SYLLABUS

M.A. in History
Choice Based Credit System

Basic Structure of Curriculum

Department of History
Harichand Guruchand University
Academic Session 2021- 22 Onwards
## Syllabus for the Post Graduate Course in History

Total marks-1000  Credits-100

### Semester – I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 101</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>State, Society and Economy in Ancient India</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 102</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Society, Religion and Culture in Colonial Bengal</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 103</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Various Aspects of Nationalism in Southeast Asia: Burma, Indo-China and Indonesia</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 104</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Indian Freedom Movement, 1885-1947</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 105</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Indian Historiography: Concept and Methods</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Type</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 201</td>
<td>Open Course</td>
<td>Cultural History of India (students may opt only other subject)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 202</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Western Historiography: Concept and Methods</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 203</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Women in Indian Society: From Past to Present</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 204</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Select themes of Ancient Societies</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Opt any one paper of the following</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 205</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Select themes of Medieval Societies</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 206</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>South Asian Perspectives</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Type</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 301</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Contemporary History of India Since 1947</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 302</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Modern World 19th and 20th Centuries</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 303</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>History of Environment and Ecology in India</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Opt any two papers of the following papers</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 304</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>History of Religion in India</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 305</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Regional History of 24 Pargana District(Ancient Times to 1986)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 306</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Economic History of Modern India</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIS T 307</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Indian Diaspora</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Type</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 401</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>West Bengal 1947 Onwards</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 402</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>State, Society and Economy in Medieval India</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Opt any two paper of the following papers</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 403</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Science, Technology and Medicine in India</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 404</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Intellectual History of Bengal (1783-1947)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAHIST 405</strong></td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Select Debates in Indian History</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 406</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Resistance Movements in Colonial India</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAHIST 407</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEMESTER-I

**Paper-101: State, Society and Economy in Ancient India**

*(Core Course)*

Unit- 1: Towards formation of the state: proto-states, chiefdoms of later Vedic period and territorial states in the Age of the Buddha.

Unit- 2: Concept of state polity, Jatakas and Mahabharata, centralization of Mauryan state, Gupta polity, administrative institutions, bureaucratic system, financial administration, authority, morality, legal and ethical sanctions in the light of Arthasastra, concepts of Saptangarastra

Unit- 3: State formation in south India: chiefdoms, Decentralisation, Genesis of Local – Self

Government, Chola administration

Unit- 4: Early society in India, Origin and development of caste system: casteism reflected in Buddhist-Brahmanical literature and philosophy

Unit- 5: Technology and Economy, Agrarian Economy, Non-agrarian Economy, Inland and Maritime Trade, Silk Road, Business Practices and Monetary History and Taxation
Select Readings:

- Drekmeyer, Charles, Kingship and Community in Early India, OUP, 1962
- Gurukkal, Rajan, Social Formations in Early South India, OUP, 1998
- R. C. Majumdar, Corporate Life in Ancient India, Calcutta, First Published, 1919.
- R. S. Sharma, Sudras in Ancient India, Delhi, 1958.
- R.S. Sharma, Social changes in Early Medieval India, Delhi, 1969.
- R.S. Sharma., Origin of the State in India, Bombay, 1989
- Romila Thapar, Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas, Delhi, 1963

**Paper-102: Society, Religion and Culture in Colonial Bengal**

(Core Course)


Unit-2: Namasudras of Bengal: History of the Namasudras and Matua Community, Namasudra and Matua
Religious Movement: Harichand Thakur, Guruchand Thakur, Pramatha Ranjan Thakur,

Educational Movement of the Namasudra Community, Progress of the Namasudras in Politics and Economy: Harichand Thakur, Guruchand Thakur, Pramatha Ranjan Thakur, Jogendranath Mandal and others.

