

Introduction to History

3 Credit Hours

Introduction:

This is an Introductory level course consist of a review of major concepts relevant to the understanding of history as discipline and as a Process. It focuses on the introduction of major concepts, terminologies and issues, understanding of those are essential for the study of history. As it is supposed that students from across the disciplines can join BS History classes therefore, it is expected that many of the students will not be aware about the basic ideas of history. It will avoid the complexities involved in the understanding of the discipline of History. However, it will aim at the clarification of basic notions or ideas about what is history and what history is for. It evolves around the idea of the place of history as a source of knowledge and how can we approach historical knowledge with a sense of evolution.

Pre-requisites:

This is a preliminary but compulsory course. The students are expected to be well curious, vigilant and considerate of the empirical phenomena and literary trends, developing interest in logical and philosophical social sciences. An understanding of cultural pattern and social behaviour shall help understanding research Methodology. Computer skills can help accelerate the process of learning. The students who have interest in the dynamism of social change may feel at more ease. However the course shall help understanding all historical knowledge.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is:

- To make students aware of the nature of historical knowledge and research.
- To introduce to the students of BS History the basic concepts and controversies related to historical understanding.
- To inculcate among the students a sense of historical evolution of human knowledge, development and progress
- To develop among the students of BS History an ability to understand the common themes of historical knowledge.
- To inculcate among the students of history a sense of critical thinking.
- Prepare students for Research Report and Thesis.
- The Course shall form the basis for the ensuing courses of History at different levels.

Tools & Methodology:

This course required the relevant reading material mentioned in Bibliography. The teacher shall provide relevant material with an expectation that students themselves shall try to expand their knowledge through the extra readings. However, some field practices and personal exercises and experiences shall form the essential part of teaching methodology. Other tools of teaching and learning shall be Multi-Media, Globe Map, Tele-films or movies or documentaries, Surveys of Museums, archaeological Sites, observation of cultural festivals, etc.

The course shall begin by a lecture method and reading assignments and move towards a pattern of discussion/demonstration and presentation of practical problems in understanding historical knowledge. Short lecture or laboratory demonstration of some major basic scientific developments affecting social change by the students who had been students of natural sciences or by the experts of natural sciences where it deem necessary shall be made. Short assignments/ surprise test and class participation shall be marked against twenty marks of sessional category to help develop efficiency among the students:

Course Outcomes:

At the end of the course the students shall be able to:

- Have an understanding of the major concept of historical Knowledge.
- Have an ability to distinguish between 'historical' and 'Instinctual' aspects of human knowledge.
- Have an ability to understand the historical evolution.
- Have an ability to Plan a role in the future development.

Assessment/ Evaluation:

Evaluation shall consist of regular Mid-Term and Final-Term Examinations along with sessional evaluation on the basis of class participation, class assignments, surprise tests and attendance as per rules. No student having less than 85 % attendance shall be allowed to sit in the regular Mid-Term and Final-Term Examination. Short paper and assignments shall form a regular feature of the evaluation.

Course Content:

1. What is History?
Literal, terminological and conceptual meaning of history
History as Fact
History as Process
History as Narrative
2. Memory, Record and History
3. Nature of History:
Being and Becoming;
Continuity and Change;
Evolution, Progress and Development

Macrocosm & Microcosm: Time, Space, Causation,
Facts and opinion/ objectivity & Subjectivity

4. Utility, Benefits & importance of History:
History as a corrective/cohesive force;
History as a repetitive force
Continuity of History from Past to Future
Lessons from Past
Historical determinism, etc.
History as Mother of All Sciences/Knowledge
5. Epistemological nature of History:
Relationship of History with other forms of knowledge:
Natural Sciences
Social Sciences
Literature and Arts
6. Forms and Classification of History

Suggested Readings:

1. Burke, *Varieties of Cultural History*, Cornell University Press, 1977
2. Carlo, Ginzburg. *Clues. Myths, and the Historical Method*, John Hopkins: University Press, 1992
3. Carr, E. H., *What is History?* Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1961
4. Cohn, Bernard. *An Anthropologist among Historians and Other Essay*, Oxford University Press, 1988
5. Collingwood, R. G. *The Idea of History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1978.
6. Daniels, *Studying History: How and Why*, New Jersey, 1981.
7. Gertrude Himmelfarb. *The New History and the Old*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1987
8. Govranski. *History Meaning and Methods*, USA, 1969
9. Hegel. *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*. Cambridge University Press, 1991
10. Qadir, Khurram, *Tarikh Nigari Nazriyat-o-Irtiqā*, Lahore: Palgrave, 1994.
11. Qureshi, Muhammad Aslam. *A Study of Historiography*. Lahore: Pakistan Book Centre, Latest Edition.
12. Steedman. Caroline, *Dust: The Archive and Cultural History*, Manchester University Press, 2002
13. Stern Fritz, . *Varieties of History: from Voltaire to the Present*, Vintage, 2nd Edition 1975
14. Tahir Kamran, *The Idea of History Through Ages*, Lahore: Progressive Publisher, 1993
15. Lemon, M. C., *Philosophy of History*, London: Routledge, 2003
16. Marwick, Arthur, *The New Nature of History*, London, 1989, pp.31-35.
17. Roberts, Geoffrey, ed., *History and Narrative Reader*, London: Routledge, 2001.
18. Shafique, Muhammad, *British Historiography of South Asia: Aspects of Early Imperial Patterns and Perceptions*, Islamabad, NIHCR, Quaid-i-Azam University, 2016