

THIRD SEMESTER

Paper No HSH. 501

Hard Core

PHILOSOPHY AND METHODS OF HISTORY

Learning objectives;

1. To understand what is History? How does history reconstruct the past?
2. To understand the historical methodology and the interrelation between History and other social sciences
3. To understand the philosophy of history and the problems in the construction of history

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the paper, students will come to know the following:

1. Understand the meaning, interpretation and subject matter of history
2. Understand the nature of sources, techniques of analysis of the sources, historical criticisms and other related issues
3. Understand the philosophical debates on historical knowledge
4. Findout the problems of historical objectives and historians' craft

1. Subject matter of history – knowledge of the past- History : old and new- Philosophers and Historians on History- Relevance of recording the past- Post- modernism and History.
2. Historical facts – sources of information – aids – auxiliaries – criticism – internal and external.
3. Quantitative methods – Oral history – Text criticism, old and new – Deconstruction.
4. Philosophy of History – Critical and speculative – explanation in history –causation – generalization – historical imagination.
5. The Problem of historical objectivity – value judgements in history – the commitment of a historian – the abuses of history.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

E.H. Carr, What is History?
A.L. Rowse, The Use of History
G.R. Elson, The Practice of History
Marc Bloch, The Historian's Craft
Langlois & Seignobos, Introduction to the Study of History
G.J. Renier, History: Its Purpose and Method
Care Gustavson, A Preface to History

Barzun & Graff, The Modern Researcher

R.J. Shafer, A Guide to Historical Method

Allan Nevins, The Gateway to History

W.H. Walsh, Philosophy of History: An Introduction

Arthour Marwick, The New Nature of History

R.F. Atkinson, Knowledge and Explanation in History

W.H. Dray, (Ed), Philosophical Analysis and History

Patrick Gardiner(Ed), Philosophy of History

“ “ , Theories of History

Patrick Gardiner, The Nature of Historical Explanation

R.G. Collingwood, The Idea of History

“ “ , The Principles of History

Louis Gottschalk(Ed), Generalization in the Writing of History

Christopher Lloyd, The Structures of History

Alex Callinicos, Theories and Narratives

Paul Hamilton, Historicism

Keith Jenkins, Re-thinking History

“ “ (Ed) The Post Modern History Reader

Gertrude Himmelfarb, The New History and the Old

Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt and Margaret Jacob, Telling the Truth about History

C. Behan McGullagh, The Truth of History

