

## DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE (DSE): Practice of History – I

### Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credit s	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibilit y criteria	Pre- requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical / Practice		
<b>Practice of History – I</b>	4	3	1	0		

### Learning Objectives

This course aims to familiarize, and at the same time re-emphasize the concepts and methods used in the practice of history, especially those pertaining to the pre-colonial past. Under the catch-all umbrella of historical practice come disciplinary inputs from allied fields such as archaeology, art history, and record-keeping and archival studies. For a holistic understanding of the past, a multi-pronged approach needs to be applied in the scrutiny of sources and the study of history. Thus, while the unique contribution of each field in terms of distinctive features, objectives, principles, and processes will be explained, their cross-fertilization and interaction with history to draw out meaning will be constantly underscored.

### Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand how the study of history has evolved and developed as a discipline and practice.
- Explain the significance of archaeology in the study of the past – its tools, methods and the mutual reliance of the two domains to better understand times gone by.
- Discuss the historiographical traditions in different chronological and cultural contexts, and be able to contextualize the study of history.
- Develop an awareness of the field of art history and its dynamics, and better appreciate the iconography and symbolism which become culture and civilizational markers.
- Delineate how record keeping, documentation and the writing of annals fed into coeval processes and, over time become vital tools for a historian's craft.

## **Syllabus**

**Unit I:** The Practice of History: An overview of concepts, tools, sources and the accompanying historiographical methods.

**Unit II:** Relationship between Archaeology and History: Definitions, Features and interpretations of evidences.

**Unit III:** Pre-modern Historical Traditions: History and Historical Writings; Memory and Recording – Mythology, Hagiography, Biography and History; Greco-Roman historiographical traditions; Chinese, Arab and Persian writings on history; Indian historical genres; the colonial interlude.

**Unit IV:** Conjunction of Art and History: Beginnings and Development; Evolution of iconography and symbolism across mediums; genres and styles – rock art, terracotta art, sculpture, and painting; Discourses of art history

## **Practical component (if any) - NIL**

### **Essential/recommended readings**

**Unit I:** This unit will introduce the paper, and in sync with the overview nature of the course, spell out the core themes and their concerns and working templates. A stimulating discussion on the nature and purpose of history, the historiography that has been meticulously produced, and operating principles of tools, sources etc. can initiate students into this course. **(Teaching Tim: 3 weeks)**

- Carr, E.H. 2008. *What is History* (also available in Hindi), London: Penguin Books
- Bloch, M. 2004. *The Historian's Craft*, with an Introduction by Peter Burke, Manchester: Manchester University Press
- Collingwood, R.G. 1994. *The Idea of History*. New York: Oxford University Press
- Philips, C.H. ed. 1967. *Historians of India, Pakistan and Ceylon*. London: Oxford University Press

**Unit II:** This unit seeks to address a very vital question: Is archaeology the hand-maiden of history? There is no escaping the filial relationship of the two primary disciplines that seek to investigate the past, and no denying the symbiotic relationship between the two. Accordingly, this rubric will familiarize students with the aims, concepts, and survey and excavation methods that lead to the formation of the archaeological knowledge corpus, and its intertwined relationship with history. **(Teaching Time: 3 weeks).**

- Bahn, P. 1996. *Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wheeler, R.E.M. 1954. *Archaeology from the Earth*. London: Oxford University Press
- Chakrabarti, D.K. 2006. *The Oxford Companion to Indian Archaeology: The Archaeological Foundations of Ancient India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- Singh, U. 2005. *The Discovery of Ancient India: Early Archaeologists and the Beginnings of Archaeology*. Delhi: Permanent Black (Chapters 1-2, Chapter 4, Chapters 9-10).

- ओङ्गा, राम प्रकाश .1978. पुरातत्व विज्ञान, लखनऊ, प्रकाशन केंद्र I
- पाण्डेय, जयनारायण (2015. पुरातत्व विमर्श, इलाहबाद, प्राच्य विद्या संस्थान I
- व्हीलर, सर मार्टिम 1954.पृथ्वी से पुरातत्व,पटना,बिहार हिंदी ग्रन्थ अकादमी I
- एलिटिंग,एम., एफ.फोल्सम (. 2008. पुरातत्व विज्ञान की कहानी,दिल्ली, भारतीय विज्ञान समिति I

**Unit III: Pre-modern Historical Traditions** The study of the past is recorded across societies and cultures. Human beings are keepers of memories that have spawned different commemorative rituals and learning traditions, besides vast fields of knowledge in the form of texts, inscriptions, and sacred geographies. This unit will acquaint the students with pre-modern history writing traditions, and other forms in which the past lies encoded. (Teaching Time: 2 ½ weeks)

- Kelley, D.R. 1991. *Versions of History from Antiquity to the Enlightenment*. New Haven: Yale University Press
- Marincola, J. 1997. *Authority and Traditions in Ancient Historiography*, Cambridge: University Press, pp. 3-19 ('Introduction' 'Myth and History')
- Pulleybank, E.G. and Beasley, W.G. eds. 1961. *Historians of China and Japan*. London: Oxford University Press
- Warder, A.K. 1972. *An Introduction to Indian Historiography*. Bombay: Popular Prakashan

**Unit IV: Conjunction of Art and History** The creation of art and artistic expression across medium is an important signifier of a culture and its development. Art history forms a vital part of cultural history and in employing its methods, historians can better gauge the socio-cultural ethos and the economic processes and transactions that allowed for its creation. Thus, the value addition of art history refines our understanding of past processes of production, patronage, belief, and practice. (Teaching time: 2 ½ weeks)

- Huntington, Susan L. 2016. *The Art Of Ancient India: Buddhist, Hindu, Jain*, Delhi: Motilal Banarsi das
- Neumayer, E. 2010. *Rock Art Of India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Ray, N.R, 1974. *An Approach to Indian Art*, Chandigarh: Panjab University Publication Bureau
- Agrawala, V.S. 2022. *Indian Art*. Varanasi: Prithvi Prakashan
- Agrawala, V.S. 2010. *Bharatiya Kala*. Varanasi: Prithvi Prakashan
- Coomaraswamy, A.K. Rpt. 2010. *Introduction To Indian Art*. Kessinger Legacy Reprints
- Tomory, E. 1989. *History Of Fine Arts in India and The West*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan

#### **Suggested Reading:**

- Puri, B.N. 1994. *Ancient Indian Historiography*. Delhi and Lucknow: Atma Ram & Sons

- Lahiri, N. 2011. *Finding Forgotten Cities: How the Indus Civilization was Discovered*. New Delhi: Hachette India
- Avikunthak, A. 2021. *Bureaucratic Archaeology: State, Science, and Past in Postcolonial India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Kumar, S. 2014. *Domestication of Animals in Harappan Civilization*. New Delhi: Research India Press.
- Stern, F. ed. 1973. *Varieties of History: From Voltaire to the Present*. New York: Vintage (Introduction)
- Haskell, F. 1993. *History and Its Images: Art and the Interpretation of the Past*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press
- Adams, L. S. 1996. *The Methodologies of Art: An Introduction*. New York: Harper Collins.
- Preziosi, D. 2009. *The Art of Art History: A Critical Anthology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Ginzburg, C. and John Tedeschi, Anne C. Tedeschi. 1993, ‘Micro history: Two or Three things that I know about it’, *Critical Inquiry*, The University of Chicago Press, 20, 1, pp. 10–35.

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