

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**M.PHIL/P.HD COURSEWORK SYLLABUS**

Course No.	Courses	Core/ Open	Credits	Marks
HIS-RS-C101	Research Methodology	Core	4	100
HIS-RS-C102	Writing a Research Proposal	Core	4	100
HIS-RS-O103	Literature as History	Open	4	100
HIS-RS-O104	Gender and Literature	Open	4	100
HIS-RS-O105	Reading Gandhi	Open	4	100
HIS-RS-O106	History of Science and Technology in India	Open	4	100
HIS-RS-O107	Texts as Sources of Ancient Indian History	Open	4	100

**(Those admitted to PhD who have been awarded MPhil degree under 2009 regulations or those who have completed the coursework in Sikkim University or any other university for a semester are exempted from doing coursework)**

**Course No: HIS-RS-C101**

**Course Title: *Research Methodology* (Compulsory and Common for MPhil and PhD scholars)**

**Unit I: What is History**

Chronicle/Narrative and History, Causation and History, Objectivity in History, Facts and History, Is History a Science?

**Unit II: Tools/Auxiliary Sciences of History**

Archeology-Numismatics-Epigraphy-Inscriptions-Linguistics-Anthropology-Oral History

**Unit III: Primary Sources in History**

Official Sources (land revenue papers, intelligence reports/file notings, judicial records) Non-Official Sources (Newspapers, Private papers)

## Unit IV: Secondary Sources/Publications

Monographs, Annotated Documents, Published Government Reports

### Essential Readings :

- Anderson, Perry. (1976-77), The Antinomies of Antonia Gramsci, in *New Left Review*, No. 100, November-January.
- Berlin, Issaiah. (1977), The Hegdehog and the Fox in H. Hardy (ed), *Russian Thinkers*, Free Press.
- Berlin, Issaiah. (1978), *Concepts and Categories*, Hogarth Press.
- Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi. (1983), History from Below, *Social Scientist*, Volume 11, No 4, pp 3-20.
- Cohen, G.A. (1978), *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defence*, Princeton, Princeton University Press.
- Eagleton, Terry. (1991), *Ideology: An Introduction*, Verso.
- Habermas, Jurgenn, (1987), *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*, Cambridge: polity Press.
- Weber, Max. (1961), *The Methodology of Social Sciences*, Free Press.

### Course No: HIS-RS-C102

### Course Title: *Writing a Research Proposal (Compulsory and Common for MPhil and PhD scholars)*

This course will attempt to train the students in the use of basic skills needed to begin developing and undertaking research studies drawing from a guided experience of developing a proposal, collecting and analyzing data. The student will be exposed to using the basic tools and techniques, and presenting a research report based on their findings and conclusions. Students will work on the specific area of their proposed research and the course will expose them to contextualise various approaches and methods.

The necessary readings, hence, will be specific to the proposed research area and provided by the concerned faculty member. This will be a non-lecture paper and evaluation will be done on a continuous basis including seminar papers, oral presentations and a draft research proposal in the end. The specific readings for this course will be prescribed by the faculty member concerned and

will necessarily consist of published works in the selected area of research and involve a review of literature. This course will contain the following aspects:

1. A basic understanding of research in the social sciences. Students will get a broad overview about the purpose of research, its contribution to our day to day life and society, research boundaries, and ethical dimensions.
2. The student will be taken through the processes involved in conducting historical research, utilizing related and existing research findings in the specific area so that she/he is guided to critically reflect on established research.
3. To understand the process of formulating research questions. This in turn will involve movement between broad areas of interest, the conceptual framework which will direct the research and specific research questions.
4. The use of software (e.g. MS-Word) in the management of bibliographic databases will be introduced. A few established and commonly used styles of citation (e.g. APA, MLA and Chicago styles) will be introduced with an emphasis on the MLA style of citation and referencing.

**Course No: HIS-RS-O103**

**Course Title: *Literature as History* (Optional)**

Literature is indeed a reflection of the social reality of the times and in this sense is a key to understanding the society in its various dimensions. This seminar paper will attempt to expose the students to social history by way of reading texts and analysing the context. In doing so, the students will also be exposed to the method of understanding a text in its context and thus strengthen the cognitive skills that are integral to the study of history. The student will be expected to read through select texts and present at least three seminars during the semester and the best two out of the three will be taken for final evaluation.

The following texts (merely illustrative and not extensive) may be analysed as part of this course:

Leo Tolstoy, War and Peace; Thomas Hardy, Far From the Madding Crowd; Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities; Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front; Ernest Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms; Gunter Frank, Tin Drummer; Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Anand Math;

Premchand, Godaan; Orhan Pamuk, Snow; Rabindranath Tagore, Gora; Mulk Raj Anand, Untouchables.

