Department of History
University of Delhi

STRUCTURE AND THE SYLLABI OF M.A. HISTORY
FOR THE THIRD AND FOURTH SEMESTERS

(Modern Indian History)

The M.A. programme shall be spread over four semesters, with four courses/papers of four credits each in every semester. The structure and details of the third and fourth semesters of the programme for those students who choose to be in the Modern Indian History Stream shall be as follows:

A student shall do four core courses/papers and four elective courses/papers in the third and fourth semesters put together.

Core Courses:
- HSM – 402 Strategies of Imperial Control, 1850s to 1918
- HSM – 403 Indian Economy 1750-1850
- HSM – 404 Themes in the Economic History of India, c. 1850-1950
- HSM – 405 Social Identities in Modern India
- HSM – 406 Adivasis, Caste and Social Exclusion in Colonial India, c. 1800- c. 1950
- HSM – 407 Select Issues in the History of Nationalism in India, c. 1860 – 1914
- HSM – 408 Select Issues in the Study of Nationalism in India, 1917-49
- HSM – 409 The Political Economy of Decolonization in India, 1914-1950
- HSM – 410 India, 1947-1967: Themes in politics and society

Elective Courses:
- HSM – 411 Religion and Community in Modern India [Elective]
- HSM – 412 History, Culture and Politics in Eastern India [Elective]
- HSM – 413 Selected Issues in the Study of Peasant and Tribal Societies and Movements in Colonial India [Elective]
- HSM – 414 The Great Revolt: 1857-59 [Elective]
- HSM – 415 History of Labour, Labouring Poor and the Working Class in India c. 1750-2000 [Elective]
- HSM – 416 Gender and Society in Modern India, c. 1800-2000 [Elective]
- HSM – 417 The Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India, c. 1800-1950 [Elective]
HSM – 418 Colonialism at the ‘Frontiers’: 1800-1950 [Elective]
HSM – 419 The Margins of History [Elective]
HSM – 420 Law and Society in Colonial India [Elective]
HSM – 421 Language, History and Nationalism in South Asia [Elective]
HSM – 422 Early British Imperialism: Law and Sovereignty, Language and Ethnicity [Elective]
HSM – 423 Aspects of Book History [Elective]
HSM – 425 Select Issues in Cultural Histories of Modern India [Elective]
HSM – 426 Explorations in Maratha History 1613-1818 [Elective]
HSM – 427 Narcotics and the British Indian Empire [Elective]
HSM – 428 Cultures of Intimacy in Colonial India [Elective]
HSM – 429 Dalit Histories: Popular Culture and Protest [Elective]
HSM – 430 Violence in Colonial and Modern India [Elective]
HSM – 431 The Colonial and Modern Indian City: Its History and Representation [Elective]
HSM – 432 History of Modern Education in India: Social Attitudes, Colonial State and Nationalism, 19th and early 20th century [Elective]
HSM – 433 Mahatma Gandhi: Man, Ideas, Political, Social and Moral Philosophy [Elective]
HSM – 434 The Global Indian Diaspora and Its Histories [Elective]
HSM – 435 Environmental History of India, 1800 to 2000 [Elective]
HSM – 436 Theatre in Colonial India [Elective]
HSM – 437 Photography and Colonialism: [Elective: Seminar]
HSM – 438 Select Problems in History and Historiography [Elective: Seminar]
HSM – 439 The Trials of Imperial Jurisprudence [Elective: Seminar]
HSM – 440 Fiction, Fieldwork, Film, History: Reading Selected Texts on Urban and Rural India [Elective: Seminar]
HSM – 441 An Ideological and Cultural History of Hindustani Cinema from the early twentieth century to the present times. [Elective: Seminar]
HSM – 442 Colonialism and the Making of Indian Pasts [Elective: Seminar]
Topics:
1. Social, economic, political, military and cultural conditions in the second half of the Eighteenth century in India.
2. The historiography of the eighteenth century.
3. The British conquest of India: the international context; War and Society; Princely states from Hastings to Dalhousie.
4. The consolidation of British power in India: Land Revenue, changing framework of colonial governance; economic underpinnings; the armature of the colonial state: army, law, police.
5. Colonial Ideology and Colonial Rule: Orientalism, Utilitarianism, Whiggism; Missionary activity and Evangelicalism; the new education, printing and the idea of reform of Indian civilization.

Select Readings:
[Core Course 2]
HSM-402
Strategies of Imperial Control, 1850s to 1918

Topics:
1. The Colonial State: Administrative changes after the Revolt; Structure; Nature; Processes of Legitimization.
2. The Bureaucratic Apparatus: Personnel; Recruitment; Training; Social Composition; Indigenous Component; Ideology; Early nationalists and the ‘Indianization’ question.
3. The British Indian Army: Reorganization after the Revolt; Recruitment of sipahis—changes, 1880s-1918; Officer cadre.
4. ‘Martial races’ and colonial ideology: Ideas about race in the late nineteenth century; Indian society and the colonial army; Dalit marginalization.
6. Urban space and the new imperial capital: The colonial city; Delhi in the nineteenth century; New Delhi and the imperial idea.

