

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE (DSE): Fundamentals of Historical 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 | 1 | 0 | | |

Learning Objectives

This course aims to prepare the students with elementary techniques of conducting historical research within the larger social science framework. It does so by familiarising them with the theoretical frameworks and procedures/techniques of research that historians deploy in order to construct a meaningful narrative about the past. The course proceeds 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).
- 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”). 212

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., MacRaid, 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” 214 – 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, University of Delhi, from time to time.