

GENERIC ELECTIVES (GE-3): History of Textiles

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
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
History of Textiles	4	3	1	0	12 th Pass	NIL

Learning Objectives

This course explores the ways in which textiles has been approached, appropriated and understood in Indian history and beyond. The patterns in which textiles have been situated in history, how they are made, what they are made of, where they are made, what use or function they serve, what they codify for different communities, rituals and events, their historical and economic significance, etc. will be our main focus. The multiple narratives embedded in textiles, especially the hand woven and handcrafted textiles, which go back millennia and which, through centuries, have linked India to the rest of the world will enable the students to dialogue with a great culture of textiles.

Learning outcomes

Students will also learn what textile can tell us about trade and commerce, empire, gender, sexuality, class, race, industry, revolution, nation-building, identity politics and globalization. We will aim simultaneously to see textile and material culture more generally, as playing a fundamental role in the shaping of our past.

Theory and Practical/ Field work/Hands-on-learning

Through the course students are expected to continuously interact with the textile sector through programmes built into the academic curriculum like field studies, internships, design projects, audio-visual projects and its cluster initiatives.

SYLLABUS OF GE-3

Unit 1: Textiles (Past to Present)

1. Sources and Historiography
2. Textiles in ancient India.
3. Textiles in Medieval India.
4. Textiles in Modern India.
5. Textiles in Contemporary India.

Unit 2: Theories of evolution of Textiles and Regional perspectives.

1. Local skills, Craftsmen (Case study of Weavers, Iron Smith and Carpenters) and Knowledge systems of Textiles.
2. Textiles of North, East, South, West and North-East.
3. Traditional and tribal costumes of India – North, East, South, West and North-East. d) Effect of textile culture and colours for different ceremonies and occasions.

Unit 3: Material Culture of Textiles: Study of Textile Crafts of India: with reference to history, production centers, techniques, designs, colours, products and gender (Case study of Female Weavers).

1. Woven Textiles: Benaras Brocades, Jamdanis and Baluchars of Bengal, Kani Shawls of Kashmir, Bhagalpuri Silk and Kachipuram Silk.
2. Embroidered Textiles: Kanthas of Bengal, Kasuti of Karnataka, Phulkari of Punjab, Chikankari of Uttar Pradesh, Kashida of Kashmir, Gujarat embroideries.
3. Painted and Printed textiles: Kalamkaris of Andhra Pradesh, Dabu printing of Rajasthan, Ajrakh prints of Gujarat.
4. Dyed textiles: Bandhnis of Rajasthan and Gujarat, Ikats- Patola of Gujarat, Bandhas / Sambalpuri of Orissa and Telia Rumal of Andhra Pradesh

Unit 4: Making of Modern Textiles, Responses and Resistance.

1. Introduction of Powerloom and Weavers.
2. Khadi, Gandhi and Indian Nationalism.
3. Conservation and Preservation of Textiles
4. Textiles and Globalization.

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit I: The Unit will give an overview to the paper through sources, historiography and past history and present conditions of the textile. (Teaching Time: 9 hours approx.)

- Harris J, 5000 years of Textiles, British Museum, London, 1993.
- Prasannan Parthasarathi and Giorgio Riello, eds, The Spinning World: A Global History of Cotton Textiles, 1200-1850 (Oxford, 2009).
- Ray, Tirthankar., Cloth and Commerce: Textile in Colonial India, Sage Publications, Delhi, 1996

Unit II: The Unit discusses the Local skills, Knowledge systems, Textiles and Traditional and tribal costumes of India – North, East, South, West and North-East., Effect of textile culture and colours for different ceremonies and occasions. (Teaching Time: 12 hours approx.)

- Braj Bhushan, Jamila, The Crafts of Weavers, the Costumes and Textiles of India, D.E. Tarapore
- Valla Sons and Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bombay, 1958.

- Chattopadhyaya, Kamaladevi, Handicrafts of India, Wiley Eastern Limited, New Delhi, 1995. Coomarswamy, Ananda K., The Arts and Crafts of India and Ceylon, London, UK: T.N. Foulis, 1913
- Emma Tarlo, Clothing Matters: Dress and Identity in India, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1996.
- Rai, Santosh Kumar, “Pleasures of Fashion and sorrows of Production—the Handloom industry in united Provinces, india, 1860s–1940” in Seema Bawa, ed., Locating Pleasure in Indian History.
- Prescribed and Proscribed Desires in Visual and Literary Cultures, New Delhi: Bloomsbury, 2021, pp.243-265.

Unit III: The Unit will help students understand the study of Textile Crafts of India such as woven, embroidered, dyed textiles from various parts of India and production centers, techniques as well. The students will also become aware of the gender issues associated with the textiles. (Teaching Time: 12 hours approx.)

