Syllabus

Institute of Humanities & Social Sciences

M. Phil I Semester

History
Course Category

MHis : M.Phil in History  
CCC: Compulsory Core Course  
ECC: Elective Core Course

Contact Hours:
L: Lecture  
T: Tutorial  
P: Practical or Other

Marks Distribution:
IA: Internal Assessment (Test/Classroom Participation/Quiz/Presentation/Assignment etc.)  
EoSE: End of Semester Examination

M. Phil (History)

(Course Structure)

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<td>Historical Research: Theory and Method</td>
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<td>Trends in Historiography on Ancient India</td>
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Paper-I

Historical Research: Theory and Method

Paper Code: 01MHis101.

Unit I

The historian and his facts; causation and generalization; problem of value judgement; challenges of Post Modernism.

Unit II

Historical Evidence: Archaeological findings; Literary; Documentary; Art forms: Myth, Folklore, Oral evidence, Internal and External criticism of evidence.

Unit III

The agenda for total History: Marc Bloch, Lucien Febvre and the early years;

Unit IV

The Braudelian perspective; the history of mentalities; the history of emotions, and the history of everyday life.

Unit V

History and allied disciplines: History in relation to Geography; Economics; Sociology; Ethnohistory; Political Science, Psychology and Literature.

Recommended Reading:


21. Webster, John CB *Studying History*, Macmilan, Delhi 1997

**Paper II**

**Trends in Historiography on Ancient India**

Paper Code: 01MHis102.

**Unit I**

Western Perspectives of Ancient India: James Mill; Havell, Max Muller and V.A. Smith;


**Unit II**

Marxist Interpretation: Socio-economic changes in early India; identifying new areas of study; Communal Interpretation: Responses to Vedic and subsequent socio-religious developments.

**Unit III**

Major debates: The Aryan home land; the ‘golden age’ of the Guptas;

**Unit IV**

Origin and decline of Indian Feudalism; the paradigm of Urban Decay; the model of Segmentary State: the Cholas.

**Unit V**

Recent trends in historical research: Gender; Bio-ethics in Buddhism; Approaches to regional history with reference to the Punjab.

**Recommended Reading:**

2. Chhatopadhyaya, B.D. *The Making of Early Medieval India*, OUP, 2005


19. Thapar, Romila; Chandra, Biping and Mukhia, Harbans *Communalism in the Writing of Indian History*, People’s Pub. House, Delhi, 1969.


**Paper III**

*Trends in Historiography on Medieval India*

*Paper Code: 01MHis103.*

**Unit I**

British writings from the late eighteenth century onwards: Alexander Dow; James Mill; Mountstuart Elphinstone; Henry Elliot.

**Unit II**

Pre-independence phase: Mohammad Habib’s interpretation of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni; his contribution to the study of Sufism; Jadunath Sarkar’s interpretation of the reign of Aurangzeb.

**Unit III**

Post-independence phase: Marxist understanding of socio-economic changes in the Delhi
Unit IV

Sultanate; explanations of the decline of the Mughal Empire; emergence of the communalist approach; historian’s response to Ayodhaya.

Unit V

New fields of historical research; theories of Islamization; a subaltern perspective on the Meostreatment of the eighteenth century in historical writings; approaches to regional history with reference to north-western India; Recent debates in Sikh History.

Recommended Reading

1. Alam, Muzaffar The Crisis of Empire in Mughal North India: Awadh and the Punjab 1707-1748, OUP, Delhi, 1986


3. Alavi, Seema, (Ed.), The Eighteenth Century in India, OUP, Delhi, 2002


5. Chandra, Satish Essays in Medieval Indian History, OUP, Delhi, 2003


21. Subodh, Sanjay *Historiography of Medieval India: A Study of Mohammad*


**Paper IV**

**Trends in Historiography of Modern India**

**Paper Code:**
01MHis104.

**Unit I**

European writings on Indian history in the 19th & 20th centuries; Orientnationalism British interpretation of Indian polity, society, and economy; Nationalism in history writing; Nationalist response to colonial historiography.

**Unit II**

Marxist approach to Modern Indian History: Marxist approach in understanding Colonialism; Indian National Movement and Partition; Emergence of the Communalist approach; Communalists and the Indian National Movement, Secularism and communalism; Communalism and Fundamentalism.

**Unit III**

Subaltern approach to Modern History: Concept of ‘history from below’.

**Unit IV**

Early Subalternhistoriography with special reference to their content, sources & methodology; Changes and new trends in subaltern writing; Challenges of Post-modernism and its impact.

**Unit V**

New fields of historical research: Gender, Science, Technology and environmental history; Study of Regional history with reference to North-western Region; Current debates.

**Recommended Readings**


11. Habib, Irfan *Problems of Marxist Historiography*, *Social Scientist*, 16 (12) December, 1988. 10


29. Thapar, Romila and others, *Communalism and the Writing of Indian History*, NBT, Delhi, 1979.

30. Thapar, Romila, Chandra Bipin and Mukhia Harbans, *Communalism in the Writing of Indian History*, People’s Publishing Housing House, Delhi, 1969.