

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE (DSE): Methods of Studying Archival and Literary Sources

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 Archival and Literary Sources	4	3	1	0		

Learning Objectives

- To understand diverse historical sources (literary, archival, artistic) for reconstructing the past.
- To critically analyze the authenticity, biases, and limitations of these sources across cultural contexts.
- To explore the interplay of history, literature, art, and archives in shaping historical narratives.
- To integrate various sources to build well-rounded historical arguments.
- To appreciate the socio-political and cultural contexts influencing historical sources.

Learning outcomes

- Ability to analyze and interpret literary, archival, and artistic sources to reconstruct history.
- Proficiency in critically evaluating the reliability and biases of diverse sources using recommended methodologies.
- Capacity to synthesize multiple sources into nuanced historical narratives.
- Application of interdisciplinary approaches, effectively integrating literary, archival, and artistic evidence.
- Awareness of the cultural and political contexts shaping historical sources.

Syllabus

Unit I: Literary Sources and Historical Imagination (10 Hours)

1. Literary traditions in Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Persian and Urdu languages.
2. Literary traditions in Dravidian languages: Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam.

Unit II: Vernacular and Foreign Literary Sources (10 Hours)

1. Literary trends in Vernacular languages: *Khari boli*, *braja bhasha*, Bengali.
2. Accounts and Chronicles by foreign travellers.

Unit III: Archival Sources (15 Hours)

1. Official records, farmans, official letters and manuals
2. Private Archives, family papers, letters
3. Cartography and maps
4. Oral evidence

Unit IV: Art as source of recovering history: (10 Hours)

1. Paintings, miniatures, portraits and scrolls,
2. Museums, films and documentaries,

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit I: Literary Sources and Historical Imagination

- Athar Ali, “Translations of Sanskrit Works at Akbar’s Court” *Social Scientist*, vol. 20 no.9, 1992, pp, 38-45
- Audrey Truschke, *Culture of Encounters: Sanskrit at the Mughal Court*, Columbia University Press, 2018, Introduction.
- David L. Curely, *Poetry and History. Bengali Mangal-Kabya and Social Change in Pre-Colonial Bengal*, New Delhi: Chronicle Books, 2008 (Chaps. 1 and 5).
- Gossman, Lionel. *Between History and Literature*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1990.
- Mugali, R. S. 1975. *History of Kannada Literature*. New Delhi: SahityaAkademi
- Muzaffar Alam, *Languages of Political Islam*, Delhi: Permanent Black, 2004, Chapter 4, ‘Language and Power’, pp. 115-140.
- Nair, P.K. Parameswaran. 1967. *History of Malayalam Literature*. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi.
- Pollock, Sheldon. 2003. *Literary Cultures in History: Reconstructions from South Asia*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. Introduction.
- S.R. Faruqui, “A long History of Urdu Literary Culture: Part 1: Naming, Placing a Literary Culture” Chap 14, in Pollock, Sheldon. (Ed.). *Literary Cultures in History: Reconstructions from South Asia*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.
- Singh, Upinder. 2016. *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*. Noida: Pearson, pp. 13-32
- Sisir Kumar Das. 2006. *A History of Indian Literature, 500-1399: From Courtly to the Popular*. Delhi: Sahitya Akademi Publications.
- V. N. Rao, David Shulman and Sanjay Subrahmanyam (eds.) (2001). *Textures of Time: Writing History in South India 1600-1800*, Delhi: Permanent Black
- Varadarajan, Mu. 1988. *A History of Tamil Literature*. E. Sa Viswanathan (trans. from Tamil). Delhi: Sahitya Akademi.
- Walter Hakala, *Negotiating Languages: Urdu, Hindi, and the Definition of Modern South Asia*, 2016, Columbia University Press.
- हरीश चंद्र वर्मा संपादक *मध्यकालीन भारत, भाग २, १५४०-१७६१*, दिल्ली, हिंदी माध्यम निदेशालय, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, १९९३, पृष्ठ ५६७-६३३.

Unit II: Vernacular and Foreign Literary Sources

- Alam, Muzaffar and Sanjay Subrahmanyam. (2007). *Indo-Persian Travels in the Age of Discoveries, 1400-1800*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Allison Busch, “Hidden in Plain view: Brajbhasha poets at the Mughal Court” *Modern Asian Studies*. 2010, Vol. 44, No.2, pp 267-309
- Ray, (2005). “Francoise Bernier’s Idea of India” in Irfan Habib, ed., *India: Studies in the History of an Idea*, New Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal, 2005.
- Singh, Upinder. 2016. *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*. Noida: Pearson, pp. 13-32

Unit III: Archival Sources

- Amin, Shahid. (1987) “Approver’s Testimony, Judicial Discourse: The Case of Chauri Chaura,” in Ranajit Guha (ed.), *Subaltern Studies 5*, Delhi: OUP, pp. 166-202.
- B.N. Goswami, “The Records kept by Priests at Centres of Pilgrimage as a Source of Social and Economic History”, *Indian Economic and Social History Review* Vol. III No. 2, pp. 174-84.
- Benison, Saul. (1960). “Reflections on Oral History.” *The American Archivist* 28:1, pp. 71-77.
- Farooqui, N.R. (2017). “An Overview of Ottoman Archival Documents and their Relevance for Medieval Indian History”, *Medieval History Journal*, Vol. 20., Issue I, April. pp. 192-229.
- Irfan Habib, ‘Cartography in Mughal India’, *Medieval India — a Miscellany*, ed.K.A. Nizami, Vol.IV, Bombay, 1977.
- Jeremy Black, *Maps and History: Constructing Images of the Past*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1997.
- John Seyller, “The Inspection and Valuation of Manuscripts in the Imperial Mughal Library”, *Artibus Asiae*, Vol. 57, No. 3/4 (1997), pp. 243-349.
- Srivastava, K.P. (ed.), (1974). *Mughal Farmans [1540 to 1706]*, vol.1, Uttar Pradesh State Archives, Lucknow, 1-71.

- Thompson, E.P. (Jan 1977) 'Folklore, Anthropology and History', *Indian Historical Review*, III, no. 2, pp. 247-66.
- Zemon-Davis, Natalie. (1990). *Fiction in the Archives: Pardon Tales and their Tellers in Sixteenth Century France*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987, pp. 1-35, 76-110.

Unit IV: Art as source of recovering history:

- Deshpande, Anirudh, 'Films as Historical Sources or Alternative History' *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 39, No. 40 (Oct. 2-8, 2004), pp. 4455-4459.
- Koch, Ebba, "How the Mughal padshahs referenced Iran in their visual construction of universal rule" in Peter Fibiger Bang and Dariusz Kołodziejczyk ed., *Universal Empire: A Comparative Approach to Imperial Culture and Representation in Eurasian History*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 194-209.
- Ramaswamy Sumathi, 'Conceit of the Globe in Mughal Visual Practice', *Comparative Studies in History and Society*, vol.49, no.4, 2007, pp.751–782.
- Shaw, Wendy. (2007) "Museums and Narratives of Display from the Late Ottoman Empire to the Turkish Republic." *Muqarnas* 24, pp. 253-79.
- Singh, K. (2002). "The Museum is National," *India International Centre Quarterly*, 29(3/4), pp. 176-196.

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