



**ASHOKA**  
UNIVERSITY

**HISTORY PROGRAMME  
GUIDELINES  
FOR MAJORS & MINORS**

## **The History Programme**

The History programme (B.A. Hons.) requires students to take a total of 12 courses in their three years in order to receive the bachelor's degree, according to UGC guidelines.

Elective courses in the History programme seek to stir, whet, and capture a student's historical imagination through a conceptual, historiographical and methodological study of different historical themes and subjects.

The History Major's Undergraduate Research Thesis/Project is a thesis or other project based on original research. It gives students an opportunity to put into practice their understanding of the discipline of history by undertaking independent inquiry on their chosen historical theme.

## **HISTORY CORE COURSES**

- HIS 101 Modern Europe
- HIS 201 Ancient India
- HIS 202 Medieval India
- HIS 203 Modern India
- HIS 301 Reading History
- HIS 302 Reading Archaeology
- HIS 401/402 Undergraduate Research Thesis/Project

## **History Minor Requirements**

History minors must take six total courses in History. They must take two out of four of the Gateway courses (HIS 101, HIS 201, HIS 202, HIS 203). They must also take one of the two reading courses (HIS 201, HIS 202). History minors must take three additional courses in total, which may be elective courses, independent reading modules, CTS, and/or the UG Research Thesis/Project. Note: No more than one CTS can count towards the Minor in History.

## **History Concentration Requirements**

For a History Concentration, students must take four courses in History, which include the following:

- 3 Gateways
  - HIS 201 Ancient India
  - HIS 202 Medieval India
  - HIS 203 Modern India
- 1 Elective course on a subject besides India (Modern Europe, or anything else)

## **History Major Requirements**

For a major in History students must take a total of 12 courses in History. History majors must take all four gateway courses in the major, including HIS-101, HIS-102, HIS-103, HIS-104. The four gateway courses in our major present the general patterns and processes of Indian and modern Western history within a global

comparative framework. These courses provide students with chronological anchors for more advanced thematic courses.

Along with the gateways, two reading courses, (HIS-201 Reading History & HIS-202 Reading Archaeology) equip students with the basic apparatus of the historical craft. Reading History introduces students to different theories that have influenced historical imagination, the various schools of thought and modes of writing history such as positivism, Marxism, annals, structuralism, post-structuralism, postmodernism and postcolonialism. Reading Archaeology introduces students to the methods and theories of archaeology globally, and engages students with the history of archaeological thought.

- 4 History Gateway Courses
  - HIS 101 Modern Europe
  - HIS 201 Ancient India
  - HIS 202 Medieval India
  - HIS 203 Modern India
- 2 History Reading Courses
  - HIS 201 Reading History
  - HIS 202 Reading Archaeology
- Electives +
- 1 Undergraduate Research Thesis/Project

Typical Sequence of History Major Study <sup>1</sup>					
Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5	Semester 6
(Monsoon)	(Spring)	(Monsoon)	(Spring)	(Monsoon)	(Spring)
Intro to Critical Thinking	CTS	CTS	FC	FC	History UG Research Thesis/ Project
Trends in History	FC	FC	HIS 203 Modern India	History Elective	History Elective
FC	FC	FC	HIS 301 Reading History	History Elective	History Elective
FC	HIS 101 Modern Europe	HIS 201 Ancient India	HIS 302 Reading Archaeology	History Elective	Elective
	Elective	HIS 202 Medieval India	Elective	Elective	Elective

<sup>1</sup> This is the recommended sequence, and the most common one. However it is not mandatory. Students who wish to take a different sequence should consult their academic advisor and/or the History programme coordinator.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

### History & International Relations

For the History & International Relations interdisciplinary major, 16 courses are required, including ten courses in History and six courses in International Relations. One CTS course may count as an elective. These 16 courses include the following:

- 4 History Gateway Courses
  - HIS 101 Modern Europe
  - HIS 201 Ancient India
  - HIS 202 Medieval India
  - HIS 203 Modern India
- 1 History Reading Course
  - HIS 201 Reading History
- 1 History of Politics of India Course
  - HIS 303 Politics and Society in India, 1937-77
- 1 Introduction to International Relations Course
  - IR 101 - Introduction to International Relations
- Electives + Undergraduate Research Thesis/Project (either A or B options below)
  - **A)** 3 History elective courses + 1 History Undergraduate Research Thesis/Project (HIS 401/2) + 5 International Relations elective courses
  - or,
  - **B)** 4 History elective courses + 4 International Relations elective Courses + 1 International Relations Undergraduate Research Thesis/Project (IR 401/2)

