

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

School of Social Sciences

DD 26, Sector I, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700064

Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

Post Graduate History Syllabus

Programme Objective:

Open and Distance Learning envisions reaching out to the unreached so as to spread Higher Education to all sections and classes of learners without discrimination, in commensuration with the ideal of attaining social justice as a core objective of the study of Social Sciences. The present PG History course of NSOU is designed in keeping with the philosophy of ODL in general and the mission of NSOU in particular to ensure that no learner keen to pursue a post-graduation in History is denied the same.

At the Masters level the study of History entails an in-depth analysis of historical interpretations of events as well as a thematic understanding of historical paradigms. The PG programme pedagogy will also introduce the methodological tools that are used in History writing as a stepping stone for doctoral research in case the learner decides to take up the same after completing the Post Graduate level.

The course objective is to remain updated with the regulations and goals of Higher education specified by the State and Centre governments. To percolate the educating mission of NSOU to the poorest, marginalized and remotest areas of the state, the programme is conducted in the regional Bengali language. The learners who are not comfortable with English, have the liberty to write their examinations in Bengali, which is the preferred by maximum number of learners.

To cater to the increasing pressure of employability demands of an ever-increasing population, many of whom choose to enroll in History, the programme is designed to provide opportunities to learners who hope to seek employment as research scholars, school or college teachers, administrators, journalists or other professionals.

Expected Programme Outcome:

At the end of the programme it is expected that the learner will derive a critical and comprehensive understanding of the political developments in India, Europe and the rest of the world as well as analyse the social and economic thematic debates and discussions relevant in the discipline.

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The programme is expected to generate original thinking and research ability among the learners. The introduction of the knowledge of historiography is expected to polish the learners' grasp of the finer aspects of history writing which is an interesting aspect of study at the PG level. The programme is also aimed at developing a multi-disciplinary approach to historical studies encompassing the entire gamut of social sciences.

The programme is formulated to benefit learners for further research and employability in careers, applying a better and deeper understanding of history to sensitize local, national and international academia and industry and for furthering human civilization based on the ideals of social justice, liberty and equality.

Graduate Attributes:

The PG History programme seeks to develop holistic graduate attributes for learners from their experience of learning in NSOU. Some of these graduate attributes can be listed as follows:

- Inculcate self-learning and life-long learning habits instilled by the ODL mode of NSOU
- Place emphasis on original and innovative thinking as the root philosophy of higher learning
- Develop the capacity to grasp the core discipline with an open and analytical mind and remain updated with new developments in the field of social science for a multidisciplinary approach to studying History
- Sharpen the intellect for focus on academic research relevant to contemporary needs and demands of society and polity
- A sensitization to ethical employability for achieving incorruptible and just social ends for all, especially the down-trodden
- The ability to apply theoretical knowledge to real-life situations to alleviate problems that plague humanity
- Develop in the learners a keen interest in regional development and harmony, national unity and integration and a sense of belonging to an inclusive global society of peace and progress

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Curriculum Design

Course Duration: Two Years

Detailed Syllabus:

Title of the Papers

PGHI-I: History of India, 1526 – 1757

PGHI-II: History of India, 1757 – 1885

PGHI-III: History of India, 1885 - 1964

PGHI-IV: Historiography

PGHI- V: History of Europe, 1789 – 1945

PGHI-VI: World Politics Since 1945

Special Papers

Group A

PGHI-VIIA: Social History of India (19th and 20th Centuries)

PGHI-VIIIA: Economic History of India (19th and 20th Centuries)

Group B

PGHI-VII B: Social History of India (5th to 13th Centuries)

PGHI-VIII B: Economic History of India (5th to 13th Centuries)

(The University offers Special Papers in PGHI Course. Paper VII and Paper VIII are marked as special papers.)

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There are two groups: Paper VIIA and Paper VIIIA & Paper VIIB and Paper VIIIB. The learners will opt either for Group A or Group B as special papers.)

