

UGCF- 2022
CATEGORY II
BA (MULTIDISCIPLINARY) with History as Major
SEMESTER – VIII

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE (DSC): Reconstructing the Past

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Reconstructing the Past	4	3	1	0		

Learning Objectives

- To familiarize the students with the most commonly tried and tested ways in which historians reconstruct past.
- To develop diverse techniques and approaches to understand a society. How did historians have done so in the past?
- It also allows students to describe and critically assess the best practices of modern historiography, especially that of the last two centuries.

Learning outcomes

Having finished the course, the students would have learnt to-

- Assess how historians approach, understand and describe past in diverse ways
- Understand and analyse how historiographies changed over a period of time
- Appreciate the value of multiple histories
- Notice how historians deploy specific categories of analysis in historical reconstruction
- Coherently weave information from sources

Syllabus

Unit 1: Positivism and its Other: Ranke and Collingwood

Unit 2: Annales and Marxist Historiography; Social History

Unit 3: Feminist historiography; History from Below

Unit 4: Microhistory, Global History and Connected Histories

Practical component (if any) – NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit 1: Positivism and its Other: Ranke and Collingwood (**Teaching Time: 11 hours**)

- Carr, E.H. (1987, 1990). *What is History*. Second edition, London: Penguin. [Ch. 1: The Historian and His Facts].
- Collingwood, *The Idea of History*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1946 [Part V, Sections on ‘History and Freedom’, and ‘Progress and Created by Historical Thinking’, pp. 315-334.]

Unit 2: Annales and Marxist Historiography; Social History (**Teaching Time: 12 hours**)

- Doug Lorimer (1999). *Fundamentals of Historical Materialism: The Marxist View of History and Politics*, Resistance Books, [Introduction and Ch. 1: Historical Materialism as a Science]
- Sarkar, Sumit (1997), 'The Many Worlds of Indian History', in Sarkar, *Writing Social History*, Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- E.P. Thompson (1963). 'Preface', *The Making of the English Working Class*, New York: Vintage, pp. 9-14.
- Jacques Le Goff (1974), 'Mentalities: A History of Ambiguities', in *Constructing the Past: Essays in Historical Methodology*, edited by Le Goff and Nora. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 166-80. (First published in English in 1985)

Unit 3: Feminist historiography; History from Below (Teaching Time: 10 hours)

- Meyerowitz, Joanne. (2008). "A History of 'Gender'," *American Historical Review*, Vol, 113, No. 5. December, pp. 1346-56.
- Joan W. Scott (1988), 'Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis', in *Gender and the Politics of History*, New York, Columbia University Press, pp. 41-50.
- Linda Gordon (1990). Review of "Gender and the Politics of History" by Joan W. Scott, in *Signs*, Vol. 15. No. 4, Summer, 848-60.
- Guha, Ranajit (1982) *Subaltern Studies 1: Writings on South Asian History and Society*, Delhi: Oxford University Press ['Preface' and Ch. 1: 'On Some Aspects on the Historiography of Colonial India', pp. 1-8]

Unit 4: Microhistory, Global History and Connected Histories (Teaching Time: 12 hours)

- Ginzburg, Carlo (1993). 'Two or Three Things That I Know About It', *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 10-35.
- Berger, Stefan. (2007). Introduction. In *Writing the Nation: A Global Perspective*. Palgrave MacMillan.
- Conrad, Sebastian. (2016). *What is Global History*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press. (Introduction and Chapter 4: Global History as a Distinct Approach).
- Subrahmanyam, Sanjay (199). 'Connected Histories: Notes towards a Reconfiguration of Early Modern Eurasia', *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 3, pp. 735-762.

Suggested readings:

- Appadurai, The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.
- Croce, B. (2008 reprint). Ch.19: Denationalisation of History, in idem, *Philosophy and Other Essays on the Moral and Political Problems of our Time*. Read Books
- Eley, Geoff and K. Nield (2010), "Introduction" and "Conclusions", *The Future of Class in History: What's Left of the Social?* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Gardiner, P. (1973). *The Varieties of History: From Voltaire to Present*. Second edition, Vintage Books.
- Haraway, Donna. (2001). "'Gender' For A Marxist Dictionary." *Feminism: Critical Concepts in Literary & Cultural Studies*. Ed. Mary Evans. London: Routledge.
- Riley, Denise. (2008). "Does a Sex Have a History?" *The Sociology of Gender*, ed. Sarah Franklin, and Joan W. Scott, "Unanswered Questions", *American Historical Review*, 113, no. 5. December.
- Sayer, Derek. (1987). "The Historicity of Concepts." *The Violence of Abstraction: The Analytical Foundations of Historical Materialism*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- Skeggs, Beverley. "(Dis)Identifications of Class: On Not Being Working Class." *Formations of Class and Gender*. London: SAGE, 2002, pp. 74-97.
- Wood, E.M. (1986). "Autonomization of Ideology and Politics." In *Retreat from Class: A New True Socialism*. London: Verso.

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