

**SIKKIM UNIVERSITY**

**Department of History**

**Syllabus for M.Phil/Ph.D 2016-17 onwards**

<b>Course No.</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Core/ Elective</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Marks</b>
HIS-RS-C101	Research Methodology	Core	4	100
HIS-RS-C102	Writing a Research Proposal	Core	4	100
HIS-RS-E101	Literature as History	Elective	4	100
HIS-RS-E102	Gender and Literature	Elective	4	100
HIS-RS-E103	History of Science and Technology in India	Elective	4	100
HIS-RS-E104	Texts as Sources of Ancient Indian History	Elective	4	100

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

**Course Title: Research Methodology (Compulsory for all students)**

**Unit I: Defining Methodology**

Relation between Facts, Causation, Objectivity, Generalization.

Approaches to history writing; Cyclical (Arnold Toynbee), Linear(Karl Marx)

Methodological issues in handling primary sources

**Unit II: History and Allied Disciplines**

Influences of Allied Sciences on historical writings: Anthropology, Sociology, Economics, Geography, Political Science and Literary studies

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

Archaeology-Numismatics-Epigraphy-Inscriptions-Linguistics-Oral History

**Unit IV: Approaches to Writing History**

Rankean, Annales, *Longue Duree*, Marxist, History from Below, Peoples' History, Narrative History, Literary and Subaltern approaches

Approaches to the study of popular culture and oral tradition

## Essential Readings

- Berlin, Issaiah. *Concepts and Categories*. London: Hogarth Press, 1978.
- Bevir, Mark. *The Logic of the History of Ideas*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Blackledge, Paul. *Reflections on the Marxist Theory of History*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006.
- Burke, Peter. *History and Social Theory*. New York: Cornell University Press, 1993.
- Burke, Peter. *The French Historical Revolution - Annales School, 1929-1989*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1990.
- Cohen, G.A. *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defence*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978.
- Cohen, Robert S. and Marx W. Wartofsky. Eds. *Methodological and Historical Essays in The Natural And Social Sciences*. Dordrecht: D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1974.
- Eagleton, Terry. *Ideology: An Introduction*. London: Verso, 1991.
- Jenkins, Keith. *On What is History: From Carr and Elton to Rorty and White*. London: Routledge, 1995.
- Klein, Kerwin Lee. *From History to Theory*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011.
- Koselleck, Reinhart. *The Practice of Conceptual History: Timing History, Spacing Concepts*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002.
- Poster, Mark. *Foucault, Marxism and History - Mode of Production Versus Mode of Information*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1984.
- Rodgers, Zuleika. *Making History: Josephus and Historical Method*. Leiden: Brill, 2006.
- Toynbee, Arnold J. *A Study of History. The One-Volume Edition*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1989.
- Weber, Max. *The Methodology of Social Sciences*. London: Transaction Publishers, 2011.

**Course No: HIS-RS-C102**

**Course Title: Writing a Research Proposal**

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 analysing 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The students will be required to do a detail review of literature and identification of primary sources. They require to finalize the research proposal in all aspects.

**Course No: HIS-RS-E101**

**Course Title: Literature as History**

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-E102**

**Course Title: Gender and Literature**

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*, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1959.
- Bhattacharji, Sukumari. 1994. *Women and Society in Ancient India*, Basumati Corporation, Calcutta, 1994.
- Chakravarti, Uma. 2006. *Everyday Lives, Everyday Histories: Beyond the Kings and Brahmanas of Ancient India*. Tulika Books, New Delhi, 2012.
- Hardy, Friedhelm. *Viraha-Bhakti: The Early History of Krsna Devotion in South India*. Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2001.
- Hawley, John Stratto. *Three Bhakti Voices: Mirabai, Surdas, and Kabir in their time and ours*. Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2012.
- Kane, P.V. *History of the Dharmashastra*. Vol. 2 and 3. Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona, 1993.
- Kotru Nilkanth. *Lal Ded: Her Life and Sayings*. Utpal Publications, Srinagar, 1989.
- Ramaswami, Vijaya. *Researching Indian Women*. Manohar, Delhi, 2003.
- Ramaswami, Vijaya. *Walking Naked, Women, Society and Spirituality in South India*. Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, 2007.
- Roy, Kumkum. Ed. *Women in early Indian Societies*, Manohar, Delhi, 1999.

**Course No: HIS-RS-E103**

**Course Title: History of Science and Technology in India**

**Unit I: Science and technology in ancient India**

Major Developments in the history of Science and Technology in the Indian Civilization:  
Development in Astronomy, Mathematics, Geometry, Charaka and Sushruta

### **Unit II: Science and Technology in Medieval India**

Persian Wheel, textiles etc: Mining and Metallurgy- iron/Steel, copper, use of composite metal, zinc: Medical system- *unani* and *ayurveda* -Swai Jai Singh: Hydrology and conservation practices

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

Experiments in agriculture, Rice technology, Communication, Agro-Industrial technology, Forest conservative practices, Introduction of western medicine - Vaccination, Concept of Public Health, Birth of Hospitals

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

Textiles, Chemical Industry, Shipping,

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 concept of modernity

Public health and Medicine in India

### **Essential Readings**

Arnold, David. *Science, Technology and Medicine in Colonial India*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2000.

Baber, Zaheer. *The Science of Empire: Scientific knowledge, Civilization, and Colonial Rule in India*. SUNY Press, 1996.

- Bala, Poonam. *Contesting Colonial Authority: Medicine and Indigenous Responses in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-century India*. Lexington Books, Plymouth, 2012.
- Chattopadhyay, D.D. *History of Science and technology in Ancient India: The beginnings*. Calcutta, 1986.
- Engels, Frederick. *The Origin of the Family: Private Property and the State*. Charles H. Keer and Company, Chicago, 1909.
- Gandhi, M.K. *India of My Dream*. Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad, 1947.
- Habib, Irfan. *Technology in Medieval India, c.650-1750*. Tulika, New Delhi, 2012.
- Kumar, Anil, *Medicine and the Raj*. Sage, New Delhi, 1998.
- Kumar, Deepak and Roy Macleod. Ed. *Technology and the Raj*. Sage, New Delhi, 1995.
- Kumar, Deepak, Ed. *Disease and Medicine in India: A historical Overview*. Tulika, New Delhi, 2001.
- Kumar, Deepak, Ed. *Science and Empire: Essays in Indian Context, 1700-1947*. Anamika Prakashan, 1991.
- Kumar, Deepak, Ed. *Science and the Raj (1857-1905)*. Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2000.
- Sarkar, Smriti Kumar, *Technology and Rural Change in Eastern India 1830-1980*. Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2014.

**Course No: HIS-RS-E104**

**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 I, 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.