Typical Sequence for Interdisciplinary Major in History & International Relations					
Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5	Semester 6
(Monsoon)	(Spring)	(Monsoon)	(Spring)	(Monsoon)	(Spring)
Intro to Critical Thinking	CTS	CTS	FC	FC	FC
Trends in History	FC	HIS 201 Ancient India	HIS 203 Modern India	FC	FC
FC	HIS 101 Modern Europe	HIS 202 Medieval India	HIS 301 Reading History	History Elective	History Elective
FC	IR 101 Intro International Relations	IR Elective	HIS 303 Contemp. Politics India	History Elective	History Elective
	Elective	IR Elective	IR Elective	IR Elective	HIS/IR 401/402 UG Research Thesis/ Project

## History & Economics Interdisciplinary Major

For the History and Economics Interdisciplinary major 16 courses are required. For History one CTS may count as an elective. These 16 courses include the following:

- 7 Economics required courses
  - Maths for Economics
  - Intermediate Microeconomics
  - Intermediate Macroeconomics
  - Statistics for Economics
  - Econometrics
  - Game Theory
  - Development Economics
- 1 Economics elective course
- 3 of the 4 History Gateway Courses
  - HIS 101 Modern Europe
  - HIS 201 Ancient India
  - HIS 202 Medieval India
  - HIS 203 Modern India
- 1 History reading course
  - HIS 201 Reading History
- 3 History elective courses
- 1 History Undergraduate Research Thesis/Project
  - HIS 401 or HIS 402

**Typical Sequence for Interdisciplinary Major in Economics and History**

Semester 1 (Monsoon)	Semester 2 (Spring)	Semester 3 (Monsoon)	Semester 4 (Spring)	Semester 5 (Monsoon)	Semester 6 (Spring)
Introduction to Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking Seminar I	Critical Thinking Seminar II	FC 8	FC 9	FC 11
Foundations of Economic Reasoning	FC 6	HIS 201 Ancient India <u>or</u> HIS 202 Medieval India	HIS 203 Modern India	FC 10	FC 12
Trends in History	HIS 101 Modern Europe	Intermediate Microeconomics	Econometrics	Economics Elective	History Elective
FC 4	Maths for Economics	Intermediate Macroeconomics	Game Theory	Development Economics	History Elective
		Statistics for Economics	HIS 301 Reading History	History Elective	HIS 401/402 History UG Research Thesis/ Project

## PAST & PRESENT COURSE OFFERINGS

These course listings and descriptions are for reference only. The History programme may not repeat all of these courses, or may not repeat them every year. The only courses that will be offered regularly are the seven listed above as History Core Courses. However, the course descriptions of the History Core Courses may change, according to the different faculty teaching them.

### CRITICAL THINKING SEMINARS

Students may count one, and only one, Critical Thinking Seminar (CTS) towards a major or a minor in History.

#### **CT-111-01 History, Novel and Cinema (*Vaidik*) [Spring 2016]**

History, Historical Fiction and Historical Cinema are imaginative dialogues with the past. Each creates, retrieves and invents the past – a past that serendipitously seeps into the present. This course explores the intersections, dissimilarities and shared aspects of these different narrative genres that seek to convey the past for the present. The course material is woven around the conceptual and methodological issues that historians encounter while crafting their narratives – time, spatial imagination, memory and narrative distance; and the choices that a historian makes while mapping forgotten pasts, using personal testimonies as historical evidence, unearthing historical silences and taking ethical positions while writing histories of violence. Course material is divided into two parts. Part I consists of a piece of historical writing, a novel and a movie on each theme. We will read works of history alongside novelists such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Gillian Flynn, Edward Jones, Mahasweta Devi, Rigoberta Menchu and watch *Inception*, *Rashomon*, *Hiroshima: My Love*, *Gangs of New York*, *The Reader* and *Motorcycle Diaries*. Part II consists of analysis of different kinds of sources – oral, visual, institutional records and material objects that historians use to construct the past.

#### **CT-112-01 Environmental History (*Rangarajan*) [Spring 2016, Spring 2017]**

The course opens up themes in India's rich ecological pasts. Animal-human relations and water conflicts, ethics and science, landscapes and their multiple meanings come together in a first look as we ask why we stand today vis a vis the human environment. The course ranges from Early to contemporary India and is designed to encourage a historical view while drawing in students of different disciplines. Forest rights and endangered species, state making and the forest, environmental movements and contested ideas of natural beauty are among the themes taken up.

