

PhD COURSEWOK
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
COTTON UNIVERSITY

CORE 2

HISTORICAL METHODS

Credits 4 (3+1+0)

Course objectives: The Course will help the scholars

- To acquaint scholars with the various philosophies of history in the nineteenth century and twentieth centuries
- To give an in depth knowledge of the dominant trends in historical writings and research
- To train the scholars in identifying various historical sources and also analyse these

Course outcomes: Upon completion of this course the scholars will be able to

CO1 Understand the different philosophies of historical thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

CO2 Categorize the different trends in historical writings and also identify the trend to which his/her research may fit into

CO3 Analyse and compare different genres of historical sources

CO4 Organize and present the PhD thesis

Total Number of Lectures: 45

Unit 1 Nineteenth century schools

10

1.1 Historical Positivism

1.2 Whig History

Unit 2 Dominant trends in the Twentieth century

13

2.1 Marxist History

- a) Historical Materialism and Determinism
- b) Structuralism
- c) History from Below

2.2 The Annales School

- a) Total History: Marc Bloch, Lucien Febvre and the Early Years
- b) Time and History: Fernand Braudel and Developments in the Second Phase
- c) History of Mentalities: Third Generation Annales Historians.

Unit 3 Recent Trends: Post Modernism

12

3.1 Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida

3.2 Gender History: Postmodern feminism

3.3 Environmental history

Unit 4 Research methodology in history

10

4.1 Types of sources and their use – Primary and Secondary evidence.

4.2 Examining and critiquing historical sources

4.3 Techniques of research work – Organisation and Presentation; Bibliography and Footnoting.

Essential Readings

1. Carr, EH (1990), *What is History?* Penguin.
2. Collingwood, RG(2011), *The Idea of History*, OUP.

3. Mahajan, G (2011), *Explanation and Understanding in the Human Sciences*; OUP.
4. Bloch, M (1964) *The Historian's Craft*, Vintage.
5. Marx, K(2002) *The communist Manifesto*. Penguin.
6. Aymard, Mand HMukhia, eds., *French Studies in History*;
7. PaulR (1990), *The Foucault Reader*, Penguin.
8. Glendinning S (2011), Derrida, OUP.
9. Hobsbawm, EJ, *Karl Marx's Contribution to Historiography in Ideology and social Science*.
10. Marwick, A(1989), *The New Nature of History* Palgrave Macmillan.
11. Hobsbawm E (2012), *How to Change the World: Tales of Marx and Marxism*, Abacus.
12. ButlerC (2002), *Post Modernism*, OUP.
13. AquilR and PChatterjee, (2010), *History in the Vernacular*, Permanent Black; Bangalore: Orient Longman.

PhD COURSEWOK
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
COTTON UNIVERSITY
SPECIAL 1 (Group A)

APPROACHES IN EARLY INDIAN HISTORY:STUDY OF SELECTED THEMES

Credits 4 (3+1+0)

Course Objectives: This Course is designed to guide the research scholars to

- Think about some of the major question of early Indian history while engaging with the fundamental works on the theme. For this objective, each unit is carefully curated to focus on a macro theme and chosen set of readings are provided to facilitate critical thinking around it.

Course Outcome: Upon completion of the course, scholars would be able to

CO1 Appraise the existing state of research on the different aspect of early Indian history

CO2 Formulate the possible avenues of new research.

Unit 1 Understanding the State Formation: political ideas and institutions 15

- 1.1 Material background
- 1.2 Rise of Monarchy: From Lineage to State
- 1.3 'Early State' and 'Secondary State'

Essential Readings:

1. Sharma, R. S., *Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India*, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2012 (reprint). **Chapter XIV**
2. Thapar, Romila, *From Lineage to State: Social Formations of Mid first millennium BC in the Ganga Valley*, Delhi: Oxford University Press 1992. **Chapters III & IV**,
3. Thapar, Romila, 'The State as Empire', in Henri J. M. Classen and Peter Skalnik, eds., *The Study of the State*, The Hague: Mouton Publishers, 1981. **Chapter XXI**
4. Chattopadhyaya, Brajadulal, *Studying Early India: Archaeology, Texts and Historical Issues*, Delhi: Permanent Black, 2003. **Chapter VII**
5. Classen, Henri J. M. and Peter Skalnik, eds., *The Early State*, The Hague: Mouton Publishers, 1978. **Chapter I**
6. Seneviratne, Sudharshan, 'Kalinga and Andhra: the Process of Secondary State Formation in Early India', in Henri J. M. Classen and Peter Skalnik, eds., *The Study of the State*, The Hague: Mouton Publishers, 1981. **Chapter XVI**

