

DIRECTORATE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL
TRUNCATED SYLLABUS FOR M.A IN HISTORY
(Semester Pattern with CBCS)
(In View of COVID-19)

SEMESTER –I

Course-101

Core Compulsory Papers

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Unit 1: World Order up to 1919

- a) Origin of the First World War: its nature, Peace Settlement and Long Term Consequences

Unit 2: World between the Wars

- a) Workings of the League of Nations: Failures and Collective Security,
- b) Fascism and Nazism: Case study of Germany, Japan and Italy.

Unit 3: Second World War and the New Political Order (From European to Global War)

- a) Origin, Nature and the Consequences of the War
- b) Nationalist Movements and Decolonization in Asia and Africa: Causes and Nature, Forms of resisting Colonialism (1900-1945 onwards)

Course-102

STATE IN INDIA (ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL)

Unit 1: History and Historiography

- a) Historiography – Broad outline

Unit 2: The Mauryan and Gupta State

- a) Mauryan Polity
- b) Gupta polity

Unit 3:

- a) Nature and Function of States in Medieval times: Delhi Sultanate, Mughal Empire, Vijayanagara State

Unit 4:

- a) Administrative institutions, Apparatus of the empire
- b) Formation of Regional Polities

SOFT CORE (COMPULSORY)

COURSE-103

Ancient Indian History upto 650 A.D.: Society and Economy

Unit 1.1 Reconstructing Ancient Indian History: Sources and Interpreting Historiography

Unit 2: Bronze Age: First urbanization

- a) Understanding the transition from Early Harappan to Mature Harappan Civilization: Distribution, Extent, Economic and Social Characteristics, Technology, Agriculture, Trade, Art & Crafts, Seals, Religion, Funerary Rituals
- b) Debate on Harappan Chronology: Ethnic Identities and Decline

Unit 3.1: Vedic society: Polity, Economy, Religion, Forms of Property, Changes in the later Vedic period. (Economic Development, Social Stratification, Beginning of *Varanashrama*, *Jati*, Gender, Marriage, Property Relations, *Samskaras*)

Unit 3.2: Dissents and Protests

- a) Religious Movements: Jainism, Buddhism, Ajivikism and Other Sects, Social and Economic basis of heterodox religion
- b) Second Urbanization: Urban Centers, New Classes and Changing Social Relations

Unit: 4

- a) Educational Ideas and Institutions
- b) Science and Technology: Major development in Medicinal Science, Surgery, Astrology, Metallurgy, Positive Sciences, Ideological Shift,
- c) Slavery, Labour, untouchables and Varna Sanskara
- d) Debate on Feudalism

ELECTIVE PAPERS (CHOOSE ANY ONE)

Course-104

MEDIEVAL INDIA

Polity and Economy of India (C. A.D. 1206 – 1757)

Unit 1: Primary Sources: Archaeological, Literary source, Foreign Travelers' Accounts

Unit 2: Historiography: Different approaches

Unit 3.1: Technology and Economy, Agrarian Economy, Non-agrarian Economy

Unit 3.2: Inland and Maritime Trade, Business Practices and Monetary History and Taxation

Unit 3.3: Urbanisation and Urbanism: Cities, Ports and Forts, Growth and Morphology of Medieval Towns.

COURSE 105

History of Modern India (1757 – 1857)

Unit 1: Understanding Modern India

- a) Sources: Archival records, Private papers, News papers and memoirs, periodicals and oral tradition, Approaches and interpretation – different schools of thought

Unit 2: India in the 18th Century: Transition and Changes

- a) The historiography of the 18th Century
- b) The British conquest of India: the Imperial World policy of Britain, War and Conquest, Native and Princely States from Hastings to Dalhousie, The major relations with Indian native states – Sikhs, Mysore, Maratha and others

Unit 3: Colonial Construction of India:

- a) Changing framework of Colonial governance & administrative structure, Regulating Act to Queen's Proclamation 1858

Unit 4.1: Social Policies and Social Changes

- a) British understanding of Indian Society, Colonial Ideology and Colonial Rule:- Orientalism, Utilitarianism, Evangelicalism and Missionary activities

- b) Social reforms and emerging social classes

4.2 Economic organization: Changes and continuity

- a) Rural economy in eastern, western, south, central, northern India and Princely state

This should be studied with special reference on new types of Land revenue administration, commercialization of agriculture, rural indebtedness, rural power relations, Landlords, peasants and agricultural labours and institutions.

b) Debate over deindustrialization

4.3 Resistance to colonial rule

a) Pre -1857 peasant, tribal and cultural resistance

SEMESTER –II

COURSE-201

TWENTIETH CENTURY AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Unit 1: Cold War and its effects:

