Department of History
M.A. History Programme

HIS/ 509  Philosophy of History

Teacher: Faraz Anjum

Learning Outcomes:
After studying this course, the students should be able to
➢ Develop an insight into the conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of the discourse on history
➢ Comprehend the ideas and concepts developed by prominent historians
➢ Familiarize with the modern theoretical approaches in the writing of history

Course Assessment:
• Term Paper 25
• Mid-term Exam 25
• Final Exam 50

Course Outline:

Week I

1. Philosophy of History: Concept & Meaning
   • Lemon, Philosophy of History: A Guide for Students, Ch. 1 & 11.
   • Sreedharan, A Textbook of Historiography, pp. 139-43.

Week II

2. Muslim Contribution to History-Writing
   2.1 Quranic Concept of History
      • Solihu, ‘Understanding Quran in the light of Historical Change’
      • Siddiqui, ‘Quran aur Tareekh’
   2.2 Early Muslim Historiography
      • Faruqi, Early Muslim Historiography, Ch. 3

Week III

2.3 Al-Tabari as a Historian
   • Mulalic, ‘Al-Tabari: The Conception of History’
2.4 Al-Masudi: Historical Method & Ideas
   • Khalidi, Islamic Philosophy of History: Histories of Al-Masudi, Ch. 2

Week IV

2.5 Ibn Khaldun: Concepts of Asabiyah, al-Imran and Cyclic Theory
   • Mahdi, ‘Ibn Khaldun’ in Sharif, History of Muslim Philosophy, Ch. XLIX
• Gibb, ‘The Islamic Background of Ibn Khaldun's Political Theory’

Week V
• Fischel, ‘Ibn Khaldun's Use of Historical Sources’
• Rosen, ‘Theorizing from within Ibn Khaldun and His Political Culture’
• Ahmed, ‘Ibn Khaldun's Understanding of Civilizations and the Dilemmas of Islam and the West Today

Week VI
3 Modern Western Philosophy of History

3.1 Leopold von Ranke’ Contribution to History Writing
• Sreedharan, A Textbook of Historiography, pp. 173-87.

Week VII
3.2 Hegel’s Dialectics and Discourse on History
• Lemon, Philosophy of History: A Guide for Students, Ch. 9.
• Walsh, An Introduction to the Philosophy of History, Ch. VII

Week VII
3.3 Karl Marx and Historical Materialism
• Perry, Marxism and History, Ch. 2
• Hobsbawm, ‘What do Historians owe to Karl Marx?’ in On History

Week IX
3.4 Oswald Spengler and Decline of the West

Week X
3.5 Arnold Toynbee: Rise and Fall of Civilizations
• Geyl, ‘Toynbee the Prophet’

Week XI
4 Modern Trends in History-Writing

4.1 French Historical School-The Annales
• Hunt ‘French History in the last twenty years: the rise and fall of the Annales paradigm’

Week XII
4.2 Post-Colonial Writings
• Prakash, ‘Postcolonial Criticism and Indian Historiography’
• Heehs, ‘Shades of Orientalism’

Week XIII
4.3 Subaltern Historiography
- Guha, ‘On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India’ in *Subaltern Studies I*
- Prakash, ‘Subaltern Studies as Postcolonial Criticism’
- Lal, ‘Subaltern Studies and its Critics’

**Week XIV**

4.4 Post-Modernism & History


**Week XV**

4.5 Huntington’s *Clash of Civilization* and Fukuyama’s *End of History*

- Kumar, ‘Philosophy of History at the End of the Cold War’ in Tucker, *Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*, Ch. 50.
- Mazrui, ‘Islam and the End History’
Bibliography:


Bloch, Marc. The Historian's Craft (Vintage Books, 1953)

Duri, A.A. Rise of Historical Writings among the Arabs (Princeton, NJ, 1983)

Enan, M.A. Ibn Khaldun: His Life and Works

Faruqi, Nisar Ahmed. Early Muslim Historiography


Hobsbawm, Eric. ‘What do Historians owe to Karl Marx?’in On History


Khalidi, Tarif. Islamic Philosophy of History: Histories of Al-Masudi

Kumar, Krishan. ‘Philosophy of History at the End of the Cold War’ in Tucker, Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography, Ch. 50.

Lal, Vinay. ‘Subaltern Studies and its Critics’ History and Theory 40 (February 2001), 135-148


Mohsin, Mahdi. Ibn Khaldun’s Philosophy of History


Perry, Matt. Marxism and History (Hamshire: Palgrave, 2002)
Rosen, Lawrence ‘Theorizing from within Ibn Khaldun and His Political Culture’ Contemporary Sociology, 34, No. 6 (Nov., 2005): 596-599
Rosenthal, Franz Muqaddimah Ibn Khaldun: Prolegomena to History
Siddiqui, Mazher-ud-Din. Quranic Philosophy of History
Solihu, Abdul Karim. ‘Understanding Quran in the light of Historical Change’ Islamic Studies, 42, No. 3 (Autumn 2003): 393-413
Southgate, Beverley. ‘Postmodernism’ in Tucker, Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography.