



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

School of Social Sciences

DD 26, Sector I, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700064

Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

Subsidiary History Syllabus

Programme Objectives:

- In keeping with the basic philosophy of ODL to dispense education to all, across a vast geographical area without discrimination of caste, creed and gender and commensurate with the NSOU motto 'To Reach the Unreached', the programme intends to provide quality education to the learners within the paradigm of Social Sciences.
- The objective is not to merely educate the learners in the events of History but to provoke original thoughts, a deeper historical sense of how the past affects our present and gears us towards the future. The programme also caters to the growing demand for employability, taking into its fold not only prospective teachers and researchers but also journalists and civil servants who play an important role in our national knowledge society and economy.
- The syllabus of Subsidiary History for undergraduate students is formulated in a manner to subscribe to the mission and vision of NSOU as well as the guidelines and regulations of the statutory bodies of the Centre and the State. To ensure that learning percolates to the lowest rungs of the society as well as to the remotest of areas, the programme is conducted in the regional Bengali language. The students are allowed the liberty to answer their examination in either Bengali or English.

Expected Programme Outcomes:

- The programme is designed with the expectation that the learner will acquire a broad historical perspective and in-depth knowledge of Ancient, Medieval and Modern Indian History along with the History of Modern Europe and some aspects of World History.
- Besides knowledge and critical understanding of History, the programme also expects to develop the employability skills of the learners and promote general competencies with the ultimate outcome of encouraging lifelong learning.

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Graduate Attributes:

The experience of learning with this NSOU programme will grant the learners the opportunity to develop some graduate attributes comprising the following competencies and skills:

- An academic bend of mind with developed critical thinking
- A respectful understanding of the values, principles and functioning of the ODL system and NSOU vision in particular
- A good training in language development and articulation of complex concepts
- A multi-disciplinary approach to academics in general and a collaborative working with other Social Sciences in particular
- A strong sense of ethical and social responsibilities
- Engagement with academia, society and industry at the regional, national and global level by an optimum utilization of the latent potentialities of the learners for the overall benefit of the human civilization



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**Bachelors Degree Programme (BDP)
New Syllabus
(Effective from 2010 Enrollment Session)
Subject: Subsidiary History (SHI)**

Paper – I: Ancient and Medieval India (From Earliest Time to 1707)

Module – 1

Unit – 1: Sources of Ancient Indian History.

Unit – 2A: Harappan Civilization - Origin, Extent, Urban Life and Decline.

Unit – 2B: Vedic Age.

Unit – 3C: Society, Economy and Polity during the Vedic Age; Religious Beliefs, Ideas and Practices during the Vedic Age.

Unit – 3A: Rise of Mahajanapada with Special Reference to the ascendancy of Magadha (up to the end of the Nanda Rule).

Unit – 3B: The Maurya Empire Expansion. Extent, Administrative System. Policy of Dhamma. Collapse of the Empire.

Unit – 4A: Kushana Empire. – Rise of the Satavahanas in the Deccan – a brief note on Polity and Administration.

Unit – 4B: The Gupta Empire in the North – Foundation, Expansion, Decay. The Deccan under the Vakatakas. Polity and Administration with special reference to Provincial and Local Level Administration.

Module – 2

Unit- 1A: Major North Indian Powers (600 AD – 1200 AD): Harsha.

Unit – 1B: Bengal as a Regional Power: Sasanka, the Palas and the Senas (600 AD – 1205 AD) – Polity and Administrative Organization.

Unit – 1C: The Pallavas, the Cholas.

Unit – 2: Salient Features of Early Indian Rural Economy: Agriculture and Irrigation, Ownership of Land, Landed Intermediaries and Peasants – Debates on Indian Feudalism.

Unit – 3: Non-Agrarian Sector of the Economy: Crafts, Organizations of Craftsmen and Professionals. Trade and Urban Centres.

Unit – 4: Society and Religious Life; Family, Varna-Jati, Marriage and Position of Women.

Module – 3

Unit – 1A: Impact of Islam and Political Change in India – the Foundation of Delhi Sultanate.

Unit – 1B: The Early History of the Sultanate and the Emergence of a Centralized Monarchy.

Unit – 2A: The Khilji Revolution; The Tughlaques.

Unit – 2B: Independent Sultans of Bengal – the Vijaynagar Empire.

Unit – 3A: The Sultanate and the Changing Framework of Agriculture – the Iqta System.

Unit – 3B: The Nature of the Impact of Islam on Indian Society – Sufism – emergence of Syncretic Ideas and Beliefs – the Bhakti Movement.

Unit - 4A: Disintegration of the Sultanate and the Foundation of the Mughal Empire – Babur – Mughal and Afghan Contest – Sher Shah.

Unit – 4B: Akbar and the Consolidation of the Mughal Empire – Political Expansion. Administrative Reorganization including the Mansabdari System.

Module –4

Unit – 1A: The Imperial Expansion under Jahangir and Sajahan – Consolidation of the Mughal Ruling Class.

