

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE (DSE): Fundamentals of Historical Research Methodology

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

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

Learning Objectives

- This course aims to prepare the students with elementary techniques of conducting historical research within the larger social science framework.
- To equip students with the preliminary research steps like identifying research questions, theoretical context, survey of the literature; locating reliable sources; framing a research paper, etc.; as well acquainting them with research ethics.

Learning outcomes

Having finished the course, the students would have learnt:

- The distinctiveness of historical research
- The issues and problems in writing history
- How to carefully choose interpretative techniques when reading sources
- How to choose a historical "field" and within that field a specific research question
- The skills and protocols related to academic writing and research in history
- The essentials of research ethics.

Syllabus

Unit I: Distinctiveness of historical inquiry

1. The nature of history
2. The scope of historical research

Unit II: Issues and problems in historical research

1. Facts and inference
2. Explanation and historical research
3. Objectivity and history writing

4. History writing and relations of power

Unit III: Sources and interpretation

1. Types of historical sources: their use and limitations
2. Analytical frames in historical research
3. Varieties of approaches to sources and methods

Unit IV: Conducting historical research

1. Selecting a topic and preliminary work
2. Protocols of academic writing and avoiding plagiarism

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings:

Unit I: This introductory Unit seeks to enable students to i) distinguish the historical from the past, memory and myth; ii) comprehend the relationship of history with social science theories and concepts; iii) distinguish aspects of history (social, political, economic, religious, cultural, ecological). **(Teaching Time: 9 hours)**

- Hobsbawm, Eric J. (1998). On History, UK: Abacus (Ch.2, “A Sense of the Past”, and Ch.3, “What Can History Tell Us About Contemporary Society”).
- Bloch, Marc. (1992). The Historian’s Craft, Manchester University Press. Reprint (“Introduction,” pp. 1-19).
- Schlabach, Gerald. A Sense of History: Some Components <http://www.geraldschlabach.net/about/relationships/benedictine/courses/handouts/sense-of-history/>
- Marwick, Arthur. (1989). The Nature of History. Third edition, Hampshire and London: MacMillan (pp. 14-25 - “The Necessity of History” and “Stories and Dialogues”).
- Stephens, Lester D. (1977), Probing the Past: A Guide to the Study and Teaching of History, Boston, London & Sydney: Allyn and Bacon Inc. (Ch.1, “The Nature of History,” and Ch.6, “History and Related Studies”).
- Sreedharan, E. (2007). A Manual of Historical Research Methodology, Trivandrum: Centre for South Indian Studies. (Ch.1: pp. 14-20). 176
- Tosh, J. (2002). In Pursuit of History. Revised third edition. London, N.Y., New Delhi: Longman (Ch.8, “History and Social Theory”: pp. 214-225, and Ch.3, “Mapping the Field”).

Unit-II: This unit will deal with some important issues such as identifying historical facts, context, causal explanations, generalizations, objectivity; and configurations of power and history writing. **(Teaching Time: 12 hours)**

- Carr, E.H. (1991). What is History. Penguin. Reprint. (Ch.1, “The Historian and His Facts”, Ch.3, “History, Science and Morality”, and Ch.4, “Causation in History”).

- Marwick, Arthur (1989). *The Nature of History*. Third edition, Hampshire and London: MacMillan. (Ch.6, “The Historian at Work: The Writing of History,” pp. 242-254).
- Tucker, Aviezer (ed.) (2009), *A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*, Chichester: Wiley Blackwell Publishing (Ch.7, “Causation in History”).
- Sreedharan, E. (2007). *A Manual of Historical Research Methodology*, Trivandrum: Centre for South Indian Studies. (Ch.3, “The Critical Philosophy of History-Part I” and Ch.4, “The Critical Philosophy of History-Part II”).
- Stephens, Lester D. (1977), *Probing the Past: A Guide to the Study and Teaching of History*, Boston, London & Sydney: Allyn and Bacon Inc. (Ch.3, “The Historian and His Work,” and Ch.4, “Explanation and History”).
- Michel-Rolph Trouillot (1995), *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Boston: Beacon Press. (Ch.1, Ch.3 and Ch.5).
- Hobsbawm, Eric J. (1998). *On History*, UK: Abacus (Ch.10, “Partisanship”).