Unit-3: Education: Pre-Colonial Education System of Bengal: Gurukul, Tol, Maktab, Madrasa, etc, The Beginning of Western Education during the Colonial Period, Contribution of the Missionaries, Orientalist-Anglicist Controversy on Education, The Spread of Western Education under State initiative, Educational Reform Movement and its Impact

Unit-4: Literature: The Legacy of Vaishnava and Charyapada Literature, Development of Bengali Language and Prose Literature during the Colonial Period, Literature of Pre-Rabindra era, Post-Rabindra Literature

Unit-5: Art: Different Trends in the Art of Painting, Contributions of Rabindranath and its Santiniketan, Architecture and Sculpture: Different Genres of Bengal, Bishnupur Genre, Santiniketan Genre etc,
Evolution of Bengali Music, Western Influence, Theatre, Dance, Film and Popular Media

Select Readings:

- V.C. Joshi (ed.)—*Rammohan Roy and the process of Modernization in India.*
- Anil Kumar Sarkar, *Historians and Historiography of Bengal and North East India*, 2016, New Delhi
- A. Kumar—*Women Education*
- S.P. Agarwal—*Women Education in India*
- R.N. Sinha—*Population Education*
- V.K. Nanda—*Environmental Education*
- P.J. Marshall—*East Indian Fortunes: the British in Bengal in the 18th cent.*
- P.J. Marshall—*Bengal the British Bridgehead*
- N.K. Sinha (ed.)—*History of Bengal 1757 – 1905*
Paper-103: Various Aspects of Nationalism in Southeast Asia: Burma, Indo-China and Indonesia

(Core Course)

UNIT-I: Traditional Burma and Colonial Intervention: Kingship in Burma—Central system of administration—Local government—Anglo-Burmese wars—British rule is lower Burma—

Annexation of Upper Burma—Phases of political development.

UNIT-2: Burmese Nationalism and Independence: Renaissance of Burmese cultural tradition—

Cultural Nationalism—Y.M.B.A., G.C.B.A. etc. Post-war reform proposal—Rebellion 1930-

31—Racial friction—Burma’s separation from India—Thakin movement—Japanese occupation—British re-conquest—Independence settlement—Role of Aung San—Ne-win and Burmese way to socialism

UNIT-3: Colonialism to Independence: Tayson Rebellion and the Unification of Vietnam—Process of Colonization and Resistance—Assimilation and Association—Cambodia and the Siamese
Question–Impact on Ethnicity, Education and Administration–Early Resistance and

Scholars’ Movements –Nationalism and Communism -VNQDD, Viet Minh, August

Revolution 1945, Dien Bien Phu, the Cold War and Geneva Settlement of 1954

UNIT-4: Dutch control over major Indonesian archipelago–Rise of Sarekat Islam – Political and

Cultural Change – Communism in Indonesia – Role of different Nationalist parties –

Japanese Tactics in Indonesia – The Indonesian Republic under Dr. Sukarno—Indonesia
during the regime of Sukarno Putri.

UNIT-5: Spread of Non-Aligned Movement in South East Asia and its impact on international

politics– the Cold War era- India’s role in the nationalist movements in South-East Asia—

The activities of Indian Revolutionaries in South-East Asia.

Select Readings:

Paper-104: Indian Freedom Movement, 1885-1947

(Core Course)

Unit-1: Pre-Congress period: Various Interpretations of Indian Nationalism: The Background, Different
Approaches and Schools, Pre-Congress Political Organisations: Landholders Society, British India

Society, Bengal British India Society, British India Association, Madras Native Association, Bombay

Association, East India Association, National Indian Association, Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, Indian

Society, Indian Association, Madras Mahajan Sabha, Bombay Presidency Association and others.

Unit-2: Foundation of the National Congress, Activities of the Moderate Phase, Moderate-Extremist Conflict;

Influence of Bankimchandra, Vivekananda, Rabindranath, Partition of Bengal (1905): Swadeshi and Boycott Movement, The Muslim League and the Changing Scenario of the National Movement

Unit-3: Nationalist Movements: The Rise of Gandhiji and the Evolution of Gandhian Politics, National

Movements of India led by Gandhiji, Three Streams of Nationalism—Nehru, Subhas, Rabindranath,

India’s Freedom Struggle outside India

Unit-4: Revolutionary Movements: Revolutionary Activities in Bengal, Revolutionary Activities in Punjab, Revolutionary Activities in Maharashtra, Revolutionary Activities in other Provinces

Unit-5: The Last Stage of Freedom Movement: Subhas Chandra Bose and Azad Hind Fauj, Spread of the Leftist
Ideology—Student, Peasant, Labor Movement, Naval Rebellion, The Complexities of Communal Politics, the Process of Transfer of Power, Partition and Independence

Select Readings:

- R.C. Majumdar, *History of Freedom Movement in India.*
- AmaleshTripathy, *SwadinataSangrameBharater Jatiyo Congress.*
- AmaleshTripathy, *The Extremist Challenge*
- SumitSarkar, *Modern India.*
- Sumit Sarkar, *Swadeshi Movement in Bengal*
- Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *From Plassey to Partition.*
- Ramchandra Guha, *India After Gandhi.*
- Bipan Chandra, *India’s Struggle for Independence.*
- Bipan Chandra, *History of Modern India.*
- H.N. Mukherji, *India’s Struggle for Freedom.*
- StanlyWolpert, *A New History of India.*
- Anil Seal, *Emergence of Indian Nationalism*
- Ram Gopal, *British Rule in India.*
- Anil Kumar Sarkar, *British Paramountcy and the Cooch Behar State*, New Delhi, 2011
- Pranab Kumar Chattopadhyay, *Adhunik Bharat.*
- Samar Kumar Mallik, *AdhunikBharaRupantar: Raj ThekeSwar.*

**Paper-105: Indian Historiography: Concept and Methods**

(Core Course)

Unit- 1: The theoretical framework of Historiography – Nature and Scope of History – Philosophy

and Theories of History – Structure and form of History, Concept of Progress in History –
Subjectivity and Objectivity – Indian notion of the past and emergence of historical consciousness

Unit- 2: Sources of Ancient and Medieval Indian historiography – the Itihasa-Purana tradition –

Historical consciousness in the Vedic texts – Buddhist and Jaina texts – epics and genealogies – Harshacharita and Rajatarangini – Study of memoirs and biographies –

Babarnama, Akbarnama, Jahangirnama – Sufi Ishrat traditions

Unit- 3: Paradigms and approaches to history-Definition of paradigm, the importance of paradigm,

paradigm shifts, Approaches to Indian history-Orientalist, Imperialist, Nationalist, Marxist, Subaltern, Post-modernist

Unit- 4: History and other disciplines-Inter-disciplinary approaches in history, Relations with archaeology, geography anthropology, linguistics, sociology, economics, philosophy, politics,

natural sciences applied sciences and literature

Unit- 5: Importance of studying local or regional history – Local and Regional historians, Satish Chandra Mitra, Narendranath Ray and others
SEMESTER-II

Paper-201: Cultural History of Modern India

(Open Course)

Unit 1: Literary Culture —Culture and Language in Colonial India-The Hindi Movement— Literary World – The rise of the Novel: Bankim Chandra—Rabindranath up to KallolYug- Press and Public Opinion—Vernacular Newspapers and their impact

Unit 2: The city and its inhabitants: Urbanisation and urbanism in colonial India – Emergence of the metropolis of Calcutta; the mofussil centers – The ‘middle class and other classes in the new cities – Aspects of elite and popular culture in the cities- – the evolution of regional attire.

Unit 4: Visual and Aesthetic Culture - The Making of the New Indian Art - Development of Art

History - Various forms of Art like calendar Art — Art in Almanacs — Institutions of Art and architecture in Colonial India;

Unit 5: Performance Culture in the Public Space — Jatra — Circus — Theatre, Cinema, Music, Sports

and Physical culture.

Select Readings:

**Paper-202: Western Historiography: Concept and Methods**

(Core Course)

Unit- 1: The emergence of Western Historical Tradition (Graeco-Roman Era): History Writing in the Classical Era — Writings of Herodotus, Thucydides and others in Classical Greece — History

Writing in the Roman age — Writings of Polybus, Tacitus, Pliny and others — Past Forms,

Myths, Legends and Sources

Unit- 2: History writing during the Christian Medieval Period till the 18th Century: Church

historiography — St. Augustine — Arab Historiography — Nature of Medieval Historiography —
Collection and Compilation Work–Impact of Renaissance and Reformation on History

writing – Rationalist Historiography – Voltaire, Gibbon and Robinson—Philosophy of Romanticism- Rousseau and Herder

Unit- 3: The tradition of History Writing in the 19th & 20th Centuries: Philosophy of Positivism –

Neibuhr, Ranke, Comte, Buckle. Marxist Historical Tradition – Karl Marx, Christopher Hill,


Marc Bloch, Lucien Febvre and Fernand Braudel

Unit- 4: Debates in History: The Industrial Revolution–The French Revolution–The American

Revolution–Historical Writings in the Post-modern Period

Unit- 5: Structure and Interdisciplinary Nature of History Writing: The historian at work narrative,

description, analysis, rhetoric and structure– Research in HistoryMethodology of Historical

Research– Importance of Sources in History- Oral evidence and incorporating Visual

Sources into written History–History and Science/History and Social Sciences
Select Readings:

- D. Bebbington, Patterns in History, Leicester.
- G.P. Gooch, History and Historians in the Nineteenth Century.
- Pieter Geyl, Debates With Historians, Cleveland Ohio, 1958.

Paper-203: Women in Indian Society: From Past to Present

(Core Course)

Unit- 1: Understanding gender and patriarchy; theory and practice—Historiography of women’s history in India—Construction of Gender: effeminacy and Masculinity.

Unit- 2: Indus valley women—Brahmanical patriarchy in India — Women and property—
Stridhana— Women in medieval India— Political processes, the harem and household—

Women and literary activities—changes in the notion of gender in early modern India

Unit- 3: Women and Social Reforms in Nineteenth-Century India-Women and Modern Education—

Gender and Domesticity—Dress code in the private sphere— The Question of Marriage,

Dowry and Notion of patriarchy— The cursed Widowhood—the marginal women.

Unit- 4: Class, Caste, Communalism and gender in India-Women and Politics—participation in

Gandhian movement as well as in revolutionary movement— Women And Labour-Women

and Labour Class Movement-Gender and Nationalism-Concept of Mother India- Muslim

women and education with special reference to Begum Rokya.

Unit- 5: Gender and Cultural Representations— Visual Culture and Literature— Performance in

Theatre, Films—Circus and in the Sporting arena—Representation of women in the

calendar art, almanacs and advertisements.
Select Readings:

- Mala Khullar (ed.), *Writing the Women’s Movement: A Reader*, Zubaan Books, Delhi, 2005.

**Paper-204: Select themes of Ancient Societies**

**(Core Course)**

**Unit- 1:** Journey of the human society – theories related to the evolution of human society – stages of human society.
Unit-2: The Ancient Indian Society – Indus Valley Civilization, Vedic Society, varnashrama dharma,

the position of women

Unit-3: Ancient Egypt – sources – social structure – kingship – the priesthood – position of women –

the Osyrian cult – the Hittait invasion – law and punishment – mummification.

Unit-4: The Age of Antiquity: Greece – the Polis, social structure, the position of the Helots,

Perioikoi and women – Greek pantheon – Olympic – society and culture reflected in the

classical comedies and tragedies, Roman society, condition of the slaves and women –

Gladiator – Roman law.

Unit-5: The Oriental Society in Ancient Times: China – Chinese society during the Tsang and Han

dynasties, Chinese pantheon – Confucius and his ideology – Buddhism and Taoism – TsunZu

– position of women.

Select Readings:

• B. Trigger, Understanding Early Civilizations: A Comparative Study (CUP, 2003).
Paper-205: Select themes of Medieval Societies

(Elective Course)

Unit- 1: Evolution of the Christian Church and the prevailing anti-Church feeling in Europe-

Anabaptism, Martin Luther, etc

Unit- 2: Feudalism in Europe - its definition, features, nature and the process of decline.

Unit- 3: Crusades and its impact on medieval European society.

Unit- 4: Traditional Societies of the Far East - China and Japan

Unit- 5: Structure of medieval society of India - changes in social psyche under the impact of Islam,
the rise of Islam in Bengal Frontier – debates on syncretism and reformism in the medieval society of India.

**Select Readings:**

- Joseph Schacht, An Introduction to Islamic Law, Clarendon Press, 1961
- L. Krader, Formation of the State, Indiana University, 1971
- Patricia Crone, Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam., Gorgias Press, 2004

**Paper-206: South Asian Perspectives**

*(Elective Course)*

**Unit- 1:** General Introduction: South Asia in Historical Perspectives, Climate, Settlement, Population,

Historical Geography, Resources – South Asia civilization – Races – Ethnicity and Identity.

**Unit- 2:** Foreign Policy of India – Non-alignment, Panchsheel, SAARC, Commonwealth, post-cold war and recent trends

**Unit- 3:** Foreign Policy of South Asian countries – Prospects and possibilities of economic
development in the age of globalization.

**Unit- 4:** India’s Look East policy-Cultural and Political perspectives

**Unit- 5:** Culture: South Asian Cultural Influences and its Impacts, Diaspora

**Select Readings:**

**SEMESTER-III**

**Paper-301: Contemporary History of India Since 1947**

(Core Course)

**Unit- 1:** Definitions of Contemporary History. Phases of the Political transition in India after Independence – The Congress System- the Kashmir Question–Refugee problems.

