

Syllabus for M.Phil/Ph.D Course

I Semester (Paper – I)

Research Method in History

1. Scientific Method in History

Scientific Method – Observation, Analysis, Inference and verification – Fact and Evidence – Nature of Sources – Compilation and Classification of data – Internal and External Criticism – Casualty – generalization – formulation of an argument

2. The Object of Historical Enquiry

The past in relation with the present – Space and Time – Structure and Process – Question of Agency – Text and Context – Knowledge and Power – material Culture – State and Civil Society – Ideology – Micro and Macro – histories

3. Modes of Historical Analysis

Problems of Methodological Devices – Empiricism – Structuralism and Functionalism – Historical Materialism – Discourse Analysis – New Historicism – Narrative and Oral History – Gender Studies – History and Contemporary Social Sciences

4. Nature of Historical Explanation

Subjectivity and Objectivity – Nomothetic and Ideographic modes – Question of Value – Teleology – Relativism – Truth and Validity – Logical Reasoning – Reflexivity – Historicism and its Critics

5. Skills of a Historian

Skills in Source Analysis – mastery of Languages – Skills in Content Analysis – Quantitative skills – Skills in Quantitative Analysis – Skills in Using existing database – Archaeology – Epigraphy – Coins – Libraries – archives – private collections – Computers and Internet

Selected Readings

1. Arthur Marwick: New Nature of History
2. J. Cohen and E. Nagel: Introduction to Logic and Scientific Method
3. G. Sjöberg and R. Nett: Introduction to Social Research
4. M. Block: Historian's Craft
5. Patrick Gardiner: Nature of Historical Explanation
6. Richard Evans : In Defence of History
7. J. LeGoff and P. Nora (Eds); Constructing the Past : Essays in Historical Methodology
8. L. Marshak: Nature of Historical Enquiry
9. L. Jordanova: History in Practice
10. Peter Burke: New Perspectives in Historical Writing
11. Ele Roy ladurie: Territory of a Historian

M.Phil History – Paper II
Selected Problems in Indian Historiography

I. Ancient India

- a) Discovery of the Indian Civilisation – Archaeology and Philology – Correspondence of archaeology with literary sources – Search for the 'Aryan' and Dravidian in Archaeology and literature
- b) Discovery of the Harappan Civilisation – Nature of Polity – Who were the Harappans and where did they go? - The debate
- c) Growth of the State Society in North India – 'Second Urbanisation' – Social Formation in Tamilakam – The debate
- d) Nature of the Mauryan Empire – The debate
- e) Debate on urban decay and 'Indian Feudalism'

II Medieval India

- a) Problems of Periodisation of Medieval India – Nature of Turkish Conquest – The role of religion and polity
- b) The character of the Delhi Sultanate – The Nobility and the Ulema – the Court Historians
- c) Mughal Empire – Perceptions of the Court Historian – models of centralised state, patrimonial bureaucratic state – Revenue system and military organization – Decline of the Mughal Empire – the debate
- d) State and Society in South India – Centralized state and segmentary models – Early state and the changes in the character of the state – 'South Indian feudalism' – 'Warrior state of Vijayanagara – Incorporative and integrative polities – the role of culture and religion
- e) General characteristics of Medieval India – Asiatic Mode of production and Oriental Despotism – Perceptions of foreign travelers and traders – 'Ethnohistories' – Caste and Gender – Continuing trends

III Modern India

- a) Features of Imperialist historiography – Questions concerning the Nature of Society and state in India – Ethnographical and administrative predispositions – creating a 'knowledge' of India and Indians – continuing trends – orientalism – theories
- b) Nationalist responses - The idea of 'Indian civilisation' – valorizing the past - 'the Aryan problem' – discovering the 'spiritual' dimensions for Nationalism – legacies
- c) Marxist historiography – Nature of the British rule and the Indian state – Mode of production debate – Questions concerning class and caste – neo-imperialist position on economic drain – deindustrialisation - 18th century stagnation or Buoyancy? - Neo - imperialist and Marxist assessment of Gandhi
- d) Subaltern historiography – criticism of Marxist and nationalist historiography – views on peasant insurgency and autonomy – linguistic turn in the later subaltern studies
- e) Issues of Gender and Ideology – Historiographical trends

Reference

1. Muzaffir Alam & Sanjay Subrahmanyam, ed. 'The Mughal State 1526 – 1750', OUP 1998
2. D D Kosambi, 'An Introduction to the Study of Indian History' Bombay 1956
3. Satish Chandra, 'Parties and Politics at the Mughal Court, 1707 – 1740', Aligarh, 1959
4. Nisami, K.A. 'On history and Historians of Medieval India', New Delhi, 1983
5. Sarkar Narayan Jagadish, 'History of History Writing in Medieval India: Contemporary Historians; An Introduction to Medieval Indian Historiography', Calcutta 1977
6. Herbans Mukhia, 'Historians and Historiography during the reign of Akbar'.
7. Lahivi Narayanjot 'The Decline and the fall of the Indus Civilisation', Delhi 2000
8. Shaveen Ratnagar, 'Enquiries into the Political Organisation of Harāppan Society', Pune 1991.
9. Sharma R.S., 'India's Ancient Past', Delhi 2005
10. Ludden, David led, 'Reading Subaltern Studies: Critical History, contested Meaning and the Globalisation of South Asia', Wimbledon, London, 2002.
11. Sumit Sarkar, 'Modern India 1885-1947' , Delhi 1983 & 'Writing Social History', OUP Delhi 1997
12. Romial Thaper, 'Recent Perspectives and Early Indian History', Bombay 1995.