

Research Methodology

CREDIT- 4

Course Outcomes (COs)

After successful completion of the course, the research scholar will be able to:

- CO1: Understand the nature, scope, concepts and methodologies of historical research.
- CO2: Critically evaluate historical sources, evidence and interpretations for conducting scholarly research.
- CO3: Analyse major historiographical traditions and contemporary approaches in historical studies.
- CO4: Apply appropriate research methods and interdisciplinary perspectives in historical inquiry.
- CO5: Develop and undertake independent historical research with academic rigor and methodological competence.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

Upon completion of the course, the scholar shall be able to:

- LO1: Explain key concepts, methods and theories used in historical research.
- LO2: Differentiate between primary and secondary sources and analyse the authenticity and reliability of Historical Sources.
- LO3: Formulate research questions and produce methodologically sound historical studies.
- LO4: Conduct Literature Review of existing research.
- LO5: Write Research Proposals, Seminar Papers and Thesis in a systematic manner incorporating principles of Research Ethics and Plagiarism Prevention.

Unit I - Historical Research

- A. Meaning, Definition and Objectives
- B. Nature, Scope, Value and Limitation
- C. Types of Historical Research: Descriptive, Analytical, Qualitative, Quantitative, Comparative and Interdisciplinary
- D. Emerging Themes and Trends in Historical Research
- E. Academic Integrity: Ethics, Plagiarism and Plagiarism Prevention Tools

Unit II - Historical Sources

- A. Classification of Sources - Primary and Secondary Sources Literary Sources- Chronicles, Biographies, Autobiographies, Travel Accounts, Manuscripts and Religious Literature
- B. Archival Sources: Government Documents, Administrative Records, Revenue records, Census reports, Personal papers, Diaries, Letters, Newspapers and Periodicals
- C. Archaeological Sources-Excavated Remains, Monuments, Inscriptions, Coins, Artefacts and Material Culture
- D. Digital and Oral Sources- Digital Archives, Online Database, E-Resources and Digital Libraries, Oral history and Folk traditions
- E. Source Criticism and Authentication of Sources: Authenticity of Sources, External and Internal Criticism

Unit - III Research Design

- A. Identification and Selection of Research Question/Topic
- B. Significance, Scope and Limitations of the study
- C. Review of Literature - Purpose and Techniques
- D. Formulation of Research Questions, Hypothesis and Documentation Skills
- E. Methodological Approaches in Historical Research: Heuristic, Hermeneutics, Qualitative, Quantitative, Comparative and Statistical method

Unit IV- Art of Writing History

- A. Academic Writing: Grant Proposal, Research Paper, Synopsis and Thesis with proper chronology, constructive reasoning and Valid Conclusion
- B. Uses of Footnotes, Endnotes, Bibliography, Charts, Tables, Maps, Glossary, Abbreviation, Appendix and Index
- C. Referencing and Citation Styles- APA, MLA and Chicago



- D. Uses of Libraries, Archives, Digital Archives, Database and Digital Research Tools
- E. Artificial Intelligence in Historical Research: Opportunities, Applications and Limitations

Suggested Readings

1. Gottschalk, Louis. *Understanding History: A Primer of Historical Method*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1950.
2. Bloch, Marc. *The Historian's Craft*. Manchester University Press, 1954.
3. Carr, E.H. *What is History?* Penguin Books, 1961.
4. Majumdar, R.C. *Historiography in Modern India*. Asia Publishing House, 1970.
5. Marwick, Arthur. *The Nature of History*. Macmillan Education, 1989.
6. Bentley, Michael (ed.). *Companion to Historiography*. Routledge, 1997.
7. Evans, Richard J. *In Defence of History*. Granta Books, 1997.
8. Sarkar, Sumit. *Writing Social History*. Oxford University Press, 1997.
9. Howell, Martha and Walter Prevenier. *From Reliable Sources: An Introduction to Historical Methods*. Cornell University Press, 2001.
10. Sreedharan, E. *A Textbook of Historiography: 500 BC to AD 2000*. Orient BlackSwan, 2004.
11. Kothari, C.R. *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques*. New Age International Publishers, 2004.
12. Chitnis, K.N. *Research Methodology in History*. Atlantic Publishers & Distributors, 2006.
13. Cohen, Daniel J. and Roy Rosenzweig. *Digital History*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006.
14. Thapar, Romila. *The Past Before Us: Historical Traditions of Early North India*. Harvard University Press, 2013.
15. Galgano, Michael J., Arndt, J. Chris and Hyser, Raymond M. *Doing History: Research and Writing in the Digital Age*. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2013.
16. Ritchie, Donald A. *Doing Oral History*. Oxford University Press, 2015 (3rd Edition).
17. Storey, William Kelleher. *Writing History: A Guide for Students*. Oxford University Press, 2015 (5th Edition).
18. Tosh, John. *The Pursuit of History: Aims, Methods and New Directions in the Study of History*. Routledge, 2015 (6th Edition).
19. Booth, Wayne C., Colomb, Gregory G. and Williams, Joseph M. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press, 2016 (4th Edition).
20. Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. University of Chicago Press, 2018 (9th Edition).
21. Jordanova, Ludmilla. *History in Practice*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2019 (3rd Edition).

