



# SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON MODERNITY

## **PROF. SAMBIT MALLICK**

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IIT Guwahati

**INTENDED AUDIENCE :** BE/ME/MA/MS/BSc/MSc/PhD

### **COURSE OUTLINE :**

The objective of the course is to enable students to understand modernity as a socio-cultural product in specific socio-historical contexts. The course exposes students to theoretical perspectives to look at modernity and its constituents as a practice deeply embedded in culture and society. It familiarises students with encountering problems in their everyday life from more rationalist perspectives. It attempts to critically engage with and interrogate the multiple views on modernity.

### **ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :**

Prof. Sambit Mallick is Professor of Sociology at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. He specializes in the sociology of science and technology, and also includes historical sociology and philosophy of the social sciences among his research interests. His research and teaching are at the intersection of philosophy, social theory, and science and technology studies. His courses under NPTEL have attracted a large number of students even from the remote areas in India and abroad.

### **COURSE PLAN :**

**Week 1:** Introduction: Modernity as a project of Enlightenment

**Week 2:** Modernist paradigm in sociology: modern science, industrialisation and development

**Week 3:** Sociological modernism: Marx, Weber and Simmel

**Week 4:** Sociological modernism: Marx, Weber and Simmel(cont'd)

**Week 5:** Sociological modernism: Marx, Weber and Simmel(cont'd)

**Week 6:** Structuralist interpretation: Levi-Strauss and Althusser

**Week 7:** Structuralist interpretation: Levi-Strauss and Althusser(cont'd)

**Week 8:** Western Marxism: Lukacs, Gramsci and Touraine

**Week 9:** Western Marxism: Lukacs, Gramsci and Touraine(cont'd)

**Week 10:** Synthesising modernity: Wallerstein, Giddens and Habermas

**Week 11:** Deconstructing modernity, modernity in non-modern contexts, the idea of alternative or multiple modernities

**Week 12:** Reflexivity: dialectic of engaging with and interrogating modernity