Unit 2 Economic processes: production and transactions 15

- 2.1 Agrarian economy: changing forms of production
- 2.2 The Urban Milieu: Urban Centres and Craft production
- 2.3 Trade: Routes and Networks
- 2.4 Land Grant Economy

Essential Readings:

1. Sharma, R. S., *Material Culture and Social Formation in Ancient India*, Delhi: Macmillan, 2007 (second edition). **Chapter VI**
2. Chakravarti, Uma, *Beyond the Kings and Brahmanas of 'Ancient' India*, Delhi: Tulika Books, 2006, pp. 70-100.
3. Sahu, B. P., ed., *Iron and Social Change in Early India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006. **Chapter V**
4. Ray, H. P., 'Early Historical Trade: An Overview', *Indian Historical Review*, Vol. 26, no. 04, 1989, pp. 437-57.
5. Chakravarti, Ranabir, *Trade in Early India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005 (paperback edition). **Introduction**
6. Chakravarti, Ranabir, Nakhudas and Nauvittakas: Ship-owning Merchants in the West Coast of India (C. AD 1000-1500), *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, Vol. 43, no. 01, 2000, pp. 34-64.
7. Chandra, Moti, *Trade and Trade Routes in Ancient India*, Delhi: Abhinav Publication, 1977. **Chapter V & VI**
8. Chattopadhyaya, Brajadulal, *The Making of Early Medieval India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2011 (second edition). **Chapter VI**

Unit 3 Social Norms and Practices

15

- 3.1 Varnashrama and beyond: Sudras, Mlecchas and other marginal groups
- 3.2 Gender and texts
- 3.3 Devotion and dissent

Essential Readings:

1. Sharma, R. S., *Sudras in Ancient India*, Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 1980 (second edition).
Chapter IV
2. Sen, AlokaPrasher, *Mlecchas in Early India: A Study in Attitudes towards Outsiders upto AD 600*, Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal, 1991. **Chapter III & VII**
3. Roy, Kumkum, *The Power of Gender and the Gender of Power: Exploration in Early Indian History*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2010. **Chapter I, VI & VIII**
4. Chakravarti, Uma, *Beyond the Kings and Brahmanas of 'Ancient' India*, Delhi: Tulika Books, 2006, pp. 59-69; 273-292.
5. Champakalakshmi, R., 'From Devotion and Dissent to Dominance: The Bhakti of the Tamil Ālvārs and Nāyanārs, In R. Champakalakshmi and S. Gopal, eds., *Tradition, Dissent and Ideology: Essays in Honour of Romila Thapar*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 1996, pp. 135-163.

Further Readings:

1. Kosambi, D. D., *Combined Methods in Indology and Other Writings*, compiled, edited and introduced by BrajadulalChattopadhyaya, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2002.
2. Thapar, Romila, *Cultural Pasts: Essays in Early Indian History*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000.
3. Ray, Niharranjan et. al., *A Sourcebook of Indian Civilization*, Hyderabad: Orient Longman, 2000.
4. Allchin, F.R., *The Archaeology of Early Historic South Asia: The Emergence of cities and States*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.
5. Habib, Irfan and Faiz Habib, *Atlas of Ancient Indian History*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012.
6. Subbarao, B., *The Personality of India, Baroda*: MS University of Baroda, 1956.

PhD COURSEWOK
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
COTTON UNIVERSITY
SPECIAL 2 (Group A)
EARLY ASSAM: METHODS & PRACTICES (4th-13th centuries CE)
Credits 4 (3+1+0)

Course Objectives: The Course will help the scholars to :

- Identify the sources available for the period of Early Assam
- Engage in thorough discussion of the scope and limitation of these sources.
- Understand a historiographical discussion of the scholarly works that have utilised specific sources with an emphasis on understanding their methods and interpretation

Course Outcome: Upon completion of the course, scholars would be able to

CO1 Distinguish the various methods of reading and analysing the various sources to glean out information.

CO2 Develop the archaeological theories & methods that can be employed in Early Assam Studies.