Select Readings:
Topics:

1. The 18th Century Economy: Regional Formations
2. East India Company: From Trading Company to State
3. Fate of Handloom: and other artisanal production Regional Experiences
4. Land and agriculture: Bengal, Madras and North India. Land market, agricultural prices
5. Commercial Agriculture: Indigo, Opium. And Cotton Bengal, Malwa and Western India
6. Trade and Finance: Foreign and internal trade, Agency Houses and indigenous modern banking
7. Labour: Agrestic servitude, Slavery, abolition of slavery
8. Legal Regulation of the Economy: Contract and Custom; Land Regulations, Debt and Commercial Law.

Suggested Readings:

Course Description: This course looks at the historiography of some core issues of colonial economic history. It pays particular attention to the world of peasants, artisans and migrants, both inland and overseas. A recurring theme is the implication of the social structure of caste and gender in the working out of economic relationships.

Topics:

1. Colonial India and the World of Trade, Money and Finance
2. The World of the Peasants
3. The World of the Artisans in the Age of Mechanised Production.
4. The World of the Migrant: Calcutta, Bombay, Burma; Fiji and Trinidad.
5. The World of Capital and the World of Labour
6. The Colonial Economy and the Colonial State
7. ‘Economic’ and ‘power’ relations in colonial India; the absent women of ‘Economic History’.

Select Readings:

Course Description: The course will survey some of the key themes in the social history of colonial India, with a focus on identity politics in the critical fields of religion, language, gender and caste, and the linkages between them. Central to it will be the issues that emerged in this period around religious reforms, linguistic assertions, the role of women and caste stratification, and their impact on constructions of nationalism and communalism, and on debates around ‘tradition’ and ‘modernity’.

Topics
1. Caste Identities:
   (a) Colonial Knowledge, Caste and Census.
   (b) Emerging Caste Associations. Debates around Sanskritization
   (c) Non-Brahman and Dalit Movements: Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Bengal, Gangetic Plains.
   (d) Gandhi, Ambedkar and Periyar.
2. Gender Identities
   (a) Ambiguities of Women and Social Reforms: Sati, Purdah, Age of Consent, Widow Remarriage, Education.
   (b) Nationalism and Partition.
3. Religious and Linguistic Identities
   (a) Approaches and Historiography.
   (b) Making of ‘modern Indian languages’ and ‘Vernacular modernities’. Print Culture, Education and the Public sphere. Religion, Caste and language.
   (c) Ideology and Language of Everyday Violence and Religious Conflicts.

Select Readings:
9. Prachi Deshpande, Creative Pasts: Historical Memory and Identity in Western India, 1700-1960 ( Permanent Black, Ranikhet, 2006)
Adivasis, Caste and Social Exclusion in Colonial India, c. 1800 - c.1950

Topics:
1. Introduction: Historiography and the archive; Oral traditions
2. Colonial Conquest: “Pacification Campaigns”.
3. Colonial Society: economic and social stratification; indebtedness; famines; migration and disease
4. Colonial Anthropology: ‘Tribe’ and ‘caste’ as categories; Conversions.
5. Popular movements of tribals and ‘outcastes’
6. The Caste Question: Phule, Gandhi, Periyar, Ambedkar
7. Decolonisation and Independence

Select Readings:
8. D.R Nagaraj, The Flaming Feet and Other Essays The Dalit Movement in India Permanent Black, 2010
[Core Course 7]  
HSM-407  

Select Issues in the History of Nationalism in India, c. 1860 – 1914

Topics:

1. Perspectives: The First Century of British Rule and Indian Social Politics  
2. The Indian intelligentsia; intellectual cross-currents; print, press, societies, associations and socio-political reforms  
3. Imperial Imperatives: Ideas, attitudes and policies of the rulers (1860-1914)  
4. The Indian Polity and the Early Congress  
5. Religious Communities, and Traditionalist and Modern Politics; Language, conflicts and riots  
6. The Swadeshi Movement and its Aftermath  
7. Nationalism, Gender, Culture and Politics  
8. Tagore’s *Nationalism* and Gandhi’s *Hind Swaraj*

Select Readings:

[Core Course 8]

HSM-408

Select Issues in the Study of Nationalism in India, 1917-49

Course Description: The course offers a study of selected issues in the study of mass nationalism. It shall focus on varying facets of Gandhian Nationalism and require an in-depth engagement with primary source material.

Topics:

1. Interpretations and Perspectives
2. The Beginnings of ‘Gandhian’ Politics: (a) Champaran, Kheda, Ahmedabad (b) Rowlatt Satyagraha
3. The Nation and Nationalist Struggle according to Gandhi
4. Khilafat and Non-Cooperation and the ways of mass nationalism; its aftermath; the regidification of sectarian identities
5. The Question of Agrarian Base.
7. 1942: Perceptions of the Colonial State
8. Partition: the Long post-History

Select Readings:

5. Subaltern Studies, 1-12, Ed. Ranajit Guha and et al, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Permanent Press 1982-
The Political Economy of Decolonization in India, 1914-1950

Topics:

1. The First World War and its impact on Britain, India and the International Economy
2. British Economic Stakes in India, and economic policy and politics
3. The Great Depression and After: The Constitutional Settlement of 1935
4. Structural changes in the British and Indian economies: towards a new complementarity in trade and manufacturers
5. The Second World War, Political upheavals, famine and the Indian economy
6. The Post-War Scenario and the Transfer of Power
7. Towards a planned ‘mixed’ economy for the Republic of India

Select Readings:

[Core Course 10]

HSM-410

India, 1947-1967: Themes in Politics and Society

Topics:
2. Languages and Boundaries
3. The Challenges of Sub-Nationalism: Communities and Identities
4. India and the World: the Making of a Foreign policy
5. Planning the Economy
6. Regionalism and the Backward Classes; Dalit and Adivasi Assertion
7. Business, Labour and the State
8. Science, Technology and Nature

Select Readings:

ELECTIVE COURSES

[Elective: Lecture Course 11]

HSM-411

Religion and Community in Modern India

Course Description: This course seeks to study the manner in which community identities emerged and were reified in colonial India. Along with concepts such as orientalism, syncretism, conversion and secularism. The course shall engage with the issues and symbols around which community identities came to be organized, and bring out their lineages, contexts and consequences for ‘Modern India’.

Topics:

1. Orientalism and the Religions in India
2. Community, Identity and Ways of Being
3. Language-Community-Identity
4. Revivalism, Reform and Modernisation
5. Conversions: Debates and Issues
6. Religious Communities, Politics and Violence

Select Readings:

**Course Description:** The eastern frontier of Bengal or India’s Northesat is at the interface or at the margin of academic ‘study area’ regions like South Asia and South-east Asia. This is an interdisciplinary survey of northeast India that covers the medieval, colonial and post-colonial period on different aspects of history, society and culture. British Assam constituted part of Bengal province till 1881, after which various historical forces conspired to form new regional forms and language-based identities in eastern India. Colonial modernity, missionary print, vernacular public spheres, colonial disciplinary regimes are relevant to an understanding of India’s postcolonial problems and possibilities as well as the articulation of indigenous concerns.

**Topics:**

1. State Formation: the Ahom polity, frontier uprising; the British as a Planter Raj, its disciplinary regime, enumeration, cartography, territoriality
2. Economy and Ecology: Assam tea, migrant labour, expansion of market, bamboo famines, land and community resources, forests conservation, elephant hunting
3. Colonial Modernity: missionary practices, politics of philanthropy, folk culture, literary traditions, the power of print, reading publics
4. Local Society: slavery and its abolition, traditional elites, rise of middle class, the women’s question
5. Animal Politics: anti-colonial freedom struggle, electoral politics, identity politics, the Indian state, political violence and civil societies
6. Mobility and Circulation: migration of people, circulation of commodities, raids, transport and communication

**Select Readings:**

Selected Issues in the Study of Peasant and Tribal Societies and Movements in Colonial India

Topics:

2. Characteristics of Peasant Societies and Peasant Resistance:
3. Subalternity; Insurgency; ‘Weapons of the Weak’.
4. Tribal Societies and Tribal Resistance: Tribes/Peasants; Corporate Labour and Tribal Community; Territoriality; the ‘Diku’ in Tribal Formations; Insurgency.
5. The above methodological and historiographical issues will be discussed in their generality, and with reference, inter alia, to the ‘Deccan Riots’, the ‘Moplah Outbreaks’ of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Santhal Rebellion of 1855-1856, and the Ulgulan of Birsa Munda.

Select Readings:

4. Andre Beteille, Six Essays in Comparative Sociology, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1974, PB.
The Great Revolt: 1857-59

Topics:

2. The Revolt in Delhi: People, Sipahis, Zafar, Military Conflict.
4. The Margins: Panjab; Peninsular India; East and North-East.
5. The Revolt and Social Classes: Peasants, Urban Poor, Intelligentsia, Feudal aristocracy, Marginalized groups.

Select Readings:

[Elective: Lecture Course 15]

HSM-415

History of Labour, Labouring Poor and the Working Class in India, c. 1750-2000

Course Description: The paper will focus on the major themes of labour history in modern India, straddling the colonial and postcolonial period. The course shall familiarise students with conceptual issues and historiographical debates along with detailed case studies. The emphasis in this paper will be on studying Indian labour history in a global comparative perspective.

Topics:
1. Key Concepts and Historiographical issues
2. Pre-colonial and early colonial labour market regions and sectors
3. Slavery and abolition and agrarian labour servitude
4. Migration and labour mobility internal and external
5. Colonial Labour Regimes; Factories, Mines and Plantations and artisnal workshops
6. Forms of workers protest and Politics of the labour movement
7. Legal Regulations of labour
8. Informality and Informal Labour Relations

Select Readings:
Gender and Society in Modern India, c. 1800-2000

Course Description: This course focuses on gender questions in modern India, spanning from the colonial period to the present. The course is thematic in nature and moves back and forth chronologically. It examines a wide range of questions and debates on social reforms, women’s education, their participation in national movements, their role in the economy, their relationship to popular cultures, questions of sexualities and masculinities, the development of women’s organisations and movements, and the problematic dichotomies pre-supposed between the private and the public.