Syllabus of Post Graduate History

Paper – I

History of India, 1526 – 1757

Module – 1

Unit – 1: The formation of the Mughal Empire

Unit – 2: Process of Mughal expansion

Unit – 3: The nature of Mughal absolutism

Unit – 4: The emperor and the ruling class

Module – 2

Unit – 1: The Crisis of the Mughal Absolutism

Unit – 2: The Jagirdari Crisis

Unit – 3: The Mughal Society and Economy

Unit – 4: The Mughal Urbanization

Module – 3

Unit – 1: The Decline of the Mughal Empire

Unit – 2: The Rise of the Regional Powers

Unit – 3: The Foreign Invasion

Unit – 4: Historiography of the Mughal Decline

Module – 4

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Unit – 1: The Expanding English Presence in 18th Century India and the Structure of the India's International Economy

Unit – 2: The Company and the Indian Traders

Unit – 3: The Background of the Battle of Plassey and the Anglo-French Conflict

Paper - II

History of India, 1757 – 1885

Module – 1

Unit – 1: Political System in the Second Half of the 18th Century

Unit – 2: Consolidation of the British Power in Bengal (1757 – 1772)

Unit – 3: Company's Territorial Expansion in Western and Southern India

Unit – 4: Early Resistance to the British Colonial Rule; the Revolt of 1857

Module – 2

Unit – 1: Land Revenue Settlements

Unit – 2: Peasant and Tribal Movements with reference to Indigo

Uprising, Pabna Revolt, Deccan Riots, Santhal and Munda Revolts.

Unit – 3: Drain of Wealth; Deindustrialization and Deindustrialization Debate

Unit – 4: Railways and the Indian Economy; Development of Modern Industries

Module – 3

Unit – 1: Early Attitudes towards India – Utilitarianism, Evangelicalism, Orientalism

Unit – 2: Westernization and Indian Response

Unit – 3: Reorganization of Colonial State after 1857

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Unit – 4: State and Social Reform

Module – 4

Unit – 1: Social Background of Modern Nationalism in India

Unit – 2: The Growth of Public Sphere – the Press, Art and Literature

Unit – 3: Liberalism and Nationalism – the Economic Critique of British Rule

Unit – 4: Provincial Politics and the Pre-Congress Era

Paper – III

History of India, 1885 - 1964

Module – 1

Unit – 1: The Indian Nationalism

Unit – 2: The Nature of the Early Congress

Unit – 3: The Rise and Spread of Communalism

Unit – 4: The Indian National Movement: the Changing Situation

Module – 2

Unit – 1: The Impact of the First World War on the Indian Economy, Society and Politics

Unit – 2: Gandhi and the Emergence of the Mass Politics

Unit – 3: The Congress – Non-cooperation Movement and the Civil Disobedience Movement

Unit – 4: The Indian National Congress and the Indian Capitalist Class

Module – 3

Unit – 1: The Development of Nationalist Politics

Unit – 2: The Rise of the Leftist Politics; The Struggle for Independence in the Princely States

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Unit – 3: The Quite India Movement – 1942 in Indian History

Unit – 4: The Popular Movements during the 1940s; India towards Independence and Partition

Module – 4

Unit – 1: India in 1947

Unit – 2: India under Jawaharlal Nehru

Unit – 3: The Economy of Independent India and Movement for Social Justice

Unit – 4: India in the World Politics (1947 – 64)

Paper – IV

Historiography

Module – 1

Unit – 1: What is History? Fact and Interpretation – the Nature of Historical Evidence – Historical Evidence and

Historical Imagination – Approaches to History and the Emergence of Specializations – National History and Local History – Economic and Social History – History and Social Sciences

Unit – 2: History Writing in Pre-Modern Times – Features of Classical Historiography – History and Statecraft in Early Modern Europe – History in the Age of Enlightenment – Montesquieu, Voltaire, Vico and the Encyclopaedists – Harder and Gibbon

Unit – 3: Ranke and the Berlin Revolution in Historiography – Ranke and Objective History – History as it really was – History as a Past Politics – Ranke's Vision of Universal History

Unit – 4: History and the Idea of Progress in 19th Century Europe – Macaulay, Acton and the Age of Improvement – Jules Michelle and the French Revolution – Marx and Historical Materialism

