

### Course Description Format

**TITLE** : Introduction to History

**Course Code** : HSS343a

**Note:** Please use course code for previously existing course

**CREDITS** : Four

**TYPE-WHEN** : BTech, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Year; MTech, PhD

**FACULTY NAME** : Aniket Alam

**PRE-REQUISITE** : BTech students should have passed Intro to Human Sciences

**OBJECTIVE** : This course intends to introduce the non-historian student to the discipline of history and equip him/her with the main theories and methods used to understand and explain the past, including in the present digital era. This course should help the student learn to think historically and address real life situations using the analytical skills of a historian.

**COURSE TOPICS** :

- (1) Memory, past and history;
- (2) Historical time and space;
- (3) The main theories of history;
- (4) The main methods of history;
- (5) Impact of computers and internet on History.

**PREFERRED TEXT BOOKS:** E. H. Carr: *What is History*.

Marc Bloch: *The Historian's Craft*.

Umberto Eco, Jean-Claude Carriere: *This Is Not the End Of the Book*;

**\*REFERENCE BOOKS:** Romila Thapar: *Somnatha: The many voices of a history*.

Mircea Eliade: *The Myth of the Eternal Return: Cosmos and History*.

Herbert Butterfield: *Whig Interpretation of History*.

Edward Said: *Orientalism*.

Frantz Fanon: *Black Skin, White Masks*

B. R. Ambedkar: *Who Were the Shudras?*

Alfred Crosby: Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900

James C. Scott; Against the Grain

Ibn-e-Khaldun: Muqadimah

Shawn Graham: Exploring Big Historical Data – The Historian's Macroscope.

Anne Kelly Knowles: Placing History – How Maps, Spatial Data, and GIS are changing historical scholarship.

**\*Articles\***

Bernard S. Cohen: "The Command of Language and the Language of Command".

E. P. Thompson: "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism"

Ranajit Guha: "On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India".

Ranajit Guha: "The Prose of Counter-Insurgency"

Shahid Amin: "Gandhi as Mahatma"

David Arnold: "Touching the Body: Perspectives on the Indian Plague"

Jacques le Goff: "Merchant's Time and Church Time in the Middle Ages"

Lucien Febvre: "Sensibility and History – How to Reconstitute the Emotional Life of the Past"

Emmanuel le Roy Ladurie: "The History of Rain and Fine Weather"

Philippe Aries: "Pictures of the Family"

Maurice Aymard: "The Costs of War"

Fernand Braudel: "History and the Social Sciences-The Longue Duree"

Jean Meuvret: "Food Crises and Demography in France during the Ancien Regime"

Karl Marx: Communist Manifesto, Chapter 1.

Karl Marx: "British Rule in India, 10 June 1853"

Karl Marx: "Future Results of British Rule in India, 22 July 1853"

D D Kosambi: "Social and Economic Aspects of the Bhagvad Gita"

Irfan Habib: "Potentialities of Capitalist Development in the Economy of Mughal India"

Robert Darnton: "Peasants Tell Tales"

Clifford Geertz: "The Balinese Cock-Fight"

**\*PROJECT:**

This will involve working with primary historical documents and data and applying the methods learnt in class to analyse, interpret and identify trends. A 2000 word essay will have to be submitted and the main points presented in class.

**GRADING PLAN:**

Type of Evaluation	Weightage (in %)
Mid Sem Exam	<b>20%</b>
End Sem Exam	<b>30%</b>
Assignments (Four)	<b>20%</b>
Project	<b>20%</b>
Book Review	<b>10%</b>

**OUTCOME:** The student will be able to identify the main theories and methods of the discipline of history. S/he will also be use some of these to understand and explain events and processes using historian's methods. The course will equip the student to analyse society historically and provide them the foundation for pursuing computational research in history.

**REMARKS:** The course will require reading about 600-800 pages of books and articles, and writing about 5000 words over different assignments, project and book review.