- Dhamija, Jasleen, The Survey of Embroidery Traditions in Textiles and Embroideries of India, Mark Publications, Bombay, 1965.
- Diana Crane, Fashion and Its Social Agendas, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2000.
- Chattopadhyaya, Kamaladevi, Indian Embroidery, Wiley Eastern, New Delhi, 1977. Jayakar. Pupul, Textiles and embroideries of India, Bombay, Marg Publications, 1956. Maheshwari, A.K., & Sivaprakasam, P., Status of Women Weavers in Handloom Sector, 2002
- Rai, Santosh Kumar, “Weaving Hierarchies: Production Networks of the Handloom Industry in Colonial Eastern Uttar Pradesh”, in Studies in History, August 2012, vol. 28, no.2, Sage Publications, Los Angeles/London, ISSN:0257-6430, eISSN:0973-080X, pp.203-230.
- Sudan, Amrik Singh., Marketing of Handloom Products in J&K, Anmol Publishing Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 1977.
- Verma, R., & Verma, J. (2014). Historical Transition from Cultural Entrepreneurs to Commercial Entrepreneurs: A Case Study of Handloom Weavers of North East India. Journal of Business Management and Information Systems, 1(1), 131-140. Retrieved from <https://qtanalytics.in/journals/index.php/JBMIS/article/view/125>.

Unit IV: This Unit emphasizes introduction of powerlooms, Gandhi's contribution, Khadi, preservation and globalizing process. (Teaching Time: 12 hours approx.)

- Hussain, Majid, N.S. Olaniya, Indian Textiles in the 20th century: Crisis in transformation, Marg Publications, 2000.
- Kanakalatha, M and Syamsundari, B., Traditional Industry in the New Market Economy: The Cotton Handlooms of Andhra Pradesh, Sage Publications, Delhi, 2011.
- Riello, Giorgio and Tirthankar Ray, How India Clothed the World, The World of South Asian

- Textiles 1500-1850, Brill, 2009.
- Rai, Santosh Kumar, 'Colonial Knowledge Economy: Handloom Weavers in Early Twentieth- Century United Provinces, India', International Review of Social History, Cambridge University Press, March 2022, pp.1-31.
- Verma, R., Panda, S., & Bansal, V. (2015). Dwindling Handloom, Sinking Weavers in Western
- Uttar Pradesh: A Case Study of Pilkhuwa, Amroha and Muradnagar. Journal of Business
- Management and Information Systems, 2(1), 10-20. <https://doi.org/10.48001/jbmis.2015.0201002>.

Suggested Reading:

- Bernard S. Cohn, 'Cloth, Clothes and Colonialism: India in the Nineteenth Century', in Cloth and Human Experience, ed. A. Weiner and J. Schneider, Washington: Smithsonian Books, 1989, pp. 106–62.
- Brouwer, Jan. (1995) The Makers of the World: Caste, Craft and Mind of South Indian Artisans.
- Delhi: OUP. h tC.A. Bayly, 'The Origins of Swadeshi (Home Industry): Cloth and Indian Society, 1700–1930', in Origin of Nationality in South Asia: Patriotism and Ethical Government in the Making of Modern India, ed. C.A. Bayly, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 172–209.
- Das, Shukla, Fabric Art- Heritage of India, Abhinav Publications, New Delhi, 1992.
- Dhamija, Jasleen. (1981) 'Women and handicrafts: myth and reality', Seeds, 4:1-16.
- Dhamija, Jasleen. (Eds.), Sacred Textiles of India. Mumbai: Marg Publications, 2014.
- Jayakar, Pupul and Irwin John. (1956) Textiles and Ornaments of India : A Collection of Designs, New York, UK.
- McGowan, Abigail. (2009) Crafting the Nation in Colonial India. New York, USA: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Nita Kumar, The Artisans of Banaras: Popular Culture and Identity, 1880–1986, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988.
- Ramaswamy, Vijaya, Textiles and Weavers in Medieval South India. Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1985.
- Varadrajan, Lotika. (1983) Traditions of Textile Printing in Kutch, Ajrakh and Related Techniques.
- Ahmedabad. India: New Order Book Company, 1983.

Selected Websites and Films:

- <http://www.paramparikkarigar.com/artandcraft.html>
- <http://www.paramparikkarigar.com/artandcraft.html>
- <http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O77243/textile-unknown/>
- <http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O68430/textile-unknown/>

- <http://thedreamstress.com/2014/07/brocade-and-jacquard-whats-the-difference-or-the-history-of-the-jacquard-loom-and-all-the-weaves-it-can-create/>
- Anjuman (1986), Film on Lucknow 'chikan' embroidery workers directed by Muzaffar Ali.
- The True Cost, (2015), documentary film that focuses on fast fashion, directed by Andrew Morgan.

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