Module – 2

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Unit – 1: Marxism and Emergence of Economic and Social History – Trevelyan and the Writings of Social History of Politics – the New History Movement in United States of America

Unit – 2: Maurice Dobb and the Rise of Capitalism – R. H. Tawny and the English Revolution- Religion and Capitalism in England

Unit – 3: Social History as History of Structures and Mentalities – the Annales' School

Unit – 4: Social History as the History of Classes – British Marxist Historians – Christopher Hill, Eric J. Hobs Eric Hobsbawm and E. P. Thompson – New Social History – History from Below

Module – 3

Unit – 1: Emergence of Historical consciousness in 19th Century India – Orientalism and the Rediscovery of Indian History – James Mill's History of India and the Theory of Oriental Despotism

Unit – 2: The Indian Encounter with Past in the 19th Century

Unit – 3: Nationalism and the Writing of Indian History – the Indian Search for a Golden Past – the Economic Critique of British Colonial Rule and the Economic History of India – Marxist View of Indian History and the Problem of Periodisation

Unit – 4: Debates in Indian History: the Indian Feudalism – 18th Century in Indian History

Paper – V

History of Europe, 1789 – 1945

Module – 1: French Revolution and Napoleon

Unit – 1: Condition (Economic, Social and Political) of France before 1789. Contribution of the Philosophers in the Revolution of 1789 – Factors leading to the Revolution

Unit – 2: The Process and Different Phases of the Revolution of 1789

Unit – 3: Impact of the French Revolution on the Contemporary Society, Politics and Culture

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Unit –4: Rise of Napoleon – Internal and Foreign Policy of Napoleon. Fall of Napoleon

Module – 2: Bourgeois Democratic Revolution and Unification of Europe Unit – 1: The European Experience of Bourgeois Democratic Revolution (Major Countries)

Unit – 2: The Impact of Bourgeois Democratic Revolution on the European Politics

Unit – 3: United Germany under the leadership of Bismarck

Unit – 4: The Industrial Revolution in Germany – The End of the Age of Bismarck – German Foreign Policy under the leadership of Kaiser William II

Module – 3: Industrial Revolution in Europe

Unit – 1: Industrial Revolution in Europe: Definition and Continuity

Unit – 2: The Causes of the Industrial Revolution. Why did it first take place in England?

Unit – 3: Agricultural, Transport and Demographic Revolution

Unit – 4: The Long-term Effects of the Industrial Revolution

Module – 4: Nationalism and Formation of Nationalist States in Europe

Unit – 1: Rise of Nationalism in Europe

Unit – 2: Unification Movement in Italy

Unit – 3: Unification Movement in Germany

Unit – 4: The decline of Empire through the Rise of Nationalism

Module – 5: Europe between 1914 and 1945

Unit – 1: Background of the World War I

Unit – 2: The Peace Efforts in Europe after the World War I

Unit – 3: The Socialist Movement in Europe

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Unit – 4: Rise of Nazism and Fascism in Europe

Unit – 5: World War II, the Rise of Super Powers and the Beginning of the Cold War

Paper - VI

World Politics Since 1945

Module – 1: Aftermath of the War

Unit – 1: Background of Cold War

Unit – 2: Europe in transition - Formation of European Union.

Unit – 3: Cold War in the Third World (Korean Crisis, Vietnam War, Arab-Israel Conflict)

Unit – 4: NAM and its impact on World Politics

Module – 2: Unit – 1: Birth of Communist China and Sino-Soviet Relation

Unit – 2: United States of America, Cuba and Chili.

Unit – 3: The Anti-Colonial Movement in Africa – Algeria and Congo Crisis.