Topics:
1. Women and Social Reform Movements in Colonial India.
2. Women, Nationalism (including Gandhi) and Communalism (including Partition and Hindu Right)
3. Women in Private/Public Sphere: Domesticity and Middle Class, Education and Print.
4. Popular Culture and Women
5. Imagining Masculinities and Sexualities
6. Caste and Gender. Dalit Feminism.
7. Law and Women’s Rights: Dowry, Female Infanticide, Rape, Personal Laws, Land Rights.
8. Agency and Activism: Women’s Movements and Voices.

Select Readings:
1. Chowdhry, Prem, The Veiled Women: Shifting Gender Equations in Rural Haryana (Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1994)
3. Gupta, Charu, Sexuality, Obscenity, Community: Women, Muslims and the Hindu Public in Colonial India (Permanent Black, Delhi, 2001)
4. Kumar, Radha, The History of Doing: An Illustrated Account of Movements for Women’s Rights and Feminism in India 1800-1990 (Delhi, 1993)
5. Malhotra, Anshu, Gender, Caste and Religious Identities: Restructuring Class in Colonial Punjab (Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2002)
6. Minault, Gail, Secluded Scholars: Women’s Education and Muslim Social Reform in Colonial India (OUP, Delhi, 1998)
7. Rao, Anupama (ed.), Gender and Caste (Kali for Women, Delhi, 2003)
8. Sangari, Kumkum and Sudesh Vaid (eds), Recasting Women: Essays in Colonial History (Kali for Women, Delhi, 1989)
10. Sarkar, Tanika, Hindu Wife Hindu Nation (Permanent Black, Delhi, 2001)
The Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India, c. 1800-1950

1. Background: The medicinal and healing systems; the world of adivasis; Ayurveda; Unani; traditions and interactions

2. The process of colonisation; shifts and changes

The meaning and relevance of colonial medicine – tool of empire?

Developments in scholarship – the shift from ‘colonial medicine’ to the social history of health and medicine

3. Ideas and aspects of ‘Public Health’

‘Medical theories’ and the indigenous ‘inputs’ – race, caste/class and gender

Public Health; vaccination policy; quarantine; ‘lock hospitals’; epidemics

4. The complexities and interactions

Colonial medical interventions and Indian society; missionaries and women’s health; ‘Indigenous resistance’? Pluralism - the Adivasi, Unani and Ayurvedic medical/healing systems

5. Centres of ‘confinement’

Leprosy and the lunatic and mental asylums

Select Readings:


Colonialism at the ‘Frontiers’: 1800-1950

Course Description: The course will study histories of state formation in the various ‘frontiers’ of colonial India between 1800 and 1950. It will locate the social production of the colonial state, the constitution of power and sovereignty and of state structures within the specificities of the local history of these regions.

Topics:

1. Modalities of sovereignty and state-making
2. Construction of state space
3. Discourses of representation
4. Para-legality and the practice of law
5. Agrarian production and the landscape of the state
6. Environment and state-making

Select Readings:

Course Description: This course will study societies living on the various margins of the colonial empire in India and the transformation of these transitional and liminal spaces during the course of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. It will focus on the modes of resistance that are specific to these margins and their response to governmental technologies produced to govern these areas. Mobility, insurgency, ‘agricultures of escape’, ethnogenesis, orality and collective memory are some of the sites of resistance that are explored.

Topics:
1. Peripheral practices
2. The state, the non-state and the stateless
3. Resistance and rebellion
4. Culture, ecology and identity
5. Orality and historical memory
6. The Nation at the Frontiers

Select Readings:
8. Mayaram, Shail, Against History, Against State: Counter perspectives from the margins, Permanent Black, New Delhi, 2006.
[Elective: Lecture Course 20]
HSM-420

Law and Society in Colonial India

Course Description: This course will examine the formation of a new legal culture and the making of the colonial legal subject in South Asia under British rule. Its themes will include the nature of pre-colonial legal regimes and the transition to company rule; Orientalist discourse and the making of colonial law; custom and legal codification; criminality and criminalization; gender and law; and the legal debates surrounding the Partition of India. The course will engage with the important debates in South Asian legal history as well as the different ways in which historians read and use legal records in their scholarship.

Topics:

1. Introduction: History, Law and Colonialism
2. Pre-colonial Legal Regimes and the Transition to the Early Company state
3. Indigenous Law and the British: The Shastras and Sharia
4. Liberalism and Law
5. Customs, Commons and Settlement: Law and the Countryside; The Rule of Property
6. 1857 and beyond: Knowledge, Authority and Pacification
7. Surveillance, Control and Rule.
8. Criminal Code and the Colonial State; Gender and Law in Colonial India
9. The Partition and Law

Select Readings:

5. Bernard Cohn, “Law and the Colonial State in India,” Colonialism and its Forms of Knowledge, Delhi, 1996 (pp. 57-75).
6. Marc Galanter, “The Displacement of Traditional Law in Modern India,” Law and Society in Modern India, Delhi, 1989 (pp. 15-36).
Language, History and Nationalism in South Asia

Course Description: This course will examine the relationship of language to culture and politics in South Asian history. Its themes will include the relationship between language, culture and power in pre-modern India, colonial knowledge production and language, the role of language in shaping National and regional imaginations in colonial and post-colonial India, the emergence of linguistic publics and counter-publics (defined through print, literary genres, cultural and political rhetoric, etc.); social power and language, and the relationship between language and history writing in India.