- a) Cold War and Bipolarism in World politics: background & responsibility, ideological and political basis of Cold War, Pacts and Treaties, Tensions and rivalries

- b) UNO and the concept of World Peace and regional tensions: Cuba, Korea, Vietnam, Middle East in World politics, birth of Israel, The Palestine Question, Oil diplomacy, 1979 Iranian Revolution, Iraq – Kuwait conflict, Gulf – War, Indo-Pak relations, Kashmir Question, Bangladesh War, SAARC

Unit 2: Cultural Revolution, Civil Rights Movements, Apartheid, Feminism, Gender issue in Global context

Unit 3: Context of Globalization:

- a) Historical context, Instruments and impact

COURSE-202

STATE IN INDIA (MODERN PERIOD)

Unit 1: The origins and nature of the Colonial State

- a) Transition from Merchant Capital to Finance capital

Unit 2: Ideologies of the Colonial State

- a) Imperial Ideologies of the Raj: Liberalism, Utilitarianism and Orientalism at work (James Mill, John Start Mill and Thomas Macaulay – 1857 and the Idea of Permanent Raj: J. F. Stephen, Charles Dilke and John R. Seeley)

Unit 3: Nationalist Critique of the Colonial State

- a) Economic and Political Aspects – R. C. Dutt, Dadabhai Naoroji, Bipin Chandra Paul, Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

Unit: 4.1

Post –independent state in India

- a) Towards a planned mixed economy
- b) The making of a parliamentary democracy: Lineage and institutions

Unit -4.2

The challenges of sub nationalism: crisis and management

- a) State Reorganisation Commission
- b) Languages and boundaries, Sixth schedule and

SOFT CORE (COMPULSORY)

COURSE 203

Early Medieval Indian History (C 650 – 1206A.D.)

Unit 1:

- a) Interpreting the period: Changing pattern of Polity, Economy and Society
- b) Sources: Sanskritic, Tamil and other Literatures and Archaeology Epigraphy and Numismatics

Unit 2:

- a) Polity, Political systems: Emergence of Regional Powers and Evolution of the Structure of Polities

Unit 3:

- a) Agrarian Economy: Land Grants Agricultural Expansion, Agrarian Organization, Irrigation and Technology, *Jajmani* System, *Krishiparasara*

- b) Urban Economy: Trade and Trade Routes, Inter-regional maritime Trade, Urban Settlements, Trade and Craft Guilds, forms of Exchange, Coinage and Currency, Interest and Wages and Traders, Merchants and Craftsmen.

ELECTIVE PAPERS: CHOOSE ANY ONE

PAPER 204

MEDIEVAL INDIA

Society and Culture of India (C. A.D. 1206 – 1757)

Unit 1: Bhakti Movement: Nathpanthi, Kabir, Sant Tradition, Nanak, Dadu, Chaitanya, Tulsidasand, Namdev

Unit 2: Sufi Movement: Sufism – its Origins, Concepts and Practices, Relation with other Religious Groups

Unit 3:

- a) Imperial Women: Mughal marriages with Rajput Women; Nur Jahan's Involvement in Court Politics; Jahanara's Participation in Trade and Politics

Unit 4:

- a) Women and Gender in Everyday Life: Gender Relations in the Household; Women and the laws, Women in Economic Activities; Crimes against Women, Marginalized women – Prostitutes and Entertainers

COURSE-205

History of Modern India 1857-1964

Unit 1.1: The Great revolt of 1857

- a) Historiography, ideology , programmes, leadership at various levels, people's participation and British repression and response

Unit 1.2 British Expansions – since 1858:

- b) Principles and policies governing foreign relations
c) India and its Neighbours: Afghanistan, (ii) Tibet, (iii) Nepal, (iv) Burma and (v) Bhutan

Unit 2: Economy:

- a) Agricultural output, levels and brands and natural and regional explanations

b) Domestic and craft industry, rise of modern industry and capitalist class, State and industrial growth and the rise of the Working Class (formal and informal sectors)

Unit 3: Environmental and Ecological Consciousness in modern India

a) British economic policy and imperialism, Ruin of Indian small scale industries & impact on environment, Exploitation of natural resources and forests

Unit 4: Society

a) Social composition: ethnic groups-tribes (creation of new categories of criminal tribes and castes) and class and community

b) Colonial intervention and social change: reform movements, modern education; rise of middle classes and caste movements

SEMESTER –III

CORE PAPERS (COMPULSORY)

