

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE (DSE): History of Travellers and Travelogues

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		
History of Travellers and Travelogues	4	3	1	0		

Learning Objectives

- This paper shall provide an overview of the history of travel and travelogues across a swathe of time and space.
- It will acquaint students with the various genres, contexts, and cultural literary traditions in which these travels were undertaken and written about.
- The course will trace the transformative nature of travel and its changing character till the modern contemporary times.
- Through a critical historical and literary study of a select list of travelogues, the course would introduce the students to the varied interests of travellers and their descriptions of local societies, economic practices, and socio-cultural traditions.
- It will engage students with a series of problematics and issues arising from writings on cross cultural engagements. This course will equip students to critically read travelogues and commentaries on travels as a tool of historical research.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course students will be able to:

- Describe the various contexts in which these travel accounts and texts were produced
- Trace the historically changing experience and character of travel
- Analyse the evolving concerns of the travellers especially in the early modern and colonial periods
- Develop the skills to analyse travelogues and critically evaluate cross cultural literature
- Critically engage with the Eurocentric emphasis in travel narratives
- Critically engage with questions of race, language, gender and religion in travel narratives

Syllabus

Unit I: Reading and Writing Travel (11 Hours)

1. Travel writing through the ages
2. Travelogues: Place, Landscapes, Forms and Genre

Unit II: Reconnaissance, Science and Pilgrimage (11 Hours)

1. Travel and travelogues as Reconnaissance and Scientific texts
2. Religion and Pilgrimage

Unit III: Discoveries, Trade and Colonialism (11 Hours)

1. The Age of Discoveries 1400-1800

2. Colonial and Post-Colonial travelogues

Unit IV: Travel, Texts and History (12 Hours)

(select any one traveller from the following three sections: A, B & C)

A. Travel in the Pre Modern World

1. Huen Tsang and Fa Hein
2. John Mandeville
3. Ibn Batuta

B. Travel in the Early Modern World

1. Christopher Colombus
2. Varthema
3. Guru Nanak
4. Bhimsen Saxena

C. Travel in the Modern World

1. Sheikh Itesamuddin
2. Durgabati Das
3. Rahul Sankrtyayana

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit I: This unit aims to familiarise the students with the various kinds of travel writing. They will read about the various genres, geographical and political contexts in which these texts were produced. They will explore the questions and concerns of travel-writers and the contours of the distinct popular gaze shaped by the text. Students will be familiarised with how travelogues have been used to build cross cultural engagements, and in the process, how these establish certain cultural and social stereotypes. They shall learn to read travelogues as distinct texts that introduce the readers to distinct historical geographies.

- Das, Nandini and Youngs, Tim (Eds.) *The Cambridge History of Travel Writing*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2019
- Duncan, James and Gregory, Derek, *Writes of Passage: reading travel writing*, Routledge, 1999
- Moroz, Grzegorz and Sztachelska, Jolanta (eds.) *Metamorphoses of Travel Writing: Across theories, Genres, Centuries and Literary traditions*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle, 2010
- Pratt, Mary Louise, *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*, Routledge, London, 1992.
- Thompson, Carl, *Travel Writing*, Routledge, London, 2011.

Unit II: In this unit, students shall study about the experience of travel through a study of pilgrimages and as reconnaissance missions. Students shall engage with themes of race, gender, and culture. They will trace how various themes like geography, culture, language, social practices, economic activity, and religion are conceptualised differently across time.

- Brummett, Palmira, Introduction: Genre, Witness and Time in the 'Book of Travels', in Palmira Brummett, *The Book of Travels: Genre, Ethnology, and Pilgrimage, 1250-1700*, Brill, Leiden, 2009. p241-282
- Gosch, Stephens S., and Stearns, Peter N., *Premodern Travel in World History*, Routledge, London, 2008 p.1-111
- Greenblatt, Stephen, *Marvellous Possessions: The Wonder of the New World*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1991. p. 52-119.
- Buitelaar, Marjo, Stephan-Emmrich, Manja and Thimm, Viola, *Muslim Women's Pilgrimage to Mecca and beyond: Reconfiguring Gender, Religion and Mobility*, London, Routledge, 2021. p. 1-19, 56-74, 127-147.

Unit III: In this unit, students shall study about travel in the early modern and modern. They shall read about the experience of travel and the impact of new emerging national identities on travel writing. Students shall engage with themes of race, gender, colonialism and culture. Using the perspectives offered in the study of the above themes through different periods of time, students will acquire the necessary insights on how to engage with the readings prescribed in the last unit.

- Green, Nile, *Writing Travel in Central Asian History*, Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 2014. p. 1-69 & 193-212
- Pratt, Mary Louise, *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*, London, Routledge, 2003. p. 124-213
- Javed Majeed, *Autobiography, Travel and Post-national Identity: Gandhi, Nehru and Iqbal*, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2007. p.10-135
- Youngs, Tim (ed.) *Travel Writing in the Nineteenth Century: Filling the Blank Spaces*, Anthem Press, London, 2006. p. 19-37 & 87-106

Unit IV: In this unit the student will focus on specific travelogues as case studies, read alongside other secondary literature. The student will write an essay on any one of the explorers listed under this unit. He or she will analyse the varying approaches of each author and use the insights from the earlier units to critically analyse these texts. The learners shall be encouraged to explore in greater detail specific themes that interest them, such as gender, religion, race, social practices, economic exchanges, etc.