**Course No: HIS-RS-O104**

**Course Title: *Gender and Literature (Optional)***

This seminar paper involves an intensive gendered reading of a variety of texts from early India: epics, classical plays, poems, normative treatises, sectarian texts, and devotional songs of women saints. It will discuss the nature and structure of each textual genre as well as its discursive content with regard to power generally (class, caste, monarchy) and gender specifically. Students are exposed to diverse literary and historical treatments of gender and encouraged to explore firsthand a relevant text, or group of texts, of their choice, or even a comparative analysis of genres. At least four genres will be studied in a semester and texts within; genres may vary from year to year.

1. Introduction: Gender as a category of historical analysis; the Indian context; intersections with class, caste, monarchy; gender and the production and transmission of knowledge.
2. Models and counter-models of masculine and feminine behaviour, affirmation and subversion of Brahmanical patriarchy, monarchy and caste –Indian Epics
3. Voices from the nunnery and hermitage, sexual-spiritual interface in a heterodox tradition-  
*Therigatha*
4. Private and public realms of sexuality including marriage, family, courtesanship, the king's harem; voices from the kitchen, the bedroom, and the brothel; the affirmation and subversion of control-  
*kavya*
5. Sex and sexuality – *Dharmasastra* and *kamashastra*
6. The Krishna myth cycle, sublimation of love and sexuality, eroticisation of divinity and worship—sectarian *Purana* and Love Lyric

7. Negation and redundancy of patriarchy: god as lover and husband, spiritual interface in esoteric tradition, transcending the sexual—Devotional songs and sayings of women saints (Lal Ded/ Meera/ Akka Mahadevi)

**Essential Readings :**

- Altekar, A.S. *The Position of Women in Hindu Civilization*, Second Revised edition
- Bhattacharji, Sikumari. 1994. *Women and Society in Ancient India*
- Chakravarti, Uma. 2006. *Everyday Lives, Everyday Histories: Beyond the Kings and Brahmanas of Ancient India*
- Hawley, John Stratton., 1985. Mirabai, in his *Three Bhakti Voices*,
- Kane, P.V. *History of the Dharmashastra*, Vol 2 and Vol 3
- Kotru Nilkanth.1975. *Lal Ded, Her Life and Sayings*
- Kotru Nilkanth. 1983. *Vihara Bhakti, the Early History of Krishna Devotion in South India.*
- Ramaswami, Vijaya. 1997. *Walking Naked, Women, Society and Spirituality in South India.*
- Ramaswami, Vijaya (ed.). 2003. *Researching Indian Women*. Manohar, Delhi
- Roy, Kumkum (ed). 1999. *Women in early Indian Societies*, Manohar, Delhi

**Course No: HIS-RS-O105**

**Course Title: Reading Gandhi (Optional)**

**Unit I: In South Africa**

The Maritzburg 'incident' and the Attorney in the Making – Early influences on Gandhi (The Old Testament, Tolstoy and John Ruskin) – The Transvaal days and Satyagraha – Leading the Indentured – The Tolstoy Farm

**Unit II: Making of the Mahatma**

February 6, 1916 speech at BHU – Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad – Non-Cooperation –The Great Trial

**Unit III: Civil Disobedience to Wardha**

The Dandi March – Gandhi’s Campaign against Untouchability – Gandhi’s alienation from the Congress – Partition and the Assassination

#### **Unit IV: Gandhi after Gandhi**

Re-Reading Hind Swaraj – Hinduism and Hindutwa (The Relevance of Naokhali)

#### **Essential Readings :**

- Brown, Judith. (1972 or any other edition), Gandhi’s Rise to Power, Cambridge University Press
- Chadha, Yogesh. (1997), Rediscovering Gandhi, Century Books Limited.
- Desai, Mahadev (2008 or any other edition), Day to Day with Gandhi: Diaries (9 Volumes), Sarva Seva Sangh – Prakashan, Varanasi.
- Gandhi, M.K. (1984 or any other edition), Hind Swaraj, Navjivan Publishing House
- Gandhi, M.K. (1990 or any other edition), An Autobiography or The Story of My Experiments with Truth, Navjivan Publishing House.
- Hardiman, David. (2003), Gandhi: In His Time and Ours, Permanent Black.
- Lelyveld, Joseph. (2011), Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and His Struggle with India, Harper Collins.
- Mukerji, Rudrangshu (ed), (1993), The Penguin Gandhi Reader, Penguin.
- Nanda, B.R. (ed), (1995), Mahatma Gandhi: 125 Years, ICCR & New Age International Publishers Ltd.
- Nayar, Sushila (1996), Mahatma Gandhi’s Last Imprisonment: The Inside Story, Har-Anand Publications

