दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय
University of Delhi

परिषद शाखा - II, कमरा नं: 211, नया प्रशासनिक खंड, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली-110007, दूरभाष: 011-27001156/54
Council Branch - II, Room No. 211, New Administrative Block, University of Delhi, Delhi – 110007, Ph: 27001156/54

CNC-II/093/1/Misc./2026/51
Dated: 03.09.2026

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Amendment to Ordinance V

Following addition be made to Appendix-II-A to the Ordinance V (2-A) of the Ordinances of the University;

Add the following:

The following three Skill Based Courses (SBCs) offered by the Department of History under Faculty of Social Sciences based on Postgraduate Curriculum Framework 2024, are hereby notified for the information of all concerned:

(i) Oral History: Theory and Practice
(ii) Artefacts, Objects, Histories
(iii) Research Skills for Doing Indian History

Syllabus is at Annexure-1.

REGISTRAR

SBC 1: Oral History: Theory and Practice

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Practicing Oral History	02	1	0	1	Nil	Nil

Course Objective:

This course will train the students ~~with~~ in methods of Oral History. It will also prepare them about the ethical issues of conducting inteviews and field work.

Learning Outcomes:

- After completing the course:
- The students will be skilled in doing oral history with proper ethics and responsibilities.
- They will learn how to use audio-visual and transcription technologies.
- They will become sensitive to various historical issues important for contemporary life.
- Students will learn how to transcribe oral interviews and thereby produce a historical manuscript as a primary sources of history.

Course Content:

Unit I: Development of Oral History: This Unit introduces students to the origins, development, and foundations of oral history. It highlights how memory, storytelling, and lived experience shape our understanding of the past, and why oral history has become a vital tool for historians and communities alike.

Unit II: Practicing Oral History: The practical component of oral history for students involves hands-on activities such as conducting interviews, transcribing recordings, analysing narratives, and presenting findings. ***(Project to be decided by the Faculty.)***

Essential Readings and Unit-Wise Outcomes:

Unit I: Development of Oral History: 7 Hours

- Boyd, Douglas A, *Oral History: A Very Short Introduction.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2025.
- Carr, Edward Hallett, *What Is History?* New York: Vintage Books, 1961.

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- Chowdhury, Indira. *"Speaking of the Past: Perspectives on Oral History."* Economic and Political Weekly 49, no. 30 (July 26, 2014): 40–47.
- Confino, Alon. *"Collective Memory and Cultural History: Problems of Method."* The American Historical Review 102: 5 (1997): 1386-1403.
- Deshpande, Anirudh, *The Practice of History in India: Essays in Search of a New Past*. New Delhi: Routledge India, 2019.
- Deshpande, Anirudh. "Past, Present, and Oral History." Economic and Political Weekly 52, no. 29 (2017): 71–78.
- Lynd, Staughton. "Oral History from Below." Oral History Review 21, no. 1 (Spring 1993): 1–8.
- Thomas L. Charlton, Lois E. Myers, and Rebecca Sharpless, eds., *Handbook of Oral History* (Lanham, MD: Alta Mira Press, 2006), 45. (Relevant chapters)
- Thompson, Paul. *The Voice of the Past: Oral History*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Tosh, John. *The Pursuit of History: Aims, Methods and New Directions in the Study of History*. 7th ed. London: Routledge, 2021.

Unit II: Practicing Oral History: 8 Hours

- Allen, Barbara "Story in Oral History: Clues to Historical Consciousness." Journal of American History 79 (1992): 606-611.
- Baum, Willa K. Transcribing and Editing Oral History. Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 1977.
- DeBlasio, Donna M. Et al. Catching Stories: A Practical Guide to Oral History. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2009.
- Ives, Edward D. The Tape-Recorded Interview: A Manual for Fieldworkers in Folklore and Oral History. 2nd Edition. Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 1995.
- Merton, Robert K. et al. The Focused Interview. New York: The Free Press, 1990.
- Mishler, Elliot G. Research Interviewing: Context and Narrative. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1986.
- Virdee, Pippa. "Remembering Partition: Women, Oral Histories and the Partition of 1947." Oral History 41, no. 2 (2013): 79–88.
- Yow, Valerie Raleigh. Recording Oral History: A Practical Guide for Social Scientists. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc., 1994.

Suggested Readings

- Abrams, Lynn, Oral History Theory. London: Routledge, 2010.
- Borland, Katherine. "That's Not What I Said: Interpretive Conflict in Oral Narrative Research." In The Oral History Reader, edited by Robert Perks and Alistair Thomson. New York: Routledge Press, 2006: 320-332.

