

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE (DSE): Methods of Studying Material Cultures

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		
Methods of Studying Material Cultures	4	3	1	0		

Learning Objectives

- To familiarize students with the material evidence that has been left behind by the past, and the craft of dealing with them.
- Students will be able to rationalise the sources as the information which adds to the sum of our knowledge of the past. A basic appreciation about the sources will familiarise students with the important tools for developing an understanding of any development in the past.
- The objective is to make the learner aware of the ways of securing access to the records of cultural, social, scientific, economic and political thought and achievement produced by people who lived during the specific period to be studied.

Learning outcomes

- The learners will be able to have a sense of what it was like to be alive during the bygone times.
- They will be able to critically evaluate generalization, analysis, synthesis, interpretation and evaluation of the original information.
- They will be able to question and make inferences about the material, purpose, point of view and bias inherent into the sources.

Syllabus

Unit I: Primary sources and historian's craft

1. Construction of sources, historical imagination and biases,
2. Scope and limitations of primary sources,

Unit II: Archaeological sources

1. Study of past through material remains: explorations and excavations
2. Scientific techniques useful in archaeology
3. Interpreting archaeological evidence: New archaeology, Processual Archaeology, Post-Processual Archaeology, Cognitive Archaeology, Ethno-archaeology

Unit III: Epigraphic records

1. Scope and significance of epigraphic material: the case of Indian history
2. A survey of inscriptions: from Ancient to Medieval Indian history

Unit IV: Numismatic Records

3. A brief history of Indian Coinage (upto 18th century)
4. Coins as a source for reconstructing Indian history (upto 18th century)

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit I: Primary sources and historian's craft (10 Hours)

- Arthur Marwick. 2003. *The New Nature of History: Knowledge, evidence, Language*. Palgrave: Hampshire.
- Carr, E.H. [1961] 1987. *What is History?* Penguin Books: London.
- Poovey, Mary. (1998). "The Modern Fact, the Problem of Induction, and Questions of Method" in *A History of the Modern Fact: Problems of Knowledge in the Sciences of Wealth and Society*, Chicago: University of Chicago, (Chapter 1).

Unit II: Archaeological sources (15 Hours)

- Bahn, Paul. 1996. *Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Iqtidar Alam Khan, "Methodologies and Approaches for Medieval Archaeology: A Report of Exploration of Public Buildings and Minor Structures along Mughal Highways", *Indian Archaeology Since Independence*, ed. K.M. Shrimali, Delhi, 1996.
- Jain, V.K. 2006. *Prehistory and Protohistory of India: An Appraisal*. New Delhi: D.K. Printworld, pp. 1-18.
- Renfrew, Colin and Paul Bahn. [1991] 2016. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*. 7th edn. London: Thames and Hudson.
- Singh, Upinder. 2016. *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*. Noida: Pearson, pp. 34-41

Unit III: Epigraphic records (10 Hours)

- Prasad, Pushpa. (1990). *Sanskrit Inscriptions of Delhi Sultanate, 1191-1526*. OUP, Delhi, pp. xv- xxxii.
- Ray, Himanshu Prabha. 2006. *Coins in India: Power and Communication*. Mumbai: Marg Publications. Introduction.
- Raza, S. Jabir. (2014). 'Coinage and Metallurgy under the Ghaznavid Sultan Mahmud', in *Proceedings of Indian History Congress*, Vol 75, Platinum Jubilee, pp. 224-231.
- Salomon, Richard. 1998. *Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and the Other Indo-Aryan Languages*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Singh, Upinder. 2016. *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*. Noida: Pearson, pp. 42-56
- Sircar, D.C. 1965. *Indian Epigraphy*, Motilal Banarasidass: Delhi.
- Tirmizi, S.A.I. (1968). *Ajmer Through Inscriptions*, New Delhi: Indian Institute of Islamic Studies, pp. 11-24.

Unit IV: Numismatic records (10 Hours)

- Cribb, Joe. 2005. *The Indian Coinage Tradition: Origins, Continuity and Change*. Nashik: Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies.
- Grierson, Philip. 1975. *Numismatics*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Siddiqui, I.H. (2012). "Money and Social Change in India during Medieval Times" in S.Z.H. Jafri (ed.) *Recording the Progress of Indian History: Symposia Papers of the Indian History Congress, 1992-2010*, 433-458.

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