Total Number of Lectures: 45

Unit 1 Written Sources: Texts & Epigraphs **12**

- 1.1 Scope & Limitation
- 1.2 Traditional Interpretation
- 1.3 'New' Interpretation
- 1.4 Using Texts for writing History
- 1.5 Reading & Interpreting epigraphs (Discussion of any two inscriptions in detail)

Unit 2 Art & Architecture: Structure, Material & Iconography **11**

- 2.1 Scope & Limitation
- 2.2 Historiography
- 2.3 Ambari Sculptures: Iconography
- 2.4 Suryapahar&Doiyang-Dhansiri Valley

Unit 3 Archaeological Sources: Field Reports &Artefact Classification **11**

- 3.1 Scope & Limitation
- 3.2 Interpreting Field Archaeological Reports: Certain ASI reports on Ambari &Suryapahar will be discussed.
- 3.3 Historiography
- 3.4 Artefact Classification, documentation and Interpretation

Unit 4 Introduction to Basic Field methods **11**

- 4.1 Mapping Sites
- 4.2 Artefact Documentation: Recording, Drawing & Photography
- 4.3 Quantitative Analysis

Essential Readings:

1. Barua,B.K,*A Cultural History of Assam*, K KBarooah, Nagaon, 1951.
2. Barpujari, H K, 1992, *The Comprehensive History of Assam*, Vol. I & II, Publication Board Assam, Guwahati.
3. Barua, K L, 1933, *The Early History of Kamrupa: From the Earliest Times to the End of the Sixteenth Century*, Bani Mandir, Guwahati.
4. Boruah, N, 2010, *Historical Geography of Early Assam*, DVS Publishers, Guwahati.

5. Choudhury, N D, 1985, *Historical Archaeology of Central Assam*, B.R.Publishing, Delhi.
6. Choudhury, P C, 1953, *The History of Civilization of the People of Assam to the 12th century A.D*, University of London, London.
7. Choudhury, R D, 1985, *Archaeology of the Brahmaputra Valley of Assam*, Agam Kala Prakashan, New Delhi.
8. DasParomita, *History and Archaeology Of North-East India*, New Delhi, 2007, p. 32.
9. Dutta, H N, 2012, *History, Art & Archaeology of DoiyangDhansiri Valley, Assam*, LBS Publications, Guwahati.
10. Jamir, T and Manjil Hazarika, (eds.) ,2014, *50 Years After DaojaliHading: Emerging Perspectives in the Archaeology of North East India*, Research India Press, New Delhi.
11. Lahiri, N, 1991, *Pre-Ahom Assam*, MunshiramManoharlal Publishers, New Delhi.
12. Sharma, Preetee, 2012, Ambari: A Special Note on the Decorated Ware, *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, 72nd Session, Delhi, pp. 1099- 2007.
13. Sharma, Preetee, 2015, Pottery Decorations in the Brahmaputra Valley (c. 6th- 15th centuries CE): A Comparative Study, *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, 75th Session, Aligarh, pp. 1116-1124.

PhD COURSEWOK

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

COTTON UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL 1 (Group C)

COLONIAL STATE FORMATION, IDEOLOGIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Credits 4 (3+1+0)

Course Objectives: The course will help the scholars

- To enlighten scholars with the various phases of British colonialism in India, its impact, as well as the ideological underpinnings of the colonial state which were harnessed to make colonialism stable and sustainable in the Indian subcontinent.
- To give a comprehensive understanding of the institutional foundations of colonialism in India, the hierarchy of structures of control and coercion; the cajoling of the colonised towards a western inspired modernity; the limited co-option of certain indigenous groups into the imperial apparatus.

Course Outcome: Upon completion of the course, scholars would be

CO1 Able to grasp the different modes through which colonialism operated in India and locate the long-term impact on the society and economy.

CO2 Trained to connect these broad changes that colonialism ushered in, to the contemporary state of affairs in India, more precisely the stagnation in its agrarian economy; the claims and counter claims of various social groups on the political structures and distribution of socio-economic resources which had its origin in the colonial policy of exploiting social fault lines to justify their presence.