A. Travel in the premodern world

- Gosch, Stephens S., and Stearns, Peter N., *Premodern Travel in World History*, Routledge, 2008 p.134-160
- Faxian. *A Record of Buddhistic Kingdoms*. United Kingdom, Clarendon Press, 1886.
- Si-Yu-Ki, *Buddhist Records of the Western World: Translated from the Chinese of Hiren Tsiiang (AD 629)* (trans. Samuel Beal), Oriental Books Reprint Corporation, Delhi, 1969
- Devahuti D., *The Unknown Hsuan-Tsang*, India, OUP India, 2006.
- Mandeville, John, *Book of Marvels and Travels*, Oxford World Classics, Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2012
- Akbari, Suzanne Conklin, 'The Diversity of Mankind in The Book of John Mandeville.' in *Eastward Bound, Travel and Travellers 1050-1550*, by Rosamund Allen, 157-176. Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2004.
- Battuta, Ibn, *Travels in Asia and Africa 1325-1354*, (trans. H A R Gibb), Low Price Publications, Delhi 2004
- Ibn Batuta. *The Travels of Ibn Batūta*, with Notes, Illustrative of the History, Geography, Botany, Antiquities, Etc. Occurring Throughout the Work, United Kingdom, Cambridge University Press, 2012.

B. Travel in the Early Modern World

- Columbus, Christopher, *The Four Voyages of Christopher Columbus: Being his own log book, letters, and dispatches with connecting narratives*, (trans. J Cohen), Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1969
- Varthema, Ludovico Di, *The Itinerary of Ludovico Di Varthema of Bologna*, (trans.) John Winter Jones, Asian Educational Services, New Delhi 1997
- Rubies, Joan Pau, *Travel and ethnology in the Renaissance: South India through European eyes 1250-1652*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2000

- Saxena, Bhimsen, *Nushka-i-Dilkasha*, Edited by V.G. Khobrekar. Translated by Sir Jadunath Sarkar, Vol. Sir Jadunath Sarkar Birth Centenary Volume. Mumbai, The Department of the Archives, Government of Maharashtra, 1972.
- Kohli, Surinder Singh, *Travels of Guru Nanak*, Punjab University Publication Bureau, 1978

C. Travel in the Modern World

- Hasan, Mushirul (ed.), *Exploring the West, Three Travel Narratives*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2009.
- Fisher, Michael F., *Counterflows to Colonialism: Indian Travellers and Settlers in Britain 1600-1857*, Permanent Black, 2004. P1-49, 243-337
- Khan, Gulfishan, *Indian Muslim Perceptions of the West During the Eighteenth Century*, Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Das, Durgabati, *The Westward Traveller* (ed & trans by Somdatta Mandal), Orient Blackswan, January 2010
- Dandal, Somdatta, *Indian Travel Narratives: New Perspectives*, Pencraft International, 2020
- Sankrtyayana, Rahul, *Volga to Ganga: A Picture in Nineteen Stories of the Historical, Economic and Political Evolution of the Human Society from 6000 B.C. to 1922 A.D.* (trans.. Victor Gordon Kiernan), Punjab Book Centre, 2015.
- Whitmore, Luke, *Mountain, Water, Rock, God: Understanding Kedarnath in the Twenty-First Century*, 2018, pp. 84-106

Suggested Readings:

- Allen Rosamund, *Eastward Bound: Travel and Travellers, 1050-1550*. United Kingdom, Manchester University Press, 2004.
- Banerjee, Rita, *India in Early Modern English Travel Writing: Protestantism, Enlightenment, and Toleration*, Brill, Leiden, 2021.
- Blanton, Casey, *Travel Writing: The self and the World*, Routledge, 2002
- Brock, Aske Laursen, Meersbergen, Guido Van and Smith, Edmond, *Trading Companies and Travel Knowledge in the Early Modern World*, Hakluyt Society Studies in history of Travel, Routledge 2022
- Clarke, Robert, *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Travel Writing*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2018
- Duncan, James and Gregory, Derek, *Writes of Passage: reading travel writing*, Routledge, 1999
- Elsner, Jas and Rubies, Joan-Pau, *Voyages and Visions: Towards a Cultural History of Travel*, Reaktion Books, 1999.
- Grewal, Inderpal, *Home and Harem: Nation, Gender, Empire and the Cultures of Travel*, Duke University Press, Durham, 1996
- Henes, Mary and Murray, Brian H.(eds.), *Travel Writing, Visual Culture and Form, 1760-1900*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016
- Peterson, Jennifer Lynn, *Education in the School of Dreams: Travelogues and Early Nonfiction Film*, Duke University Press, Durham, 2013
- Stagl, Justin, *A History of Curiosity: The Theory of Travel 1550-1800*, Routledge, London, 2004.
- Taylor, Tom, *Modern Travel in World History*, London, Routledge, 2022
- Bracewell, Wendy (ed.) *Orientations: An Anthology of East European Travel Writing, ca. 1550-2000*, Central European University Press, Budapest, 2009.
- Rodenas, Adriana Mendez, *Transatlantic Travels in Nineteenth century Latin America: European Women Pilgrims*, Bucknell University Press, Lewisburg, 2014

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