Readings:**