**CTS: War in History (*Nath*) [Spring 2017]**

In this seminar, you will get a historical perspective on the world of warfare. You will begin by looking at various constituents of military enterprises – military labour, war-animals, and technology. Next, you will explore more theoretical issues like military orientalism, gendered military roles, anti-war politics, war-propaganda, and the making of martial cultures. You will also investigate how ethics has shaped the conduct and perception of war as well as how wars have historically been represented in diverse societies. Finally, you will unravel the relationship of war with state-formation, natural environment, and society at large.

**CTS: History and Memory Across Asia (*Lahiri*)[Spring 2017]**

The seminar aims to look at a few key figures who have had a vivid historical presence as also a rich and diverse afterlife across Asia. Alexander III of Macedon (also known as ‘Alexander the Great’) and Ashoka, the third emperor of the Maurya dynasty will be examined here in relation to South Asia, West Asia and Southeast Asia. Apart from the historical sources that throw light on the history and memory of such figures, the seminar will involve analysing literature and films in order to gain insights into memory formation and memorialization.

**CT-203-01: History: Historical Thinking, 15 per section (*Vaidik*) [Monsoon 2015]**

This course introduces the students to the art and science of historical thinking. What does it mean to think and write like a historian? Historical thinking is a training in questioning what we know, challenging the world as it is presented to us and mastering the skill of drawing out connections between disparate events in the human past. The fact that History is an evidence-based field of knowledge distinguishes a historian from creative writers and philosophers. That is, it forces us to ask how do we know what we know; compels us to explain the connection between evidence and conclusion; and to differentiate between an assertion and an argument. In this course the students have an opportunity to conceptualize their own ‘historical-inquiry project’ where they will be choosing and refining a topic of personal and historical significance, digging deeply and critically into that topic, connecting their findings with broader themes, all the way to creatively sharing their conclusions in a public forum. The format of the course will be a series of conceptual lectures interspersed with lab work and discussion.

**CT 212-01: Critical Concepts in Islam (*Khan*)[Monsoon 2016]**

This course will offer students the chance to tackle individual concepts within Islam and then go into an in-depth analysis of their origins, changes in meaning and their relevance to the everyday lives of Muslims by using a *longue durée* approach. Furthermore, there will be a constant effort to underscore how these issues remain deeply relevant today and thereby introduce students to current debates as well.

**CT-215-01: A History of the Future: Tocqueville's Democracy in America (Green) [Monsoon 2016]**

With the passing of the Communist era, it is becoming ever clearer that Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, rather than Marx's *Capital*, represents the truly prophetic work of nineteenth-century political sociology. This course invites students to consider why Tocqueville chose the United States, not Europe, as his model for the future, how he was able to predict developments in the advanced societies so accurately and the degree to which his insights remain applicable to the wider world today.

**CT 218-01: Animal Histories (cross listed with Environmental Studies ES 201-01)(Rangarajan) [Monsoon 2016]**

It is impossible to disentangle the way we look at animals from how we look at people. Mainly but not wholly focused on the modern world, the paper examines the way animal-human relations have changed over time. The paper ranges over hunting and museums, animal science and empire, nation making and nature protection, gender and nature. The ethical and political issue of how we define animals is critical to how we define the human condition in our times.

**GATEWAY COURSES**

History majors must take all four gateway courses; History minors must take at least three of the four gateway courses.

**HIS-101-01 European History from Renaissance to Revolution (Mukherjee) [Spring, annually]**

This course will introduce students to the basic trends of modern European history from the Renaissance in Italy to the revolution in Russia.

**HIS 201-01, Ancient India (Lahiri) [Monsoon 2016; Kelly Monsoon 2015 ]**

This course aims to provide students with a sense of space, time and culture in ancient India. It looks at the prehistoric hunter-gatherers, the advent of food producing societies, the cultures of interconnected differences (from the Harappan Civilization and its neighbours to the historical world of cities and states), and the landscapes of empire till the end of the Gupta dynasty. Society and religion, art and architecture (and forms of patronage), women and their reintegration into the study of the ancient past, and the environment as a variable form part of the course so as to provide a rounded and balanced perspective of early India.



**HIS 202-01, Medieval India (Nath) [Monsoon 2016; was Mukherjee HIS-201 Monsoon 2015]**

This course is aimed at exposing students to the main areas of research and scholarly debate in the field of medieval Indian history as well as to familiarise them with the works of both established and upcoming scholars. It explores diverse facets of medieval India, including trade and commerce, political economy, art and architecture, state-formation, canonical and popular piety, warfare, social life, literature, and so on. It is geared towards maintaining a balance between offering students a broad overview of the times as well as imparting detailed knowledge of some of the key issues.