Unit-III: This unit looks at (i) Different sources and analytical frameworks; (ii) types of history and their connection to sources (global, national, regional, micro, oral, visual, archival, textual-official and private). **(Teaching Time: 12 hours)**

- Jordonova, Ludmilla. (2000). *History in Practice*, London/New York: Arnold and Oxford University Press Inc. (Ch.2, “Mapping the Discipline of History”, Ch.4, “The Status of Historical Knowledge”, and Ch.7, “Historians’ Skills”).
- Brundage. Anthony (2018). *Going to the Sources: A Guide to Historical Research and Writing*, Sixth edition, Wiley Blackwell. (Ch. 2, “The Nature and Variety of Historical Sources”, Ch.5, “Beyond Textual Sources”, and Ch.7, “Engaging with Primary Sources”).
- Tosh, J. (2002). *In Pursuit of History*. Revised third edition. London, N.Y., New Delhi: Longman. (Ch.4, “The Raw Materials” and Ch.5, “Using the Sources”).
- Black, J., MacRaild, D.M. (1997). *Studying History. How to Study*. Palgrave, London. (Ch.4, “Approaches to History: Sources, Methods and Historians”).
- Howell, Martha and Walter Prevenier (2001). *From Reliable Sources: An Introduction to Historical Methods*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. (Ch.2, “Technical Analysis of Sources,” Ch.3, “Historical Interpretation: The Traditional Basics,” and Ch.4, “New Interpretative Approaches”).

Unit IV: This unit will familiarize students with i) framing a research question and building an argument, (ii) literature review and scope of research, iii) research ethics, dangers of plagiarism and styles of referencing/citation. **(Teaching Time: 12 hours)**

- Booth, Wayne C. and Gregory G. Colomb (Contributor), Joseph M. Williams, William C. Booth. *The Craft of Research : From Planning to Reporting*. University of Chicago Press.

- Brundage, Anthony (2018). *Going to the Sources: A Guide to Historical Research and Writing*. Sixth edition, Wiley Blackwell. (Ch.3, “Finding Your Sources”, Ch.4, “Getting the Most out of History Books”, Ch.6, “Exploring Changing Interpretations” and Ch.7, “Engaging with Primary Sources”).
- Sorenson, Sharron (1995), *How to Write a Research Paper*, MacMillan
- Nayak, Dhanwanti (2011), 'Karaoked Plagiarism in the Classroom', *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 46, no. 9 (pp. 49-53).
- Katju, Manjari (2011), “Plagiarism and Social Sciences,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 46, no. 9 (pp. 45-48).
- *Chicago Manual of Style*. 15th edition, Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2003.
- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* 5th edition, New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1999.

Suggested Readings:

- Arnold, J.H. (2000). *History: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Ch.3. & Ch.7).
- Black, J., MacRaild, D.M. (1997). *Studying History. How to Study*. Palgrave, London. (Ch.6, “Studying History”).
- Elton, G.R., *The Practice of History*, London: Fontana Press, 1987.
- Gardiner, P. (1973). *The Varieties of History: From Voltaire to Present*. Second edition, Vintage Books.
- Hobsbawm, Eric J. (1998). *On History*. UK: Abacus.
- Jordonova, Ludmilla. (2000). *History in Practice*. London/New York: Arnold and Oxford University Press Inc., pp. 163-171 and 173-183 (Ch.6, “Public History”).
- Munslow, Alun (2000), *The Routledge Companion to Historical Studies*, Second edition, London: Routledge [Relevant entries – concepts & names of historians are listed alphabetically just like a dictionary / encyclopedia].
- Munslow, Alun (2012), *A History of History*, London and New York: Routledge. (Ch.1, “The Emergence of Modern Historical Thinking,” Ch.1, “History and/as Science,” and Ch.3, “Forms of History”).
- Postan, M.M. (1971). *Facts and Relevance: Essays on Historical Method*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (“Fact and Relevance, History and the Social Sciences in Historical Study”).
- Sarkar, Sumit (1997), “The Many Worlds of Indian History”, *Writing Social History*, New Delhi: OUP.
- Sreedharan, E. (2007). *A Manual of Historical Research Methodology*, Trivandrum: Centre for South Indian Studies. (Ch.6, “Historical Research Methodology”).
- Topolski, Jerzy. (1976). *Methodology of History*, translated by Olgierd Wojtasiewicz, D. Reidel Publishing Company (Ch.10, “Historical Facts”, Ch.11, “The Process of History” – the section on Causality and Determinism, Ch.18, “The Authenticity of Sources and the Reliability of Informants”, Ch.19, “Methods of Establishing Historical Facts.”)

- Tosh, John. (2002). In Pursuit of History. Revised third edition. London, N.Y., New Delhi: Longman. (Ch.1, “Historical Awareness” and Ch.6, “Writing and Interpretation”).
- Tucker, Aviezer (ed.) (2009), A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography, Chichester: Wiley Blackwell Publishing (Ch.6, “Historiographic Evidence and Confirmation”, Ch.10, “Explanation in Historiography” and Ch.14, “Historiographic Objectivity”).

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