**Unit- 2:** Framing of the new Constitution- integration of the princely statesthe birth of republic –

Nehru and the formation of a planned economy-Agriculture and Land Reform-the drive for

industrialization- Linguistic reorganization of the provinces- Birth of Indian Electoral politics.

**Unit 3:** India after Nehru- Indira Gandhi and the Congress-Collapse of the Congress system-the

Emergency-Experiments with coalition politics.
**Unit 4:** Communal and Caste mobilization since the 1980s and 1990s: Liberation and the Indian state

**Unit 5:** India in world politics: conflict with Pakistan and China-India and the Soviet Union- the emergence of India and her neighbours: SAARC-Foreign policy in an age of globalization.

Select Readings:

**Paper-302:** Modern World 19th and 20th Centuries

**(Core Course)**

Unit- 1: Legacy of the Nineteenth Century – growth of capitalism and imperialism – England, France, Germany and Japan – the spread of liberalism, nationalism and socialism.

Unit- 2: World Order upto 1945 – the impact of the World Wars on the world order – changes in world politics before and after the rise of Nazism and Fascism, the crisis in the capitalist power block with special reference to the depression of the 1930s, economic and political aspects of rising and growth of the socialist state system, the Soviet Union and China, decolonization, social changes.
Unit- 3: Cold War and its effects – the ideological and political basis of the cold war – pacts and treaties, regional tensions (Palestine, Kashmir, Cuba, Korea and Vietnam), new trends of oil politics, nuclear diplomacy, Non-Aligned Movement and the Third World, UNO and the concept of world peace.

Unit- 4: The disintegration of Socialist Blocks and end of Cold War – genesis and process of the disintegration of the socialist blocks – its impact on society and politics, end of the bipolar world system.

Unit- 5: Globalization – conceptual aspects of globalization, changes in the structure of production and production relations, the new commerce and expansion of capital, socio-cultural changes, the impact of globalization on the economy, society and polity of the developing world.

Select Readings:

- Peter Cain and Mark Harrison, Critical Concepts in Historical Studies: Imperialism, Routledge, 2001
Paper-303: History of Environment and Ecology in India

(Core Course)

Unit- 1: Environment and Ecology in Indian ethos and Philosophy, social formations and indigenous knowledge systems, climatic factors in the evolution of the societies, the oriental system and traditional management of the environment in India.

Unit- 2: Geographical zones – forests, mountains, river systems, ocean and deserts.

Unit- 3: Indian environment after expansion of agriculture in ancient and medieval periods.

Unit- 4: Colonial intervention and environment, the impact of colonial state-making on Indian
forests and rivers, water and social structure, drought, flood and climatic changes, tribalization and also De-tribalization of communities.

Unit-5: Review of environmental movements in modern India-Dam, Narmada Bachao movement, Chipko movement and others

Select Readings:

• Rangarajan, Mahesh and Sivaramakrishnan, K. Ed. India`s Environmental History: From Ancient Times to the Colonial Period: A Reader. Vol. 1 and 2. Ranikhet: Permanent Black

**Paper-304: History of Religion in India**

*(Elective Course)*

Unit- 1: Introduction to Religious History Historiographical Debate on Religious History, Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ideology

Unit- 2: Vedic Religion-ritual and thought, Jainism, Buddhism

Unit- 3: Islamic Religious Thought, Sufism, Sikhism, Shaivism, Shaktism, Nath-Panthis, Vaishnavite

Movement in Eastern India, Jagannath cult in Odisha, Vithoba cult of Maharashtra, Rishi cult in Kashmir, Nayannar and Alwar’s of south India

Unit- 4: The Christian religion, Brahmo Samaj, PrathanaSamaj, Arya Samaj movements, the Ahmadiyya Muslim movement

Unit- 5: The Ramkrishna-Vivekananda movement, Bharat Seva Ashram, Anukul Thakur, Ramthakur
Theosophical movement, Temple Rituals and Relationship with politics – Donations, Grants,

Patrons, Debottar, Wakalf and Artists; Mathas (Mutts)

Select Readings:

- Flueckiger, Joyce and Laurie Sears eds., 1991, Boundaries of the Text: Epic Performances in South and Southeast Asia, Ann Arbor: Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies.
- Tarling, Nicholas ed. The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia, Vol. 1, Part 1 (beginnings to 1500 CE), Cambridge University Press.