Topics:
1. Language in pre-colonial India
2. The colonial state and education
3. Language and the nation, some theoretical considerations.
4. Print and the Public sphere
5. Language, Religion and the Region
6. Language politics in post-colonial India

Select Readings:

Early British Imperialism: Law and Sovereignty, Language and Ethnicity

Course Description: This course will study the ways in which the use of contemporary categories such as law and language (and its relationship with ethnicity) can be traced historically and conceptually to the period of early British Imperialism. In course of such an investigation it aims at an understanding of (1) the transformation of law as well as selfascriptive (political/social) identity in Britain via the medium of Empire (2) The transformation of “indigenous” law and elf-ascriptive (political/social) identity via the medium of Empire. Not treating the two as discrete, it studies them in their mutual imbrications.

Topics:

1. The Legal tradition in Britain and Europe in the 18th century.
2. Bentham and the emerging science of Jurisprudence.
3. The East India Company as legal anomaly? The “Land Settlements”; Indigenous law; Law and sovereignty.
4. Sati and Thugee as exemplary instances of legislation around “religion” and “crime”
5. Language and its relationship with Law; “Mosaic Ethnology” in the 18th century and Indigenous conceptions; Custom and Race
6. Race and nation in the late 18th - 19th century in Britain in comparative European perspective; the Imperial dimensions.
7. The reconfiguration of race, language and nation in British India; Race as Embodiment of History; Caste.
8. Rethinking the relationship between language and race.

Select Readings:

1. Selected Writings from Blackstone, Bentham, Jones, Roy, Mill, Fitzjames Stephens, Maine and others.
[Elective: Lecture Course 23]

HSM-423

Aspects of Book History

**Course Description:** Due to the fluid nature of the book, studies in the history of the book are “inevitably interdisciplinary”. The study of print culture and ‘book history’ is related to a bigger concern about the relationship between technology and society. Unless people widely adopt innovations, technological inventions by themselves would not impact the direction of historical change. An interesting aspect of book history deals with the appropriation of print technology by a society to realize certain social possibilities under specific historical conditions. Of late, the history of books and readers gradually defined itself as a distinctive field- a site of inquiry where bibliographers, historians, literary scholars and human geographers debate and collaborate. They practice a number of complimentary forms of historical research.

**Topics:**

I. **History of the Book – Western Context**

II. **Book History in India – National Context**
Book History in India: National Context – Scribal traditions in medieval India – Imperial Mughal library – scripts and print in the making of modern India – recent shift from “printing history” to “book history” in India – literary surveillance and pedagogic practices in colonial India – history of libraries and book users

III. **Book India in India – Regional Contexts**
Book History in India: Regional Contexts – Popular print culture in local languages – role of print in forging diverse publics and locally dominant interests – the politics of print

**Select Readings:**

[Elective: Lecture Course 24]
HSM-424

India, 1967-1989: Politics and Society

Course Description: This paper aims to provide a historical perspective on a critical period in India’s socio-political life from 1967 to 1989. The paper examines how Congress dominance of the polity came under strain and how the party responded in various ways to these new challenges. It introduces students to the debates on poverty and planning, the 1971 war, and sharp political divides of the 1970s and 1980s. It also introduces them to issues of using evidence in the contemporary period in a critical fashion, sifting long term from short term trends.

Topics:
1. The Congress Transformed; Opposition unity: state and federal level experiments; The Polity: Crisis, the Emergency and after.
2. Agrarian Upheavals, the Green Revolution and After; Planning, Market Economics and the business classes
3. India, Non alignment and the neighbors
4. State making on the Periphery: Adversaries or partners?; Regionalisms: from movement to government
5. The new Dalit and Adivasi Movements; The Backward Classes and Agrarian issues; Labour Movements: Ascendancy and crisis
7. Politics of faith

Select Readings:
Select Issues in Cultural Histories of Modern India

Course Description: The course engages with select issues in cultural histories of colonial India. It focuses on diverse themes like theatre, art, popular culture, photography and cinema, giving a panoptic view of critical works and debates on these themes.

Topics:

1. Art: Museums to Calendar
2. Popular Culture and Gender: Obscenity and Sexuality. ‘Recalcitrant’ Women
3. The World of Popular Print: Chap Books and Street Literature
4. Photography: Remembering Pasts and Presents
5. Theatre: Stage, Street and Nautanki
6. Cinema: Ideologies and Empire
7. Music: Classical to Modern

Select Readings:

[Elective: Lecture Course 26]

HSM-426

Explorations in Maratha History 1613-1818

Topics:

1. Maharashtra: Habitat, Historical and Historiographical Perspectives.
3. Shivaji, his successors and the conditions in Maharashtra.
5. Maratha Military Culture.
6. Issues and Events in Maratha History, 1761-1818.