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- Briggs, Charles L. "Interviewing, Power/Knowledge, and Social Inequality." Handbook of Interview Research: Context & Method, edited by F. Gubrium and J. A. Holstein. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc., 2002: 911-922.
- Butalia, Urvashi. The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India. New Delhi: Penguin Books, 1998. (Also Available in Hindi Medium)
- Clark, E. Culpepper, "Reconstructing History: The Epitomizing Image." Interactive Oral History Interviewing, edited by Eva M. McMahan and Kim Lacy Rogers. LEA's Communication Series. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum Associates, 1994: 19- 30.
- Hoopes, James, Oral History: An Introduction for Students. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1979.
- Perks, Robert and Alistair Thomson. The Oral History Reader. 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge Press, 2006.
- Portelli, Alessandro. The Death of Luigi Trastulli, and Other Stories: Form and Meaning in Oral History. Albany: SUNY Press, 1991.
- Ritchie, Donald A, Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Ritchie, Donald A., ed. The Oxford Handbook of Oral History. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Yow, Valerie Raleigh, Recording Oral History. 3rd ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014.

- Baylor University Institute for Oral History
- Oral History Association.
- Oral History in the Digital Age.
- Oral History List Serv
- Texas Oral History Association.
- Oral History Division, PMML

Additional digital resources such as podcasts, blogs, museum websites, and online archives may be used for educational purposes.

Practical Component: Preparing oral history questionnaire, conducting oral history interviews and preparing oral history transcript. (30 Hours)

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

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Anuradha Deshpande
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SBC 2: Artefacts, Objects, Histories

Credit Distribution, Eligibility, and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title and Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Artefacts, Objects, Histories	2	1	0	1	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

This course engages with ancient Indian artefacts and objects housed in museums, institutions, and private collections to understand their histories of production, function, aesthetic value, reception and biographies across the centuries. What can we learn from such artefacts of the past and how have newer meanings been added to them over centuries? What are the different journeys that such objects have undertaken and how do we respond to them today? By addressing these concerns, the course will enable students to explore how objects shape cultural identities and memory over time.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be equipped with the skills to identify, read and interpret ancient artefacts.
- They will be able to practice visual and material histories.
- They will be trained to curate museums and organize history exhibitions.
- Interpret material meanings as part of historical processes in an interconnected world.

Course Contents

Unit I: Object Histories: This Unit will offer conceptual frameworks for doing material and object histories. It will focus on the ways in which material objects unravel histories, how they relate to our lives and how we can read meanings and histories from them. 7 (Hours)

Unit II: Biographies of Objects and Artefacts: This Unit will train students to write the biographies and journeys of ancient Indian sculptures, objects and images as focus of worship, colonial trophies, museum artefacts, and as transcultural objects. (8 Hours)

Essential Readings:

Unit I: Object Histories:

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- Appadurai, Arjun. "Introduction: Commodities and the Politics of Value." In Arjun Appadurai ed., *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective,* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986. pp: 3–63.
- Blurton, T. Richard. *India: A History in 100 Objects.* London: British Museum Press, 2022.
- Dehejia, Vidya. *India: A Story Through 100 Objects.* Roli Books, 2021.
- MacGregor, Neil. *A History of the World in 100 Objects.* Penguin Publishing Group, 2011.

Unit II: Biographies of Objects and Artefacts:

- Davis, Richard H. *Lives of Indian Images*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1997.
- Guha-Thakurta, Tapati. *Monuments, Objects, Histories: Institutions of Art in Colonial and Postcolonial India*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2004.
- Jasanoff, Maya. "Collectors and Curiosities: The Origins of the British Museum's South Asian Collections," *The Historical Journal* (44) no. 4, 2001. pp: 993–1020.
- Stahn, Carsten, 2023. "Confronting Colonial Heritage: Introducing Entanglements, Continuities, and Transformations," in *Confronting Colonial Objects: Histories, Legalities, and Access to Culture*, Cultural Heritage Law and Policy, Oxford University Press, 2023.

Suggested Readings

- Appadurai, Arjun. *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.
- Flood, Finbarr Barry. *Objects of Translation: Material Culture and Medieval "Hindu-Muslim" Encounter.* Princeton University Press, 2009.
- Guha, Sudeshna. *A History of India in 75 Objects*. New Delhi: Hachette India, 2021.
- Kumar, Vijay. *The Idol Thief: The True Story of the Looting of India's Temples.* New Delhi; Juggernaut Books, 2018.
- Mankodi, Kirit. 2016. "The Case of the Contraband Cargo, or, Atru's Amorous Couples," In Parul Pandya Dhar and Gerd J.R. Mevissen eds., *Prasadanidhi. Temple Architecture and Imagery of South and Southeast Asia. Papers Presented to Professor M.A. Dhaky,* New Delhi: Aryan Books International, 2016. pp. 369-379.
- Mukherjee, Sraman. "Relics in Transition: Material Mediations in Changing Worlds," *Ars Orientalis* (48), 2018. pp: 20-42.