Unit – 1B: The History of Aurangzeb – Political Expansion in the Deccan, the Mughal – Maratha Contest – State and Religion.

Unit – 2: The Break-up of the Mughal Empire. Political and Economic Explanation for the Economic Decline.

Unit – 3: The Mansabdari System – Mughal Revenue Policy and Agriculture; Unit – 4: Religious Syncretism – Bhakti Culture – The Mughal Architecture.

Paper – II: Early Modern and Modern India (1707- 1964)

Module – 1

Unit – 1A: The Rise of the British Empire: Bengal ‘The British Bridgehead’ – 1757-1760-1765.

Unit – 1B: The Framework of the Early Colonial State in Bengal.

Unit – 2A: Political Expansion: North India, Mysore, Maharashtra – Settlement of 1818.

Unit – 2B: The Rise of Paramountcy: Hastings, Dalhousie.

Unit – 3: The Colonial Impact: The Changing Structure of India’s Foreign Trade – Drain of Wealth – Early 19th Century: Domination Effect – Deindustrialization.

Unit – 4: Changes in Rural Society – Land Revenue Policies – Causes of Revenue Maximization: The Three Settlements.

Module – 2

Unit – 1: The Revolt of 1857: Context – Historiography.

Unit – 2A: India after 1857: Administrative Reorganization – The Acts of 1858, Queen’s Proclamation and Act of 1861.

Unit – 2B: Peasant and Tribal Unrest in India in later 19th Century.

Unit – 3: Social Reform Movements.

Module – 3

Unit – 1A: Social Origin of the Indian National Congress.

Unit – 1B: The Early Congress and the Ideological Framework of Moderate Nationalism.

Unit – 2A: Extremist, Swadeshi Movement and Congress Split at Surat.

Unit – 2B: Revolutionary Nationalism.

Unit – 3A: India after the First World War – Rise of Gandhi.

Unit – 3B: Gandhi and Mass Politics, 1921 – 42 (Khilafat, Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, Quit India Movements).

Unit – 4: The Left in the Congress, Trade Union Movement, Subhas Chandra Bose and INA, Post-War Upsurge.

Unit – 5: The Partition and its Aftermath (with reference to Communal Mobilization, Pakistan Movement, the Partition and the Transfer of Power).

Module – 4

- Unit – 1: The Constituent Assembly and the Framing of the Indian Constitution.
- Unit – 2: Politics in Independent India: Nehru Era.
- Unit – 3: Planning and the Indian Economy.
- Unit – 4: Nehruvian Foreign Policy – Non Alignment.

Paper-3: Modern Europe and the Making of the Modern World (1789 – 1956)

Module – 1

- Unit – 1A: Reform and Revolution (1789-1815); Background and the Causes of French Revolution of 1789.
- Unit – 1B: Trends of the French Revolution of 1789.
- Unit – 2A: Rise of Napoleon – Empire Building; Napoleonic Reforms and their Effects.
- Unit – 2B: Fall of Napoleon: Estimate – Child of Revolution.
- Unit – 3A: The Conservative Order and the Revolutionary Challenge (1815 – 1871); Vienna Settlement – Metternich – Concert of Europe.
- Unit – 3B: Revolts of 1830 and Revolution of 1848.
- Unit – 4: France under Second Empire – Paris Commune.
- Unit – 5: Formation of Nation States – Italy and Germany.

Module – 2

- Unit – 1A: The Industrial Revolution and the Rise of Socialism: Industrial Revolution – England and the Continent.
- Unit – 1B: Socialist Movements in Europe.
- Unit – 2A: Reforms in Russia.
- Unit – 2B: Revolution of 1905 and 1917 in Russia.
- Unit – 3: Imperialism, Nationalism and New Diplomacy: Colonial Expansions.
- Unit – 4A: Balkan Nationalism.
- Unit - 4B: New Diplomacy.
- Unit – 4C: First World War.

Module – 3

- Unit – 1A: The Peace Settlement and its Effects: Europe in 1919.
- Unit – 1B: Search for Security.

Unit – 2A: Reparation – Economic Nationalism – Great Depression.

Unit – 2B: The Foreign Policies of the United States and Soviet Russia between two World Wars.

Unit – 3A: Efforts at Peace and its Breakdown: League of Nations.

Unit – 3B: Disarmament – Locarno Pact.

Unit – 4A: Rise of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

Unit – 4B: Japan’s Expansionism – Manchurian Crisis – Italy Abyssinian War – Spanish Civil War – Rome- Berlin-Tokyo Axis – Appeasement – Coming of the Second World War.

Module – 4

Unit – 1: The Cold War: Effects of the Second World War – Decolonization – Emergence of the United States and Soviet Russia as Super Powers.

Unit – 2A: The Chinese Revolution.

Unit – 2B: The Origin of the Cold War and its Growth.

Unit – 3: The United Nations – Functions and Peace Efforts.

Unit – 4A: Nationalism and the Developing World: Arab Nationalism.

Unit – 4B: Nationalism in Africa: Neo Colonialism.

Unit – 4C: New Forms of Domination.