Select Readings:

Narcotics and the British Indian Empire

1. Narcotics, empire and commodities: Imperialism and the international trade in mood-altering substances (tobacco, alcohol, opium).
3. Early history of the colonial trade in Indian opium: Dutch and English East India Companies; Indo-Portuguese traders.
4. Opium policy of the British Indian state in the nineteenth century: Bengal opium; Malwa opium; Production, Processing, Trade.
5. Opium and Indian merchants: Conflict, collaboration, ‘smuggling’; genesis of the capitalist class in India.
6. Crisis, decline and the new world order: Problems of the China trade in the late nineteenth century; Opium and Hemp Commissions; Anti-opium campaigns, international pressures, initiatives of the League of Nations.

Select Readings:

[Elective: Lecture Course 28]

HSM-428
Cultures of Intimacy in Colonial India

Course Description: This course explores cultures of intimacy, togetherness, friendship, romance, love, marriage, and family life in colonial India. It discusses how family increasingly became a locus of community identity and a building block of national belonging in colonial India. It shows how in everyday life, in spheres of work, home and leisure, personal relationships were undergoing changes in the period, within the wider context of colonial modernity. It also touches on themes of transgressive love, inter-religious and inter-caste romance and marriages, debates around ‘erotic’ and ‘obscene’, and how intimate relations were expressed in literary genres, cultural spheres, print media and actual practices.

Topics:
1. Reconstituting Marriage and Family Life: Procreation and Pleasure; Relationships within the Household.
3. ‘Transgressive’ non-heterosexual bondings: male-male relationships, female intimacies.
4. Literary Expressions: The idea of love in canonized literature; ‘dirty’ popular literature.
5. Debates around phobic, erotic and obscene.
6. Popular culture and intimate relationships: Theatre, Festivals, Songs.
7. (Im)possible Intimacies: Inter-religious, inter-caste men-women relationships; abductions and conversions.

Select Readings:
5. Francesca Orsini, Print and Pleasure: Popular Literature and Entertaining Fictions in Colonial North India, Permanent Black, Delhi, 2009.
Course Description: This course deals with the issues of caste, with a specific focus on Dalits in modern India. While offering critiques of the caste system from a Dalit perspective, it also emphasises the coming of age of Dalit voices in India. It looks at the flourishing of Dalit cultures and histories in counter-public spheres.

Topics:

1. History of Caste as a Category: (a) Colonial interpretations, Orientalist discourses; (b) Nationalist uses of caste and its politicization; (c) Constitution and Dalits; (d) Mandalisation of politics.
2. Caste as Historiography: (a) Sanskritisation paradigm; (b) Marxist, nationalist and subaltern historiographies and caste.
3. Social Reform Movements and Caste: (a) Caste associations; (b) Writings of Jyotibarao Phule to Ambedkar; (c) Upper caste reformers and Dalits; (d) Conversions.
4. Caste and its relationship to gender, class and religion: (a) Dalit feminism; (b) Communalism and Dalits; (c) Labour movements and Dalits; (d) Representations of male and female Dalit bodies.
5. Popular Dalit literature: (a) Rewriting 1857; (b) Dalit autobiographies.
6. BSP and Mayawati

Select Readings:

Course Description: This course engages with different forms of violence: caste, class, gender and community.

Topics:
1. The Colonizer’s Violence, Modernity, and Their Legacies
2. Violence and the Psychology of Colonialism
3. Violence and Weapons of the Weak
4. Communal Violence and Its Histories
5. Violence, Development, and the Categories of Knowledge
6. Violence and the Politics of Sexuality; Violence and the Voices of Women
7. The War on the Poor
8. Caste-based violence in India

Select readings:

Course Description: Scholarly literature on the Indian city until the 1980s was generated largely by urban planners, demographers and sociologists focused on urbanisation. However, there has been what some have described as the ‘urban turn’ in the study of Indian city from 1750 to the present and this has generated a new and different body of work. We shall consider the city by day and by night, the under-side of the city and the people at its periphery, the city and its cinematic representations, the city in poetry and fiction, and the scholarly study of the city by historians and anthropologists.

Topics:

1. Indians in the Colonial City
2. Politics and Political Identity in the City
3. Living at the Periphery: Dalits, Laborers, Slum-Dwellers, and Others
4. Cinema and the City
5. Conviviality and the City
6. The City Between Myth and History
7. Writing the City

Select Readings:

1. Selections from The Lucknow Omnibus, (especially Abdul Halim Sharar, Lucknow: The Last Phase of an Oriental Culture), Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1975.
2. Selections from The Delhi Omnibus, Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2002
7. Bhartendu Harishchandra, Prem Jogini (1875); we will read this in both Hindi and also, portions in English translation (by myself).
[Elective: Lecture Course 32]

HSM-432

History of Modern Education in India: Social Attitudes, Colonial State and Nationalism, Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century

Course Description: This thematic course will focus on ideological and historiographical debates on various issues of modern education. Besides the role of other agencies (colonial state, Christian missionaries, social/religious reformers and nationalist leaders), the perspective of students and teachers will be a focal point of analysis.