Practical Component: Locating and identifying historical objects and artifacts, assessing and placing them in context and writing/integrating them in to viable historical narratives. (30 Hours)

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

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SBC 4: Research Skills for Doing Indian History

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title and Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Research Skills for Doing Indian History	**02**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**Nil**	**Nil**

Course objective:

This skill-based course aims to equip students with the basic practical competencies required for conducting research in Indian history. It introduces students to essential tools used by historians while working with primary sources, including familiarity with Devanagari numerals and alphabets, the Urdu script, and merchant and administrative scripts such as *Kaithi*, and *Mahajani*. The course also develops an understanding of commonly used colonial abbreviations, Urdu–Persian administrative and legal terminology, different calendrical systems used in historical records, and the interpretation of genealogical materials. By providing hands-on exposure to these elements, the course seeks to enhance students' ability to read, interpret, and critically engage with historical documents.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Student would be able to recognize and read Devanagari numerals and alphabets, and identify the Urdu script and selected historical scripts such as Kaithi, and Mahajani used in historical sources.
- Interpret common colonial administrative abbreviations.
- Identify and interpret dates written in different calendrical systems used in India, including the Gregorian, Vikram Samvat, and Hijri calendars.
- Read and analyse genealogical charts and lineage records as historical sources for writing family, social, and political histories.

Course Contents:

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Unit I: Scripts, Numerals, Abbreviations and Administrative Terminology in Indian Historical Sources: This Unit introduces students to the basic scripts, numerals, abbreviations, and administrative vocabulary frequently encountered in Indian historical documents. The teaching will focus on practical familiarity rather than linguistic mastery. Students will be introduced to Devanagari numerals and alphabets, the Urdu script, and selected historical scripts such as Kaithi and Mahajani that appear in administrative and commercial records. The Unit will also familiarize students with commonly used colonial abbreviations and key Urdu–Persian administrative and legal terms found in Mughal and colonial documents. Instruction will rely on charts, short textual samples, and examples drawn from historical records so that students develop the ability to recognize scripts, read basic entries, and understand commonly used terminology in primary sources. (7 Hours)

- Urdu–Persian Administrative and Legal Terminology: Introduction to frequently used administrative and legal terms appearing in Mughal and colonial documents.

Unit II: Calendars and Genealogies in Indian Historical Sources: This Unit introduces students to the basic chronological and genealogical conventions commonly encountered in Indian historical records. Students will learn about major calendrical systems used in historical documents, such as the Gregorian, Vikram Samvat, and Hijri calendars, and develop the ability to identify and interpret dates written in these systems. The Unit will also familiarize students with genealogical traditions, including *vanshavali* and lineage records, which have been used to preserve family and social histories in many parts of Indian. Teaching will rely on charts, conversion tables, and sample genealogical records so that students gain practical experience in reading historical dates and interpreting genealogical charts as sources for historical research. (8 Hours)

Essential Readings:

Unit I: Scripts, Numerals, Abbreviations and Administrative Terminology in Indian Historical Sources:

- A complete list of Urdu Legal words: Rekhta Dictionary, available online.
- C.M. Naim, Introductory Urdu Volume I, NCPUL, 2011.
- George A. Grierson, A Handbook to the Kaithi Character, Calcutta: Thacker, Spink & Co., 1899.
- H.M. Lambert and M.A. Cantab, Introduction to the Devanagari Script for the students of Sanskrit, Hindi, Marathi and Bengali, OUP, 1953.
- Reference tools available on the website of National Archives of India.

Unit II: Calendars and Genealogies in Indian Historical Sources

- M.N. Saha and N.C. Lahiri, *History of the Calendar in different countries through the ages*, CSIR, 1992

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- Michael Witzel, *On Indian Historical writing the Role of the Vamshavalist*, Journal of the Japanses association for South Asian studies 2, 1990
- Paulo Nuno Martins, A concise History of the Indian calendars, Scholars journal of Arts, Humanities and Social sciences, 2025.
- Romila Thapar, *The past before us Historical Traditions of Early North India*, Ch 15 & 16, Harvard University Press, 2013
- Romila Thapar, *Time as a metaphor of History: Early India*, OUP, 1996

Suggested readings:

- Guha, Ranajit, ed. *Subaltern Studies I: Writings on South Asian History and Society*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1982.
- Bayly, C. A. *Recovering Liberties: Indian Thought in the Age of Liberalism and Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Carr, E. H. What Is History? New York: Vintage Books, 1961.
- Bloch, Marc. The Historian's Craft. Translated by Peter Putnam. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1953.

Practical Component: Identifying numerals, titles and calandar entries, interpreting and historically locating them. (30 Hours)

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time

Anirudh Deshpande
02/09/26.