

Approved by the Academic Council in its meeting held on 26th July 2013.

Sikkim University

Department of History

MPhil/PhD programme

Admission to the MPhil/PhD programme is open to those with a Masters Degree in History or allied subjects and will be based on an entrance examination (50 marks) and an interview (50 marks). The merit list will be drawn based on the candidate's score in the qualifying degree (100 marks) and the score in the entrance examination as well as in the interview.

The MPhil programme will be for 24 credits. Of these, 12 credits will be for the course work (of 4 credits each) during the first semester and 12 for the dissertation (to be completed in two or three semesters). It is necessary for a student to secure at least 6 as CGPA in the course work to be eligible to pursue with the dissertation; failing which the student will cease to be a scholar in the department. In case of students who secure 7.5 as CGPA during the course work, they may opt to work on a PhD thesis without having to do an MPhil dissertation. The choice is left to the student concerned.

The minimum time for submission of the MPhil thesis is 18 months from the date of admission and for PhD not less than two years from the date of registration. The maximum time for MPhil thesis is 2 years or 4 semesters and for PhD it is five years from the date of registration. The Scholar's name shall be removed from the rolls of the University if the thesis is not submitted within the stipulated period.

During the course work, two out of the three courses are compulsory: Research Methodology and Writing a Research Proposal. These will be specific to the department and will be taught by members of the faculty in the department either independently or in a collective manner. Research Methodology, a lecture course, will deal with methodological concerns in the discipline and include concerns pertaining to ancient, medieval and modern history. All students enrolled in the department will complete this course. Evaluation for this will be both continuous (for 50 marks) and end-of-the-semester examination (for 50 marks).

The course on 'Writing a Research Proposal', will be a non-lecture course and students will be allotted a faculty guide (on the basis of their proposed areas of research) who shall then expose them to literature in the concerned area and thus train the student in preparing the synopsis/proposal. Evaluation for this will be continuous and left to the teacher concerned to hold tests, seminars and presentations.

The third course may be either a lecture course or a seminar course and students may opt any one from among the courses offered and consistent with their specialisation --

ancient, medieval and modern – in consultation with the faculty advisor. Each of these courses will carry four credits.

HIS-RS-101 Research Methodology (Compulsory Lecture Course for all students; 4 credits)

A basic knowledge of concepts and methods in historical research is essential towards building an analytical mind-set and helps in understanding issues. This course will help students discriminate between different forms and kinds of information, and take an informed position on historical themes and developments. Towards this, it is imperative for the researcher to have a clear idea of what is history and the distinction between myths and history at one level and also the tools of the professional historian. The course will address to these concerns. Lectures in this course will be designed to expose the researcher to the methodological concerns as well as the necessary discipline/rigour for the historian in culling out material and also separating facts from fiction.

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 Antimonies 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), ThePhilosophical Discourse of Modernity, Cambridge: polity Press.

Weber, Max. (1961), The Methodology of Social Sciences, Free Press.

HIS-RS-102 Writing a Research Proposal (Compulsory seminar course to be done under a supervisor allotted, 4 credits)

This course will attempt to train the students in the use of the 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 member from the faculty. This will be a non-lecture course 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 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.

HIS-RS-103 Literature as History (Optional/Seminar Course/ 4 credits)

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 course 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.

HIS-RS-104 Gender and Literature (Optional/Seminar Course/ 4 credits)

This seminar course 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)

Select Readings:

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