Topics:
1. Pre-colonial education and the beginnings of a Western alternative.
2. The shaping of colonial education: ideological and administrative influences.
3. Curriculum, pedagogy, print and textbooks.
4. The educational struggles of the disprivileged and social reformers: context, issues and agency.
5. Issues in the foundation of Aided and autonomous educational institutions:
6. Politics of Education in the early twentieth century
7. Nationalist politics and alternatives in education

Select Readings:
HSM-433

Mahatma Gandhi: Man, Ideas, Political, Social and Moral Philosophy

Topics:

1. The activist-thinker: Perspectives on Gandhi’s Life
2. Gandhi’s *Hind Swaraj*; intellectual and political context; its form and content; the idea of ‘self-rule’.
3. Gandhi and ‘Modern Civilization’
4. Gandhi’s Religion and his idea of ‘Truth’
5. Gandhi the Reformer: ‘Tradition’ and orthodoxy in Hinduism and the challenge of religious diversity.
6. Gandhi’s ‘Constructive programme’; Village Industries, educational (*Nai Taleem*).
7. Gandhi’s Two Compatriots – Tagore and Nehru.

Select Readings:

The Global Indian Diaspora and Its Histories

Topics:

1. The Origins of the Modern Indian Diaspora: Indentured Labor; Migration, Displacement, and the Modern World System
2. Diasporas Old and New, Diasporas of the South and the North
3. Indians in the United Kingdom: The Periphery Comes to the Centre
4. The Religious Life of Diasporic Communities
5. Diaspora, the Politics of the Nation-State, and Long-Distance Nationalism
6. Culture and Community in the Diaspora
7. The Struggle for Rights in the Diaspora
8. The Indian State and the Future of South Asians Abroad

Select Readings:

Environmental History of India, 1800-2000

Course Description: The paper aims to acquaint students with a new and growing area of research and writing that links India’s environmental history to contests over knowledge, power and nature. Its main focus is on the alter - colonial period and on the changes and continuities in independent India. In addition to well known themes such as forests, water and agrarian, ecological impacts of empire, it also brings in themes such as urban spaces and wildlife. Particular attention is paid to competing notions of the ways in which imperialist and nationalist visions were internally fissures and in contest with each other.

Topics:

1. Historiography and Background; Early History
2. Forest and Agrarian transitions
4. Animals and politics
5. ‘Scarcity’, landscape and development
6. Contesting development
7. Coasts and waters
8. Nationalism and nature

Select Reading:

7. Guha, Ramachandra and Madhav Gadgil, The Fissured Land: An Ecological History of India (Delhi: OUP, 1992)
11. M. Rangarajan and K. Sivaramakrishan, India’s Environmental History: Volumes 1 and 2, Permanent Black, Delhi, 2011.
**Course Description:** The course intends to focus on the development of the theatre in colonial India. Theatre was an important cultural site of hegemonic and counter-hegemonic struggle during the colonial period. Weaving in the existing historiography, it would draw upon the diversities of theatre and the manner in which colonialism impacted it. It would examine some of the theoretical positions. An effort would be made to take up inter-related issues between theatre, gender, patriarchy and the voices from the margins. It also takes up the connected themes related to theatre emerging as a site of political and cultural resistance. The course would engage with the politics of theatre from an inter-disciplinary perspective.

**Topics:**

1. Historiography
   - Diversities
   - ‘Modernity’ of Indian Theatre
   - Exclusion and marginalization
2. Moving beyond the dominant binary framework
   - Rural/urban, folk/classical, elite/popular culture
   - The intersecting dimensions of ‘high’ and ‘low’ culture
   - Multiple Mediations
3. Locating Popular Theatre
   - The complexities and dialectics of forms of popular theatre
   - The marginalization and ‘sanitization’ of popular forms
   - Foregrounding subaltern performers
4. Interrogation and contestation
   - Theatre and gender; reinforcing patriarchy
   - Women’s marginalization in theatre
   - Theatre as a political site/an arena of cultural resistance
   - The Censorship Act of 1876
   - The Indian People’s Theatre Association (IPTA)

**Select Readings:**

[Elective: Seminar Course 37]
HSM-437
Photography and Colonialism

Course Description: This course will assess the role of photography as an active figure in the landscape of the British Raj and modern Indian History, both as document as well as practice. It seeks to highlight significant conceptual and historical developments in the history of photography in India from 1850 to 1947 approximately. Important early photographers, European and indigenous will be presented, together with bodies of their work that created a varied narrative of India’s heritage and its cultural history over approximately a hundred years during the colonial period.

Topics:

1. The practice of visualising landscapes through photography: archaeological photography and views of the picturesque. The visual trace and colonial control and/or appropriation.
2. The development of ethnographic photography and its connection with the discipline of anthropology c.1850-70s. ‘The People of India’ project: racial, community and communal affiliations and photography.
3. Photography as journalistic practice: 1857, the Delhi Durbar, Jallianwala Bagh.
4. ‘Vernacular modernism’: ways in which photography was used to depict/create and contemplate realities other than those of the European elite. The painted photograph; studio photography across cities.
5. The concluding section hopes to encourage students to visit a photographic archive and study a particular body of work in order to engage with the idea of photographs as efficacious objects in the study of history, challenging ideas thrown up in their stipulated readings such as those of the ‘colonial gaze’ or and a consideration of the ‘other’ in visual practice.

Select Readings:

Select Problems in History and Historiography

Course Description: A conceptual investigation into the nature of historiography and historical practice, this course takes as its point of departure a debate that has emerged within modern Indian historiography on the nature of the historical enterprise and its relationship with modernity. The two key threads to be pursued are (1) historical practice via the questions around epistemology and narrative; differences and continuities between the pre-modern and the modern, and (2) Historical practice and its relationship to collective and personal agency, and the constitution of ‘political’ consciousness.

