

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

Week V

- Gibb, 'The Islamic Background of Ibn Khaldun's Political Theory'
- 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's 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*

- Sreedharan, *A Textbook of Historiography*, pp. 215-226.

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

- Southgate, 'Postmodernism' in Tucker, *Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*, Ch. 49.

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'

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