

Programme:- Master in Sociology
Postgraduate Department of Sociology
Patna University, Patna

SEMESTER-II

Compulsory Paper:- C.C. 8 (Urban Sociology)
Unit II:- Theoretical Perspectives in Urban Sociology

Max Weber (1864-1920) German - macro-sociological

- Considered social structure of city
- Ecological-demographic characteristics: the city was a relatively closed and dense settlement
- Undertook survey of various cities throughout world unlike previous theorists who focused on European cities solely
- Defined urban community, an ideal type, required:
 1. trade or commercial relations, e.g. market
 2. court and law of its own
 3. partial political autonomy
 4. militarily self-sufficient for self-defence
 5. forms of associations or social participation whereby individuals engage in social relationships and organizations
- Suggested that cities are linked to larger processes, e.g. economic or political orientations, instead of city itself being cause of distinguishing qualities of urban life, i.e. different cultural and historical conditions will result in different types of cities, same as with Marx & Engels who argued that human condition of cities was result of economic structure.

D. E. B DuBois – The Racialization Paradigm and Critical Race Theory

- Concerned with the centrality of “race” {racialized power dimensions} in the analysis of social structure
- Du Bois(along with Woodson) presented cogent arguments for considering race as the central construct for understanding inequality.
- First to theorize the intersection of race and property creates an analytic tool through which we can understand social (and, consequently, urban) inequity.
- The precursor of the modern *critical race movement*.
- Broadly defined “critical race theory” or a “critical theory of race” attempts to examine the human interactions both in their historical context and as part of the social and political relations that characterize the dominant society.
- There are two important aspects shared by proponents of the critical race movement that are central to this analysis:
 - (1) a challenge to the traditional claims of legal neutrality, objectivity, color-blindness, and meritocracy as camouflages for the self-interest of dominant groups in North American society, and
 - (2) an insistence on subjectivity and the reformulation of social life to reflect the perspectives of those who have experienced and been victimized by racism firsthand
- critical race theory today is analogous to feminist theory of the late-1970s which challenged the gender blindness of political economy highlighted by the narrow economicism of Whitemale-stream scholarship; and it attempts to provide a starting point for understanding contemporary urban problems and issues