Paper-305: Regional History of 24 Pargana District(Ancient Times to 1986)

(Elective Course)

Unit-1: 24 Parganas District in Pre-Modern Age: Geography of the District, Climate. Topography,
Roads, Rivers, etc., History of the Economy of the District, Social and Cultural Heritage,

Archaeological Centers.

Unit-2: 24 Parganas District in Modern Age: Acquisition of Zamindari by the British and Foundation of the District, Colonial Rule in the 24 Parganas, 24 Parganas in the Indian Freedom Movement,

The Administrative Structure of the District before and after Independence.

Unit-3: Demography of 24 Parganas District: Demographics Pattern of the District, Hindu-Muslim Communities and their Relations, Society and Economy of the District after Independence,

Cultural Evolution.

Unit-4: Refugees in the District of 24 Parganas: Partition and the Refugee Migration in the District of 24 Parganas, Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Programme, Economic and Political Changes:

The Role of the Namasudra Community, Evolution of Religion and Culture: The Spread of Matua Religion.

Select Readings:

- L.S.S. O’Malley, _Bengal District Gazetteers: 24 Parganas_
- Kamal Chowdhury, _Chabbish Pargana: Uttar Dakshin Sundarban_
- Krishnakali Mondal, _Dakshin Chabbis Pargana: AnchalikItihaserUpokoron_
- Krishnakali Mondal, _Dakshin Chabbis Parganar BismritoOdhyoy_
- Gokul Chandra Das (Ed.), _Chabbis Parganar Anchalik Itihas O Sanskriti_

---

**Paper-306: Economic History of Modern India**

*(Elective Course)*

Unit-1: Features of colonial economic domination in India – Indian trade and European Companies—

Mercantilism—Colonial Economic Impact: The Nationalist and Revisionist Historiography

Unit-2: The British economic policies and their impact—The revenue settlements – the land and the

state—commercialization of agriculture – rural indebtedness and rural credit – forms of

agricultural labour – the rise of Jotedars and Zamindars.

Unit-3: Foreign trade and balance of payments in colonial India – drain of

wealth and beyond –

deindustrialization and traditional industries – Growth of modern industry and the capitalist

class, the railways and their far-reaching consequences – banking and currency.
Unit-4: Growth of Plantation economy—Tea, Indigo, coffee, rubber—Mining industry—coal—jute

mills and markets – iron and steel industry with special reference to TISCO – the cotton industry

Unit-5: Emergence of factory labour—demography and national income – price movements and fluctuations in economic activity – the standard of living.

Select Readings:

- Amiya Kumar Bagchi and Arun Bandopadhyay (eds.), *Documents on Economic History of British Rule in India, 1858-1947: Eastern India in the Late Nineteenth Century, Part I: 1860s-1870s*, Manohar, New Delhi, 2009
Paper-307: Indian Diaspora

(Elective Course)

Unit-1: Genesis of Indian Diaspora – Various issues, Debates and Binaries in the historical context.

Unit-2: Industrial penetration and Europeanization of India during colonial rule, changes like the Indian diaspora

Unit-3: Withering Colonial Powers-Beginning of the Golden age of the Indian Diasporic communities in the colonial countries

Unit-4: Indianity, Indianess of the Diasporic communities in religio-cultural-social life, Some illustrious Diasporians: Dr. Shib Sagar Ram Gulam, Dr. Nabin Chandra Ram Gulam, Dr. ChhediJagan, Bansdeo Pandey, V.S. Naipaul etel

Unit-5: The new age of diaspora under the impact of globalization, changes in the concept of homeland and reconstruction of the idea of nationalism.

Select Readings:

• Timothy Mitchell, Colonising Egypt (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988).

SEMESTER-IV

Paper-401: West Bengal 1947 Onwards

(Core Course)

Unit-1: Transitional Politics in West Bengal: The Refugee Question: Partition, Creation of the State of West Bengal, Politics and Economy of West Bengal at the Time of Partition, Refugee Influx,

Refugee Camps and the Government’s Rehabilitation Policy, Rehabilitation of Refugees outside Bengal, From Dandakaranya to Marichjhapi


**Unit-3: Society and Culture: Education, Literature, Art, Sports, Ghoti-Bangal etc**

**Unit-4: Economy: Agriculture and Agrarian Structure, Abolition of Zamindari System, Land Reforms**

during the Next Three Decades, Industry, Urbanization and Growth of the Working Class, The Place of West Bengal in the National Economy of India, Trade and Commerce, the Rise of the Bengali Trading Community, Development of Villages and Towns, Social and Economic Role of the Middle Class.