Subject Specific Course

(Advanced Course in History)

CREDIT- 4

Course Outcomes (COs)

Students will be able to:

CO1: Understand the nature, scope, concept and methodology of historical research.

CO2: Critically evaluate historical sources, evidences, facts, interpretations and methods of inquiry.

CO3: Apply appropriate techniques of source-criticism, data collection and interpretation on historical research.

CO4: Analyse major historiographical traditions and debates.

CO5: Examine contemporary trends in historiography.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

LO1: Understand the theoretical foundations, concepts and methods of historical research.

LO2: Distinguish between historical facts, evidences, interpretations, objectivity, subjectivity and bias.

LO3: Evaluate the authenticity, reliability and relevance of primary and secondary source.

LO4: Explain the evolution of historical writing from colonial to contemporary approaches.

LO5: Compare and critically assess different schools of historiography.

Unit- I Concept and Methodology

- A. Nature and Scope of History
- B. Objectivity and Subjectivity
- C. Historical Evidences and Sources
- D. Historical Facts, Bias and Interpretation
- E. Causation and Generalization

Unit- II Historiographical Approaches and Debates

- A. Periodisation
- B. Orientalist and Imperialist Historiography
- C. Nationalist and Marxist Historiography
- D. Annals and Subaltern Studies
- E. Post Modernism

Unit- III Contemporary Historiographical Approaches

- A. Gender History
- B. Tribal, Indigenous and Ethnohistory
- C. Science, Technology and Environmental History
- D. Cultural History and History of Everyday life
- E. Digital History and Digital Humanities

Unit- IV Emerging Themes in Historical Research

- A. Micro, Local and Regional History
- B. Historical Narratives, Representation and Public History
- C. Global and Trans-National History
- D. Oral History and Folk traditions
- E. History of Emotions and Memory Studies

Suggested Readings

1. R.G. Collingwood, *The Idea of History*, Oxford University Press, 1946.
2. Marc Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*, Manchester University Press, 1954.
3. D.D. Kosambi, *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*, Popular Prakashan, 1956.
4. E.H. Carr, *What is History?*, Penguin Books, 1961.
5. Edward Said, *Orientalism*, Pantheon Books, 1978.
6. B. Sheik Ali, *History: Its Theory and Method*, Macmillan India, 1978.
7. Ranajit Guha (ed.), *Subaltern Studies I*, Oxford University Press, 1982.
8. Jan Vansina, *Oral Tradition as History*, University of Wisconsin Press, 1985.
9. Lynn Hunt (ed.), *The New Cultural History*, University of California Press, 1989.
10. Keith Jenkins, *Re-thinking History*, Routledge, 1991.
11. Peter Burke, *History and Social Theory*, Polity Press, 1992.
12. Harbans Mukhia, *Perspectives on Medieval History*, Vikas Publishing House, 1993.
13. S. Gopal (ed.), *Historiography and Historians in Modern India*, Oxford University Press, 1994.
14. Shahid Amin, *Event, Metaphor, Memory: Chauri Chaura 1922–1992*, University of California Press, 1995.
15. David Arnold, *The Problem of Nature: Environment, Culture and European Expansion*, Blackwell, 1996.
16. Satish Chandra, *Historiography, Religion and State in Medieval India*, Har-Anand Publications, 1996.
17. Pierre Nora (ed.), *Realms of Memory*, Columbia University Press, 1996–1998.
18. Eric Hobsbawm, *On History*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1997.
19. Georg G. Iggers, *Historiography in the Twentieth Century*, Wesleyan University Press, 1997.
20. Sumit Sarkar, *Writing Social History*, Oxford University Press, 1997.
21. Uma Chakravarti, *Gendering Caste Through a Feminist Lens*, Stree Publications, 2003.
22. E. Sreedharan, *A Textbook of Historiography: 500 BC to AD 2000*, Orient BlackSwan, 2004.
23. Daniel J. Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving and Presenting the Past on the Web*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006.
24. Mahesh Rangarajan, *Environmental Issues in India: A Reader*, Pearson, 2007.
25. Nandini Sundar, *Subalterns and Sovereigns: An Anthropological History of Bastar*, Oxford University Press, Reprint Edition, 2008.
26. S.N. Sen, *Historians and Historiography in Modern India*, Institute of Historical Studies, 2010.
27. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, *Approaches to History: Essays in Indian Historiography*, Primus Books, 2011.



Credit System

Credits: 4

The syllabus of both the papers has been structured into four units. The course carries four credits, comprising four lecture hours per week. The entire syllabus is designed to be completed over the course of one semester through a total of sixty contact lectures.

The course aims to provide research scholars with a comprehensive understanding of Historiography, Historical methods, Historiographical Traditions, and Research Methodology. It is intended to equip scholars with the theoretical and methodological foundations necessary for advanced historical inquiry and academic research.