Module – 3: Decolonization and Disarmament

Unit – 1: Debate on Concept and Application

Unit–2: Various Phases of Disarmament – Nuclear Rearmament, Anti-nuclear World

Unit – 3: UNO as a Peacekeeping Body. Evaluation of its Success and Failures

Unit – 4: Apartheid – Origin of the Concept, its impact on World Politics, America and South Africa

Module – 4: The New World Order

Unit – 1: Collapse of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev Years. The End of Cold War towards a Unipolar World

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Unit – 2: Globalization and its Impact

Unit – 3: India and South Asia – Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

Unit – 4: Indian Foreign Policy after the Cold War

a) Economic Diplomacy

b) Look East Policies

c) Nuclear Policies Armament and its Impact

SPECIAL PAPERS

(The University offers two Special Papers to the learners of post graduate history course. The learners will have to opt either for Group – A of Paper – VII and Paper – VIII or for Group – B of Paper – VII and Paper – VIII.)

Group - A

PAPER VII A

Social History of India (19th and 20th Centuries)

Module – 1: Gender

Unit – 1: Aspects of Gender Question in India

Unit – 2: Prostitute and Her Clientele in 19th Century Bengal

Unit – 3: Women Education in India

Unit – 4: Women's Suffrage Movement in India – a Survey

Module – 2

Unit – I: Environmental History

Unit – II: Environmental History

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Unit – III: Science

Unit – IV: Medicine and Public Health

Module – 3

Unit – I: Literature

Unit – II: Film and Theatre

Unit – III: Art

Unit – IV: Sports

Module – 4

Unit – I: Disorder and Violence in Rural Society

Unit – II: Law and Court

Unit – III: Police

Unit – IV: Prison

Module – 5

Unit – I: Religious Reform Movements

Unit – II: Social Reform Movements

Unit – III: Caste Movements

Unit – IV: Educational Reforms

PAPER VIII A

Economic History of India (19th and 20th Centuries)

Module – 1

Unit – I: Revenue Settlements

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Unit – II: Commercial Agriculture in India

Unit – III: Rural Structure

Unit – IV: Peasant Movements

Module – 2

Unit – I: Industrial Development

Unit – II: Imperialism and Industrial Development

Unit – III: Swadeshi Industrial Development

Unit – IV: Business and Politics

Module – 3

Unit – I: Historiography of the Indian Working Class

Unit – II: Emergence and Formation of Indian Working Class

Unit – III: Changing Condition of the Indian Working Class

Unit – IV: The Working-Class Movements

Module – 4

Unit – I: Internal Trade of India with Special Reference to Bengal

Unit – II: Foreign Trade of India (1757 – 1858)

Unit – III: Foreign Trade of India (1858 – 1947)

Unit – IV: Population, Occupational Structure and Urbanization

Group - B

PAPER VII B

Social History of India (5th to 13th Centuries)

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Module – 1

Unit – I: Formation of Social-Political Structure

Unit – II: The Theory of Sultanate

Unit – III: Unitary/Centralized State Formation

Unit – IV: State and Society

Module – 2

Unit – I: Regional Patterns of State Formation

Unit – II: Societies in Rajputana – The Bhai-Bant System

Unit – III: Vijayanagara – Segmentary State

Unit – IV: Bengal

Module – 3

Unit – I: Growth of Regional Literature

Unit – II: Liberal Arts, Technology and Science

Unit – III: Astronomy, Ayurveda, Rasayana.

Unit – IV: New Developments

Module – 4

Unit – I: Social, Economic and Religious Traits of Assimilation

Unit – II: Philosophy – Bhakti Cult and Sufism

Unit – III: Hindu – Muslim Synthesis

Unit – IV: Assimilation of Cultures

PAPER VIII B

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Economic History of India (5th to 13th Centuries)

Module – 1

Unit – I: Early Medieval Period

Unit – II: Causative Factors

Unit – III: Debates and Historiography

Module – 2

Unit – I: The Agrarian Structure

Unit – II: The Feudal Economy

Unit – III: Growth and Diversities

Unit – IV: The Iqtadari System

Module – 3

Unit – I: Nature of Trade (Trade, Merchants and Market Centres)

Unit – II: Urban Development and Proliferation of Guilds and Crafts

Unit – III: Agriculture

Module – 4

Unit – I: Economy of Vijayanagara

Unit – II: Bengal and Bhamain Kingdom

Unit – III: Foreign Trade

Unit – IV: Feudalism from Above and Below