**Unit-5: Movement: History of Peasant, Workers’ and Student Movement, Food Movement,**


Select Readings:

- Sekhar Bandopadhyay, *From Plassey To Partition and After A History of Modern India*
- Joya Chatterji, *Bengal Divided: Hindu Communalism and Partition, 1932-1947*

Ritu Menon— *No Woman’s Land: Women from Pakistan, India And Bangladesh Write on The Partition of India*

Gargi Chakravarty— *Coming out of Partition – Refugee Women of Bengal*

Kali Prasad Mukhopadhyay— *Partition of Bengal And After. The Great Tragedy of India*

Jasodhara Bagchi & Subhoranjan Dasgupta (Eds.)— *The Trauma and The Triumph, Vols I-II*

Sandipa Bandyopadhyaya— *Bengal Partition: Battered Background and Broken Minds*

Rupkumar Barman— *Partition of India And Its Impact on The Scheduled Castes of Bengal*

Donner, Henrike— *The Significance of Naxalbari: Accounts of Personal Involvement And Politics In West Bengal*

Henrike Donner— *The significance of Naxalbari: accounts of personal involvement and politics in West Bengal*

Sailen Debnath ed.— *Social and Political Tensions in North Bengal since 1947*

N Jayapalan— *Foreign policy of India.*

Sukanta Chaudhuri— *Calcutta, the Living City: The past*

Kumar Suresh Singh, Tilak Bagchi— *People of India: West Bengal*

Anuradha Banerjee— *Environment, population, and human settlements of Sundarban Delta.*


Ajitava Raychaudhuri, Tuhin K. Das, eds, *West Bengal economy: some contemporary issues*

Partha Chatterjee, *The Present History of West Bengal: Essays in Political Criticism*

---

**Paper-402: State, Society and Economy in Medieval India**

**(Core Course)**

**Unit 1:** The medieval Indian State – theory of kingship, growth of the institutional structure through
Iqta, Mansab and Jaigir, the role of various pressure groups, composition and nature of the ruling classes, State and regional powers.

**Unit 2:** Interpreting 18th century – potentiality and weakness, elements of conflict, state and orthodoxy, the process of decline.

**Unit 3:** Structure of rural society in medieval India – explaining composition and stratification with an introduction to popular and institutional sources, village community – its nature and adjustment with the State.

**Unit 4:** Structure of the urban society – evolution and composition, classes and communities, rural-urban relations.

**Unit 5:** Technology and Economy, Agrarian Economy, Non-agrarian Economy, Inland and Maritime Trade, Business Practices and Monetary History and Taxation

**Select Readings:**

• Aquil, Raziuddin. ed. 2010. Sufism and Society in Medieval India, Debates in Indian History and Society Series. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

**Paper-403: Science, Technology and Medicine in India**

*(Elective Course)*

Unit 1: Science as a theme in History-Colonial Science and its Forms-Historical Debates- Science and colonial Explorations- East India Company and scientific explorations- Establishment of Scientific institutions; Botanical Survey of India, Geological Survey of India etc.-Establishment of Engineering and Medical Colleges in India- Bengal Technical Institute, Calcutta Medical College etc.

Unit 2: Differences between the notion of imperialist science and nationalist perceptions-
development of Swadeshi Enterprises- Debates in national bodies dealing with science-

Science and Indian nationalism: Emergence of national science vis-a-vis colonial science:

Mahendralal Sarkar, P.C.Ray, J.C.Bose, MeghnadSaha etc.

**Unit 3:** Technology as a theme in History-Imperialism and technology-Colonial and Indigenous notions of technology-Technology and Rural change-institutionalization of technical knowledge in India- technology and the colonial project of India’s development –

Departments of Irrigation, Agriculture, Public Works, Railways.

Unit 4: Medicine as a theme in History-Various forms of Medical knowledge-History of medicine as a discipline-tropical medicine -encounter between allopathic and indigenous medicine-

Ayurveda and Unani medicine-Rise and growth of hospitals and laboratories.