Topics:
2. ‘Pre-modern’ forms of Historical Understanding. History and Literary Rhetoric. The Problematic of Narration.
3. ‘Pre-modern’ forms of Historical Understanding. The Problems of Epistemology. History as a mode of Knowledge and the problematic of time.
6. History and the Arts of Memory. Memory, Community and auto-biography.

Select Readings:
12. J.N Mohanty Reason and Tradition in Indian Thought Delhi, OUP, 1992
The Trials of Imperial Jurisprudence

Course Description: This course investigates the relationship between sovereignty and law and does so through a detailed reading of ‘cases’ during the period of British imperialism in India. It begins with some of the conceptual problems regarding the nature of law and its practices and then moves on to study the ‘instances’ listed below.

Topics:

1. Introduction: Law and its Relationship with Sovereignty.
2. From Thugee to the Criminal Tribes.
3. The Trial of Bahadur Shah Zafar.
4. The Trial of Bal Gangadhar Tilak
5. The Trial of Bhagat Singh
6. The Trial of Mahatma Gandhi
7. The I.N.A Trials

Select Readings:

5. S. S. Setlur and K. G. Deshpande (ed.) A Full and Authentic Report of the Trial of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, at the Fourth Criminal Sessions 1897, Bombay, Printed at the Indu-Prakash steam Press, 1908
[Elective: Seminar Course 40]

HSM-440

Fiction, Fieldwork, Film, History: Reading Selected Texts on Urban and Rural India

Course Description: This seminar course engages with diverse representations of urban and rural India in the works of novelists, anthropologists, folklorists, films and those trained in the historical profession. The present selection consists of two classic novels on life in 19th and early 20th century Delhi, three diverse accounts of village life from North and South India, selections (and filmic adaptation) from the work of Rajasthani folklorist Komal Kothari and Vijay Dandetha, and a memoir-biography of the life and Works of the Hindi writer Shivani. The choice of particular texts for detailed study will be announced periodically, with the proviso of changes in the texts with prior notification.

Select Readings:

1. Maulvi Nazir Ahmad, *The Bride’s Mirror: Mirat ul ‘Arus: A Tale of Life in Delhi a Hundred Years Ago*, Tr. From Urdu by G.E. Ward. First Published in English Translation, 1903 (Permanent Black, Delhi, 2001)
9. Two films: ‘Le Retour de Martin Guerre’; Mani Kaul’s ‘Duvidha’
[Elective: Seminar Course 41]

HSM-441

An Ideological and Cultural History of Hindustani Cinema from the early twentieth century to the present times

Topics:

1. Survey of literature on cinema: Significance and interpretations
2. Hindustani cinema in the colonial period: Early film makers and their social background; form and content of early cinema
3. Hindustani cinema post 1947: Evolution, ideology, culture and nation; Communalism and nationalism in Hindustani cinema
4. Hindustani cinema in the late 1960s: New wave cinema; Changing representations of gender, class and caste; impact of left movements like the Naxalbari uprising, and women’s movements; New directors and their concerns; Growing challenges to hegemonic commercial cinema.
5. Social, political and cultural contours of Hindustani cinema in the age of globalization; continuation of the new wave cinema; rising influence of the NRIs and crossover cinema

Select Readings:

Colonialism and the Making of Indian Pasts

Course Description: This course will investigate the ways in which different pasts—whether the notions of Ancient and Medieval or the lenses of classical and folk—were constructed during the colonial period. It will study this process via the emerging disciplinary configurations of history, archaeology, ethnography, linguistics and anthropology.

Topics:

1. Chronology, History and Periodization; James Mill.
3. The Making of Medieval India: Elliot and Dowson project; The Medieval Chronicle.
5. Ethnography, Anthropometry and Anthropology: The Peoples of India.
6. Understanding, Identification and History; Risley.
7. The “native informant” and knowledge production.

Select Readings:

4. H.M. Elliot and John Dowson, *The History of India as Told by its Historians: The Muhammadan Period*, 8 vols, London, 1867-77. [Reprint, Delhi, 2001]
Course Description: This course will study the various intellectual contributions – as well as their location within their respective milieus – that have together ‘made’ modern India. It focuses on the intellectual content as articulated by various thinkers and/or ‘political practitioners’; and their expression, whether in life or text in order to understand the social, political, and the spiritual in the modern Indian imaginary.

It is designed to be a detailed critical engagement with the writings and lives of thinkers from Raja Ram Mohan Roy to Jawaharlal Nehru, including figures such as Vivekananda, B.G. Tilak, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Jyotirao Phule, B.R. Ambedkar and Periyar among others. The instructor may chose to focus on certain issues, texts, thinkers, which would be open to periodic revision.

Select Readings:


3. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan *Selected essays of Sir Syed Ahmad Aligarh* : Sir Syed Academy, Aligarh Muslim University, 2004-


5. S. Gopal and Uma Iyengar *The essential writings of Jawaharlal Nehru* New Delhi : Oxford University Press, 2003