PAPER 301

Historiography: Concepts, Methods and Tools

Unit 1: Meaning and Scope of History

a) What is History

b) Collection and selection of data, evidence, different ways to ascertain historical evidence and its transmission, Causation

Unit 2: History and other disciplines

a) Inter-disciplinary approach in history

b) Relations with archaeology, geography, linguistics, economics, politics and literature

Unit 3: Traditions of Historical Writings

a) Ancient Indian tradition

b) Medieval Indian tradition

c) Positivist historiography, debate on historicism

d) Annals historiography

Unit 3: Paradigms and approaches to history

a) Approaches to Indian history

- i. Orientalist
- ii. Nationalist
- iii. Marxist
- iv. Subaltern

PAPER- 302

HISTORY OF IDEAS (ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL)

History of Ideas (Ancient Period)

Unit 1: Political Ideas

- a) Ideas of Polity: Oligarchy, Republicanism, Emergence of Monarchy in Ancient India, Different approaches of Study

Unit 2: Religious and Philosophical Ideas

- a) Formation of Religious Ideas in Early India

- i) Vedas, Upanishads and Vedanta
- ii) Six Schools of Indian Philosophy
- iii) Jainism
- iv) Buddhism

- b) Social Ideas:

- i) Varna
- ii) Jati

Unit 3: Social and religious ideas

- a) Philosophy of Islam

- b) Formation of religious thought and cultural synthesis: Bhakti movement: Shaivite and Vaishnavite, Regional Developments, Sikhism, Din-I-Ilahi.

- c) Intellectual traditions, Identity Formations, Temple Desecration and the Indo-Muslim States.

SOFT CORE (COMPULSORY)

PAPER 303

History of Medieval Bengal (1206 – 1857 A.D.)

Unit 1: Primary sources and historiography: Archaeological, Literature and Literary source, Foreign Travellers' Accounts and different approaches

Unit 2: Political Islam in Bengal: Period of Virtual Independence and Dubious Vassalage, Independent Kingdoms, Afghans, Mughals, Nawabs

Unit 3: Conversion and Islamization in Bengal, Accommodation and Assimilation, Problematising the study of the 'Hindu-Muslim encounter', Religion and Eclecticism

OPEN ELECTIVE (CHOOSE ANY ONE)

PAPER 304

INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND AFTER (1857-1964)

Unit 1: National Movement:

- a) Emergence of organized nationalism till 1919, Birth of I.N.C, Advent of Gandhi and new phase
- b) National Movement – nature, programme, social composition, limitations and challenge
- c) Revolutionary and Left movements, Peasant movements, - Kisan Sabha, Bardoli Satyagraha and others
- d) Working of Congress and non-Congress provincial ministers
- e) Birth of Muslim League – growth and activities and demand for Pakistan
- f) Subhas Chandra Bose and Indian National Congress, Forward Bloc, Bose and I.N.A
- g) Partition of India: Circumstances and historical factors, Causes responsible for the Partition.

UNIT 2: Nationalism in Science

- a) Emergence of national science
- b) Its relations vis a vis colonial science, Mahendra lal Sarkar, P.C.Roy, J.C. Bose , U.N.Brahmachari

Unit 3: Independent India

- a) Integration of princely states
- b) Beginning of planned economy
- c) Land questions and industrial policy

PAPER- 305

Social, Cultural and Economic History of Modern India:

Some Selected Themes (1857-1964)

Unit 1: Social changes during the colonial period

- a) Nineteenth Century was the Age of Social Reforms.
- b) Age of Reforms mean the age of Women's emancipation.

Unit 2 : Rise of voices

- a) Growth of Public opinion in colonial India.
- b) Journalism and Indian National Movement.
- c) Growth of the vernacular Literature.

Unit 3: Economy in colonial period

- a) Deindustrialization debate
- b) Industrialization in India
- c) Various types of land revenue systems in colonial Indian.

SEMESTER IV
CORE PAPERS (COMPULSORY)
PAPER 401

THEMES IN INDIAN HISTORY

Themes in Indian History

Unit 1:

- a) The colonial economy and state, - migrant labour: Calcutta, Bombay, Burma, Fiji and Trinidad,
- b) Tribes and Other Communities,
- c) Environment,
- d) Science and technology,
- e) Economic and power relations in colonial India;
- f) Caste identities: Colonial knowledge, Caste and Census, Emerging Caste associations: Debates around Sanskritisation; migration and disease and health services.
- g) Culture
- h) Peasant, labour and working classes

Unit 2: Debates in History

Representative study of at least four major debates on the social, cultural and economic history of the world

SOFT CORE (COMPULSORY PAPERS)

