

# SOCIOLOGY AND CULTURE

ENAR 305

**Lecture** : 2  
**Tutorial** : 0  
**Practical** : 0

**Year** : III  
**Part** : I

## **Course Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to introduce the sociological and cultural foundations of human settlements and architecture, focusing on the human–environment relationship. It examines how social structures, cultural practices, and civilizations shape spatial organization and architecture, and enables students to apply these perspectives in understanding Nepali architectural traditions and contemporary practices.

- 1 Sociology, Society and Human-Environment Relationship (4 hours)**
  - 1.1 Sociology as the study of human society
  - 1.2 Scope of sociology to architectural studies
  - 1.3 Society as a human-environment system
  - 1.4 Concept of social architecture and spatial organization
  
- 2 Social Structure, Institutions and Social Processes (4 hours)**
  - 2.1 Social structure in rural and urban Nepal
  - 2.2 Institutions: Family, religion, economy, governance and their spatial roles
  - 2.3 Social groups, communities, and neighborhood organization
  - 2.4 Social interaction: Forms and implications for space
  - 2.5 Introduction to social change within institutions and communities
  
- 3 Culture and Civilization (6 hours)**
  - 3.1 Concept of culture and civilization
  - 3.2 Culture, cultural drift, diffusion, transmission, acculturation
  - 3.3 Family and kinship systems: Monogamy, polygamy, joint vs nuclear family
  - 3.4 Gender and power: Patriarchal and matriarchal systems
  - 3.5 Tangible and intangible cultural heritage
  - 3.6 Civilization and archaeology: Early city forms (Indus, Mesopotamia, Egypt)
  - 3.7 Nepali context: Lumbini archaeology and Buddhist urbanism as sacred city models
  
- 4 Social and Cultural Dimensions of Architecture in Nepal (6 hours)**
  - 4.1 Socio-cultural meaning of open spaces: Chowks, ghats, courtyards, public squares

- 4.2 Socio-cultural meaning of built spaces: Houses, temples, palaces, communal halls
- 4.3 Ethnic/regional traditions: Newar settlements, Mithila decorated houses, Tharu housing, Khasa settlements, mud traditions
- 4.4 Rituals, festivals, and community practices shaping architecture

**5 Social Change and Modernization (4 hours)**

- 5.1 Processes of social change: Migration, urbanization, globalization
- 5.2 Impacts on traditional architecture and settlements
- 5.3 Changing family, kinship, and community patterns
- 5.4 Contemporary socio-cultural challenges in Nepali architectural design

**6 Applied Study: Socio-Cultural Analysis (6 hours)**

- 6.1 Application of sociological and cultural concepts to architecture
- 6.2 Field observation of a settlement, neighborhood, or building type
- 6.3 Mapping social use of spaces (Who uses them, how, when, why)
- 6.4 Short reflective assignment linking social practices and spatial design
- 6.5 Group/class presentations of applied findings

**Final Exam**

The questions will cover all the chapters in the syllabus. The evaluation scheme will be as indicated in the table below:

Chapter	Hours	Marks distribution*
1	4	4
2	4	4
3	6	6
4	6	6
5	4	4
6	6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

\* There may be minor deviation in marks distribution.

**References**

1. Bhushan, V., Sachdeva, D. R. (2022). An introduction to sociology. Kitab Mahal.
2. Fagan, B. M. (2016). World Prehistory and Archaeology: Pathways Through Time.
3. Hall, E. T. (1990). The hidden dimension (reprint ed.). Anchor Books.
4. Rapoport, A. (1969). House Form and Culture. Prentice-Hall.
5. Tiwari, S. R. (2001). The Ancient Settlements of the Kathmandu Valley.
6. Korn, W. (1976). The Traditional Architecture of the Kathmandu Valley.