

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF KALYANI

Syllabus (as revised in 2021) for M.A. (CBCS)

First Semester [Total Credit = 18, Marks 225 (Credit 04 = Marks 50 ; Credit 02 = Marks 25)]

COR 1 : Historiography in Theory and Practice (Credit-04)

Unit 1 : Meaning, scope and importance of History

Unit 2 : Objectivity and bias in History ; Causation in History.

Unit 3 : History and its auxiliary subjects ; is History a Science, Social Science or Arts ?

Unit 4 : Major theories of historical writing – cyclical, comparative, Positivist, Marxist, Post-Marxist and Post-Modernist.

Unit 5 : Major thinkers – Von Ranke (1795-1886), Oswald Spengler (1880-1936), Marc Bloch (1886-1944), Arnold Toynbee (1889-1975), Fernand Braudel (1902-1985), Eric Hobsbawm (1917-2012), E. P. Thompson (1924-1993).

Unit 6 : Recent trends in Indian historiography (Dalit, Gender, New Cultural Histories, HISTEM)-significance of regional history.

COR 2 : Ancient Societies beyond India (Credit-04)

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

Unit 2 : The Age of Antiquity – Greece – the Polis, social structure, position of the Helots, *Perioikoi* and women – Greek pantheon – Olympic – society and culture as reflected in Greek comedies and tragedies.

Unit 3 : The birth of classical civilization in Europe – *Pax Romanica* – the Etruscans – rise of the Romans – relation between Patrician and Plebian – the eclectic nature of the Roman culture and religion – condition of slaves and women – Gladiator – Roman law.

Unit 4 : Early Latin American Civilizations – Olmec, Maya, Aztec, Inca – the human background – the Asian link – Iberian influence – changing features in the pre-Columbus era.

Unit 5 : Sub-Saharan Africa and ancient Egypt – society and mechanism of social control- Egyptian kingship, priesthood and other social forces – position of women – the Osyrian cult – the Hittait invasion – law and punishment – mummification.

Unit 6 : The Oriental society in ancient times – China – Chinese society during the Tsang & Han dynasties – Chinese pantheon – Confucius and his ideology – Buddhism and Taoism – TsunZu – position of women – Chinese influence on the Japanese society and culture – Shintoism –southeast Asia in the making.

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COR 3 : State in India through the Ages (Credit-04)

Unit 1 : Rise of the territorial state in India in the Vedic Age – social plurality - structure and theories of state – religious and philosophical ideas of state and law.

Unit 2 : From state to empire – from the Mauryas to the Guptas – debates on the rise of feudal state in India.

Unit 3 : Regional states in India – the Cholas and Pallavas in the South – the Maitrakhas (Vallabhi) and Chalukyas (Gujarat) in the West, the Rajputs in the North and the Palas and Senas in the East.

Unit 4 : Debates on state formation in medieval India – feudal model – ‘segmentary’ model – integrating model – theocratic model – legitimization of kingship - feudal centralism under the Mughals – 18th century crisis.

Unit 5 : Regional states in pre-colonial India – Maharashtra, Punjab, Hyderabad, Mysore, Oudh and Bengal – feudalism redefined.

Unit 6 : Foundation of the colonial state in the late eighteenth century – the Company’s experiments with law, justice and utility – creation of the state for industrial and finance capital – establishment of the so-called “Legitimate Neo Darbari State” after 1858 – nationalist reaction – ideas of state of Rabindranath, Gandhi and Nehru.

COR 4 : Europe in Transition : From Medieval Age to Modernity (Credit-04)

Unit 1 : From Late Antiquity to Medievalism – interplay between religion and state – various models of feudalism – religious model, manorial model, political model and military model – the crusade, the pandemic and the crisis, 13th to 15th centuries.

Unit 2 : The changing identity of Europe in the 16th century – Renaissance and Reformation – rise of national monarchies.

Unit 3 : The Renaissance man of new knowledge – science, arts, literature and music – the triumph of reason in the 17th century – change in the notion of politics.

Unit 4 : The 18th century – legacy of enlightenment – the enlightenment debate – the birth of modernity.

Unit 5 : Transition from feudalism to capitalism – the transition debate – the worldwide impact.

Unit 6 : The gender question in the changing scenario – the ‘three age’ theory – the witchcraft and the witch craze – polarisation of womanhood.

AECC : Terms and Concepts of Indian History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern) (Credit – 02)

Second Semester (Total Credit = 18, Marks 225)

COR 5 : Society and Culture in India – Tradition and Modernity (open Choice) (Credit – 04)

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COR 6 : Colonial India – 19th and 20th centuries (Credit – 04)

COR 7 : National Movement in India (Credit – 04)

COR 8 : Bengal – Life and Thought (Credit – 04)

SEC : Practice of writing history (Credit – 02)

Third Semester (Total Credit = 24, Marks 300)

COR 9 : Bengal Politics, 1905 – 1947 (Credit – 04)

COR10: West Bengal since 1947 (Credit – 04)

COR11: India after independence (Credit – 04)

COR12: Modern World, 19th and 20th centuries (Credit – 04)

DSE 01: History of Modern Southeast Asia / or History of the USA (Credit – 04)

GE 01 : Women in India, Past and Present / or
Film, Theatre and Media in Modern India (Credit – 04)

Fourth Semester (Total Credit = 24, Marks 300)

COR13: India, her neighbours and the contemporary world

DSE02: History of environment in India / or
History of Science and Technology in India (Credit – 04)

DSE03: History of Medicine in India/ or
Indian Diaspora (Credit – 04)

DSE04: Rural Bengal and its folk tradition / or
Modern Cultural Studies (Credit – 04)

Project/ Dissertation (Credit – 08)

Preliminary training on methodology / selection of topic / hypothesis / heuristicism /
assumption / selection of topic / research proposal writing / collection of data / handling of
different sources / citation.

Respective Teachers will give the reading list in the class

Net Total Credit = 18 + 18 + 24 + 24 = 84

Net Total Marks = 1050