Unit 5: Medicine and Empire-Public health and epidemic diseases-disease and disease control:

Comparative perspectives of Malaria, Smallpox, Cholera, Tuberculosis and Plague- Social dimension of health in India-state policy to health and medicine-popular response to health care services of state- women and western medicine.
Select Readings:

**Paper-404: Intellectual History of Bengal (1783-1947)**

*(Elective Course)*

**Unit 1:** Modern Intellectual Awakening: Birth of the Asiatic Society, 1783,

Renaissance: Emergence of the intellectual’s platforms, Associations, Societies and Organization

**Unit 2:** Bangiya Sahitya Parisad, Beginning of the Banga Sahitya Sammilan, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.

**Unit 3:** Muhammedan Literary Society, Muslim Sahitya Sammelan, Buddhi Mukti Andolan, Role of Abdul Latif, Amir Ali, Delowar Hussein, Dr.Sahidullah, Abul Fazal, Kazi Abdul odud, Kazi Motahar Hussein, etc.

**Unit 4:** Growth of the Intellectual Societies in the mofussil Districts yours: Rangpur Sahitya Parisad,

Uttar Banga Sahitya Sammilan, BarendraAnusandhan Samiti

**Unit 5:** Bengali Intellectuals: Their attitudes towards the non-caste people, Growth of the Radical Humanism in Bengal
Select Readings:

Bengali-

**Paper-405: Select Debates in Indian History**

*(Elective Course)*

**Unit 1:** The Aryan Debate, Feudalism Debate, Indian State Formation, 2nd Urbanisation

Unit 2: The Eighteenth-Century Debate, Urbanisation under Delhi Sultanate

Unit 3: Debate on Plassey Battle

Unit 4: The ideology of the Raj- Orientalism and others, De-Industrialisation in Colonial India-Drain of Wealth, debate on Bengal Renaissance

Unit 5: Nationalism, Communalism, Secularism, Partition Historiography etc

Select Readings:

- J. Bandopandhyay, Social and Political Thought of Gandhi, Allied Publishers, Bombay,
- N. Mehta & S.P. Chabra, Modern Indian Political Thought, Jullundur, 1976.
- 18. Partha Chatterjee, Nationalist Thought & the Colonial World, OUP
• Tapan Roychaudhuri, Europe Reconsidered: Perceptions of the West in Nineteenth Century Bengal
• Thomas Pantham and Kenneth L Deutsch (eds), Political Thought in Modern India, New Delhi, 1986.

**Paper-406: Resistance Movements in Colonial India**

*(Elective Course)*

Unit 1: Resistance Movements prior to the Great rebellion—politico-religious movements; Fakir Uprising (Bengal, 1776-77), Sanyasi Uprising (Bengal, 1770-the 1820s), Chuar rebellion of 1767, Rangpur rebellion of 1783, Pagal Panthis, Wahabi Movement, Faraizi Revolt, Kuka Revolt, Moplah Revolutions (1835)— Movement by the Dependents of the Deposed Rulers: Ramosi Uprising (1822, 1825-26), Gadkari Revolt (1844).

Unit 2: Tribal Uprisings prior to 1857— Nature of Tribal Movements, Santhal Rebellion, Khond Uprising, Early Munda Ulugan 1789-1832, Bhils and Kolis Uprisings, Khasi Uprising, Ahom Revolt
Unit 3: India in 1857: Causes of 1857, nature of 1857—interpretations of the events—the reactions of the State—the world of the native insurgence—new histories of the Revolt.

Unit 4: Peasant movements in the phase after 1857: Indigo Revolt (1859-60), Pabna Agrarian Protest, Deccan Riots, Eka Movement (1921), Mappila Revolt 1921, Bardoli resistance 1926—Post War Movements: Tebhaga Movement, Telengana Movement, Khaksar movement

Unit 5: Working class Movements: Nature of the resistance, First phase of the movement, 1850-1918, Second Phase of the movement 1918-47.

Select Readings:

- Chandra, Bipan, et. al., India’s Struggle for Independence, New Delhi, 1989
- Sarkar Sumit: Modern India 1885 to 1947, New Delhi, 1983.
- Guha Ranajit, Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India, 1983.
- Anil Kumar Sarkar, Tribes of Sub Himalaya Region: Meches, Rabhas, Totos and Garos, Mittal Publications, 2021
• Sen Suchibrata, *The Santals of Jungle Mahals: Through the Ages*. 