Total Number of Lectures: 45

Unit 1 Dynamics of Colonialism in India

10

1.1 Concept of Colonialism

1.2 Phases of Colonialism

1.3 Colonialism in practice

Unit 2 Colonialism and its Ideologies: Orientalism, Utilitarianism, Evangelicalism,

Whigism **12**

Unit 3 Apparatus of Colonial Rule **14**

3.1 Judicial and Police Reforms

3.2 Civil Administration

3.3 Modern Military

3.4 New Education, Printing and activities of the Missionaries

Unit 4 The Colonial State and Agenda of Interest Representation **12**

4.1 Origins of interest representation

4.2 Profiling the colonized

4.3 Pressure groups within the Colonial State

Essential Readings:

- 1) Bhattacharya, S., *The Colonial State: Theory and Practice*, Primus books, 2016
- 2) Bandhopadhyay, Shekhar, *From Plassey to Partition: A History of Modern India*, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi, 2004
- 3) Bayly, C.A., *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire: The New Cambridge History of India, Volume-I-II*, Cambridge University Press
- 4) Bayly, C.A., *Rulers, Townsman, Bazar, North Indian Society in the Age of British Expansion 1770-1870*
- 5) Chandra, B., *Essays on Colonialism*, Orient Longman, 1999
- 6) Cohn, B., *Colonialism and its forms of Knowledge*, Princeton University Press, New York, 2006
- 7) Dirks, Nicholas, *Caste of Mind, Colonialism and the Making of Modern India*, New Delhi, 2006

- 8) Guha, A, *Planter Raj to Swaraj: Freedom Struggle and Electoral politics in Assam 1826-1947*, New Delhi, Tulika Books, 2006
- 9) Jones, Kenneth, *Socio-Religious Reforms Movement in British India*, New Cambridge press, 1986
- 10) Marshall, P.J., *The Eighteen Century In Indian History: Evolution or Revolution*, University Press, 2005
- 11) Metcalfe, T.R., *Ideologies of the Raj*, Cambridge University Press, 2001
- 12) Roy, Tirthankar, *An Economic History of India*, Oxford University Press, 2005
- 13) Vishwanathan, G., *Masks of Conquest: literary Study and British Rule in India*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1998

PhD COURSEWOK

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

COTTON UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL 2 (Group C)

ASSAM AND ITS INTERFACE WITH COLONIALISM

Credits 4 (3+1+0)

Course Objectives: The course will help the scholars

- To apprise the scholars with a broad historical understanding of the progressive transitions experienced by Assam in multiple domains ranging from the way it was politically constituted to its gradual morphing into a colonial hinterland with a dual economy at its core.
- To orient the scholars with the myriad social alterations that Assam encountered due to its rendezvous with colonialism. More precisely, Assam's close interactions with neighbouring Bengal would be closely analysed focusing on the various issues of collaboration as well as flashpoints between the two.

Course Outcome: Upon completion of the course the scholars would

CO1 Be conversant with the large-scale changes that colonialism had on Assam on every single front right from the polity and society to economy and ecology which continues to have its impact till the present times.

CO2 A holistic comprehension of the nuances of colonial transformation in Assam will help and encourage scholars to take up meaningful research work on issues that have not been wholly or adequately analysed.

Total Number of Lectures: 45

Unit 1 Making of a colonial Frontier	10
1.1 Making of a geo-political frontier	
1.2 Colonial penetration into the hills: The making of the Inner line Policy	
Unit 2 Colonialism and its Economic facets	14
2.1 Evolution of colonial infrastructure: Steamers, roads and railways	
2.2 Plantations and commodities: tea, coal, oil	
2.3 Forests and Wasteland settlement	
2.4 The New land revenue framework	
Unit 3 Engagement with Modernity	12
3.1 Dynamics of modernity in Assam: Sanskritization and Westernization	
3.2 Debates on Assamese Middle class	
Unit 4 Assam's tryst with Nationalism	12
4.1 Pan Indian nationalism and sub nationalism	
4.2 The years of political churning 1946-47	

Essential Readings:

- 1) Barooah, Nirode, *Gopinath Bardoloi: The Assam Problem and Nehru's Centre*, Bhabani Publishers, Guwahati, 2012
- 2) Baruah, Sanjib, *India Against Itself: Assam and the politics of Nationality*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2000
- 3) Goswami, Priyam, *Assam in the Nineteenth Century: Industrialization and Colonial Penetration*, Spectrum Publications, Guwahati, 1999
- 4) Guha, Amalendu, *Planter Raj to Swaraj, Freedom Struggle and Electoral Politics in Assam, 1826-1947*, Tulika Books, New Delhi, 2006
- 5) Guha, Amalendu, *Medieval and Early Colonial Assam: Society, Polity and economy*, CSSS, Calcutta, 1991
- 6) Saikia, Rajen, *Social and Economic History of Assam, (1853-1921)*, Manohar Publication, New Delhi, 2002
- 7) Sharma, Jayeeta, *Empire's Garden: Assam and the Making of India*, Permanent Black, New Delhi, 2002