

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF KALYANI
Proposed Syllabus for Post-Graduate Course with a view
to the introduction of CBCS from 2017-18 session
Four Semesters with the following course papers
Revised Course as recommended

Sem. 1 Paper I : History – Its Nature and Purpose

Paper II : Ancient Societies

Paper III : Medieval Societies

Paper IV : Modern World – 19th, 20th Centuries

First Semester

Paper I: History Its Nature & Purpose

Unit 1: Meaning and Scope of History – truth, fact, evidence – causation.

Unit 2: Objectivity of History – History and Sciences – History and other disciplines (Archaeology, Geography, Anthropology, Political Science etc.).

Unit 3: Approaches to History (theological, orientalist, imperialist, nationalist, Marxist, subaltern, post-modernist etc.).

Unit 4: Different Theories – Historical Materialism - cyclical, sociological and comparative, structural, ecological and post- modernist critiques of History.

Unit 5: Themes in Indian History (economic, labour and peasant, *varna, jati, janajati*, gender, religion, culture, science & technology, environment).

Unit 6: Debates in History – representative study of some major debates on the social and economic history of the World.

Paper II: Ancient Societies

Unit 1: Journey of the human society – theories related with the evolution of human society – stages of human society.

Unit 2: The Ancient Indian Society – Indus Valley Civilization, town planning, production system, trade and commerce - Vedic Society, *varnashrama dharma*, position of women

Unit 3: Ancient Egypt – sources – social structure – kingship – priesthood – position of women – the Osyrian cult – the Hittait invasion – law and punishment – mummification.

Unit 4: The Age of Antiquity: Greece – the Polis, social structure, position of the Helots, Perioikois and women – Greek pantheon – Olympic – society and culture reflected in the classical comedies and tragedies.

Unit 5: The Birth of Classical Civilization: Pax Romanica – The Etruscans – rise of the Romans, relation between Patrician and Plebian, the eclectic nature of the Roman culture and religion, condition of the slaves and women – Gladiator – Roman law.

Unit 6: The Oriental Society in Ancient Times: China – Chinese society during the Tsang and Han dynasties, Chinese pantheon – Confucius and his ideology – Buddhism and Taoism – TsunZu – position of women.

Paper III: Medieval Societies

Unit 1: Evolution of the Christian Church and the prevailing anti-Church feeling in Europe.

Unit 2: Feudalism in Europe -its definition, features, nature and the process of decline.

Unit 3: Crusades and its impact on the medieval European society.

Unit 4: Traditional Societies of the Far East.

Unit 5: Structure of medieval society of India – Indian Feudalism as different from the European type, debate on the village community and production relations, potentiality for capitalist growth.

Unit 6: Religion and Caste structure – changes in social psyche under the impact of Islam – debates on syncretism and reformism in the medieval society of India.

Paper IV: Modern World 19th 20th centuries

Unit 1: Legacy of the Nineteenth Century - growth of capitalism and imperialism - England, France, Germany and Japan – spread of liberalism, nationalism and socialism.

Unit 2: World Order upto 1945 - impact of the World Wars on the world order – changes in world politics before and after the rise of Nazism and Fascism, crisis in the capitalist power block with special reference to the depression of the 1930s, economic and political aspects of rise and growth of the socialist state system, Soviet Union and China, de-colonization, social changes.

Unit 3: Cold War and its effects - ideological and political basis of cold war - pacts and treaties, regional tensions (Palestine, Kashmir, Cuba, Korea and Vietnam), new trends of oil politics, nuclear diplomacy, Non-Aligned Movement and the Third World, UNO and the concept of world peace.

Unit 4: Age of Progress - Economy and Society - industry, agriculture, science & technology, communications and information. cultural revolution, civil rights movement, apartheid and feminism.

Unit 5: Disintegration of Socialist Blocks and end of Cold War - genesis and process of disintegration of the socialist blocks - its impact on society and politics, end of the bipolar world system.

Unit 6: Globalization – conceptual aspects of globalization, changes in the structure of production and production relations, the new commerce and expansion of capital, socio-cultural changes, impact of globalization on the economy, society and polity of the developing world.