**Course No: HIS-RS-O106**

**Course Title: *History of Science and Technology in India (Optional)***

#### **Unit I: Science and technology in ancient period**

Major Developments in the history of Science and Technology in the Indus Civilization; Development in Astronomy; Development in Mathematics: Geometry of Shulbha Sutra; Development in Medicine and Surgery: Charaka and Sushruta

## **Unit II: Science and technology in medieval period**

Technology (Persian Wheel & textiles etc); Mining and Metallurgy- iron/Steel, copper, use of composite metal, zinc; Development in Medical knowledge and interaction between unani and ayurveda; Astronomy in the Arab world and its impact on India with special reference to Swai Jai Singh; Water Conservancy and knowledge of hydrology

## **Unit III: Science and technology in colonial India**

Conceptual aspects and nature and growth of Western Science; Social roots of Crafts technique: with special reference to Blacksmith craft of Eastern India; Bullock Cart to the Railways; East India Company and Scientific Explorations

## **Unit IV: Indian response to western science**

Growth of scientific and technical education: establishment of engineering and medical colleges and institutions; Science and Indian nationalism (national science vis-a-vis colonial science: Mahendralal Sarkar, P.C. Ray, J.C. Bose and others; Science and development discourse : Gandhi's concept and Jawaharlal Nehru's contribution; Public health and Medicine in India

### **Essential Readings :**

- Kumar Deepak (ed.), *Science and Empire: Essays in Indian Context,1700-1947*. Anamika Prakasan, 1991.
- Kumar Deepak, *Science and the Raj (1857-1905)*, OUP, 2000.
- Chattopadhyay, D.D., *History of Science and technology in Ancient India: The beginnings*, Calcutta 1986.
- Irfan Habib, *Technology in Medieval India, c.650-1750*, Tulika Publications, New Delhi, 2012.
- Kumar Deepak & Prof. Roy Macleod (ed.), *Technology and the Raj*, Sage, New Delhi, 1995.
- Kumar Deepak (ed.), *Disease and Medicine in India: A historical Overview*, Tulika Pub., New Delhi, 2001.
- Sarkar Smritikumar, *Technology and Rural Change in Eastern India 1830-1980*, OUP, India, 2014.
- Kumar Deepak & Raj Shekar Basu (ed.), *Medical Encounters in British India*, OUP, 2013.

- Zaheer Baber, *The Science of Empire: Scientific knowledge, Civilization, and Colonial Rule in India*, SUNY Press, 1996.
- Palit Chittabrata, *Mahendralal Sircar and the National Science Movement*, Readers Service, 2014.
- Kumar Anil, *Medicine and the Raj*, Sage, New Delhi, 1998.

**Course No: HIS-RS-O107**

**Course Title: *Texts as Sources of Ancient Indian History (Optional 4 Credits, 48 Lectures)***

**Unit I:** Reconstructing history through Texts; Brahmanical and non Brahmanical texts, Sanskrit Kavyas, Biographies, Genealogies, Chronicles, Possibilities and limitations.

**Unit II:** Texts and context; Nature, Language, script, narration, authority, forms of Power and contestation.

**Unit III:** Interpreting Historical Texts: Kalidasa's *Abhijnanasakuntalam*, *Raghuvamsa*, Vatsyayana *Kamasutra*, *Jatakas*, (with specific reference to Gender, Geography, Polity and society).

**Unit IV:** Chronicles and their Significance: Kalhana's *Rajatarangini*, *Ahom Buranji*, *Cheitharol Kumbaba*.

**Essential Readings :**

- Devadhar, C.R. (2004), *Works of Kālidāsa Vol I-II*, New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- Fausboll, V. (ed.) *The Jataka Together with its Commentary*, London: Trubner & Co.
- Barua, Golap Chandra. (ed.) (1930) *Ahom Buranji: From the Earliest time to the End of Ahom Rule*, : Calcutta.
- Madhavacharya (ed.) (1934), *The Kamasutra*, Bombay: Laxmi Venkateshvara Steam Press.
- Parratt, Saroj Nalini A. (2005), *Cheithron Kumpapa, The Court Chronicle of Manipur*, London: Routledge.
- Pathak, V.S. (1966), *Ancient Historians of India: A Study in Historical Biographies*, Bombay: Asia Publishing.



- Pollock, Sheldon. (2006), *The Language of the Gods in the World of Men*, New Delhi: Orient Longman.
  - Roy, Kumkum. (2010), *The Power of Gender and the Gender of Power*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
  - Singh, Upinder. (2012), *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*, New Delhi: Pearson Longman.
  - Stein, M.A. (1989), *Kalhana's Rājatarāṅginī*, Volume 1, II and III New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
  - Thapar, Romila. (1992), *Interpreting Early India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
  - Thapar, Romila. (2013), *The Past Before Us*, London: Harvard University Press.
  - Winternitz, Maurice. (1990), *A History of Sanskrit Literature Vol-I*, New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
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