



# PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

**DR. SAMBIT MALLICK**

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences  
IIT Guwahati

**TYPE OF COURSE** : New | Elective | UG/PG

**COURSE DURATION** : 8 Weeks (18 Jan' 21 - 12 Mar' 21)

**EXAM DATE** : 21 Mar 2021

**INTENDED AUDIENCE** : UG and PG students of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences and Engineering

**COURSE OUTLINE :**

This course is concerned with the nature of social science inquiry. It is intended for students in all disciplines and those early in their masters and doctoral research programmes. The course travels through philosophy of science, epistemology, ontology and specific applications to the major disciplinary areas. The main objectives of the course are to: (a) introduce the philosophy of science and its application to social sciences, (b) outline major differing classes of theory in social sciences and to explicate their metatheoretical foundations, (c) familiarize students with the plurality of views on these issues in the intellectual community, (d) provide students with an opportunity to apply these concepts to the analysis of issues in social sciences, and (e) provide students with an opportunity to practise scholarly discourses.

**ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :**

Sambit Mallick is Associate 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

**Week 2:** Emile Durkheim

**Week 3:** Max Weber-I

**Week 4:** Max Weber-II

**Week 5:** Karl Marx

**Week 6:** Karl Popper and Thomas Kuhn

**Week 7:** Positivism versus hermeneutics: conflicting traditions

**Week 8:** Conclusion