PAPER -402

HISTORY OF IDEAS

HISTORY OF IDEAS (MODERN)

Unit 1: Colonialism and the emergence of new political ideas

- (i) Utilitarianism
- (ii) Positivism
- (iii) Nationalism and Socialism
- (iv) Communalism and Secularism

Unit 2: Reform and Revivalism

- (i) Brahma Samaj, Prarthana Samaj, Arya Samaj, Deoband and Aligarh Movement, Singh Sabha Movement
- (ii) Fundamentalism in modern India

Unit 3:

- a) Anti-Caste Movements: Satyasadhak Samaj, Sree Narayan Guru Movement (SNDP)
- b) Social reform and revivalism: Brahma Samaj, Prarthana Samaj, Arya Samaj, Aligarh Movement, Sing Sabha Movement
- c) Social Movement: B.R. Ambedkar.
- d) Nationalism and social change in India: Rise and Growth of the Middle Classes, Emergence of new classes.

Unit 4: Cultural Changes

- a) Literacy and changes in Languages, Language and the Nation, Some theoretical considerations, Formation of Language

ELECTIVE PAPERS (CHOOSE ANY TWO)

PAPER -403

Ancient Indian History (up to 650 A.D): Political History

Unit 1: Unit 4: Towards Empire: Nandas and Mauryas

- a) Political consolidation, Nature and extent of the Empire, Foreign relations
- b) Asokan Edicts, *Dhamma*, Scripts; Kautilya's *Arthashastra* and Megasthenes's *Indica*

Unit 2: Post Mauryan Development:

- a) Sungas and Kanvas, Indo-Greeks and Saka-Pallavas, Social Condition
- b) Kushanas, Society, Religion, Buddhism and Tantricism and Interactions with Central and Western Asia, Trade and Trade routes, including silk-routes and Spice routes, Coins and Currency, Syncretic elements in Indian society
- c) Sangam Age, Chiefdom, Literature, Society and Culture, Indo-Roman Trade.

Unit 3: Guptas, Vakatakas and Vardhanas

- a) Land grants and expansion of agriculture

Unit 4:

- a) Huna invasion
- b) Harsha, Chalukya, Pallavas: Extent of kingdoms, Administration, Religion, Society and Cultural activities

PAPER 404

History of Medieval Bengal (1206 – 1757 A.D.)

Unit 1: Agrarian Economy and the State / Subah

- a) Control over land and relations of production, resource base and pattern of resource use in agrarian production, nature and magnitude of taxation and agrarian relations

Unit 2: Industries, production technologies, Trade, Commerce and Monetary System

- a) Inland and maritime trade, role of Arab and European traders, Indian merchants and their commercial practices, medium of exchange, currency, coinage and banking

Unit 3: Architecture of Bengal:

a) Islamic Architecture and Temple Architecture

PAPER 405

Economic History of India A. D. 1757 – 1947

Unit 1

1.1 Early phase of colonial economy

(a) Mercantilism and European economic interests in India. The East India Company and its rule in Bengal

(b) The early Drain of Wealth and its mechanism, magnitude and effects

Unit 1. 2: Agrarian Settlements and Agrarian production

(c) The permanent Settlement – objectives, operations, effects and official critiques

(c) Ryotwari Settlement and Mahalwari system

(d) Consequences of periodic settlements

Unit 2: Railway and Indian Economy

(a) Economic and political compulsions

(b) Effects on agrarian production and export of raw materials commercialization of agriculture

(c) Famines and British policy, nationalist criticism

Unit 3: Large scale industry

(a) Conditions before the emergence of modern industry

(b) Modern industry in pre-1914 phase-nature-main industry; cotton, jute, iron and steel and others. Impediments to growth, nationalist critique, industry and the First World War phase with special reference to economic depression.

(c) Rise of industrial labour, labour movements.

Unit 4: The Fiscal System

(a) Tariff and excise

PAPER 406

History of North Bengal: 1757-1947 (Regional History)

Selected Themes:

Unit 1: Emergence of Modern North Bengal

(a) Pre-colonial North Bengal; North Bengal and Sub-Himalayan

Region-adjoining areas: Ethno Socio-Religious confluence

(b) Colonial penetration

(c) Colonial administration, Re-organisation of North Bengal

(d) History of Migration: Demographic Changes: New Social Structure

Unit 2: History of the Cooch Behar Raj since 1772:

Cultural Response and Reaction

Unit 3

3.1: Introduction of colonial Economy

(a) Land Revenue Settlement

(b) Plantation Economy

(c) Forestry

Unit 3.2: Protest Movement

(a) Peasant movement

(b) Plantation worker movement