**HIS-203-01 Modern India from 1757 to 1947 (Rangarajan/Mukherjee) [was HIS-201 Spring 2016]**

This course seeks to discuss some of the broad features of early British rule from the conquest of Bengal to the revolt of 1857. This will form the first part of the course. The post 1857 developments will be taught by Professor Mahesh Rangarajan. The second section of the Modern India course will take the story forward from the onset of Crown rule in 1858 to the early phase of the Indian Union till the early 1960s. The consolidation of imperial rule and the revolts against it each had long term consequences for ruler and ruled alike in a myriad ways, in socio-political, economic and cultural as much as strategic terms. Interweaving different strands of life and attention to regional dimensions can help illumine in many ways the India of today. Themes include the rise of new business groups, contested identities, the disparities between and across states and the challenges of crafting democracy in a climate of Cold War.

**READING COURSES**

History majors must take both reading courses. History minors must take one of the two.

**HIS-301 Reading History (Lahiri/Mukherjee) [Spring 2017]**

This course seeks to impart a sense of the building blocks of the discipline of history, and of the various ways in which these have been perceived and used. What ideas of the past can be seen from antiquity till the present? How have the concerns of history changed? What constitute the facts of history and how are these ascertained? What constitute the protocols of historical discourse? These are questions that will be examined with reference to the works of various historians within and outside academia.

**HIS-301 Reading History (Vaidik) [Spring 2016]**

This is a course in Philosophy of History – the philosophical bases for historical study, and Historiography – a review of the development of historical knowledge and the historical profession. It examines the different

ways in which different schools of history have made sense of their discipline and of human past from eighteenth century to the present. The course begins with examining the Whig and the Positivist school of historical writing and traces the history of history-writing to the Marxist, Annales, New Historicist, Structuralists, post-structuralists, down to Narrativists, Subaltern Studies, Postcolonial and Postmodern writings. This course aims to familiarize the students with the essentials of the discipline of history.

### **HIS-302 Reading Archaeology (*Kelly*) [Spring 2016, 2017]**

Archaeology as a discipline is comprised of three things: data, the methods of obtaining that data, and theoretical frameworks and paradigms in which to interpret and understand the data, in order to create narratives of the past. In this course we will first explore the fundamental sources of data, along with the methods used to obtain and analyze the data. Using this basic understanding of the field, we will delve into multiple case studies including Ancient Egypt, the colonial Caribbean, South India, and others, in order to examine and critique the multiple theoretical frames that have been and can be used to interpret the past through archaeology.

## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

History majors must take at least four electives towards the fulfillment of their degree requirements. History minors must take at least two electives.

### **HIS 301, Revolt of 1857 (*Mukherjee*) [Monsoon 2016]**

In this course students will deal with the events, the sources, the historiography and the events of the uprising.

### **HIS 302, World Hegemon: Britain in Comparative Perspective, c. 1832-1914. (*Green*) [Monsoon 2016]**

Victorian Britain was the world's greatest power since Roman times. Its population quadrupled. It became, and long remained, the leading industrial power. It dominated international trade. It acquired an empire covering one-quarter of the world's surface. This course explains how that happened and what its consequences were, both for Britain and the rest of the world, down to the outbreak of the first World War.

### **HIS 303, Politics and Society in India, 1937-77 (cross-listed as POL 304-01) (*Rangarajan*) [Monsoon 2016]**

The era of Congress dominance, from the victory in most provinces in the 1937 provincial elections to its first defeat in a general election in 1977. The course spans an era through freedom, Partition and constitution making to the emergence of the parliamentary system and the early years of independent

India. Socio-political and economic changes in India are viewed in relation to the changing role of the republic in Asia and the world.

**HIS 304, Indigenous Histories (cross-listed as SOA 303-01) (Kelly) [Monsoon 2016]**

This course is focused on ‘indigenous peoples’ — known in India as ‘tribals’ — communities who are often thought of as outside mainstream society, isolated, ‘backward’, and perhaps anachronistic remnants of ages past. Recent interdisciplinary work in History and Anthropology has focused on understanding the specific histories of indigenous and ‘tribal’ communities, to break out of the timeless mold, and understand how and why they have existed alongside states and empires, and continue to co-exist within and along side nation-states. In order to do this, we explore a variety of case studies in indigenous histories from all over the world including South Asia, North America, Hawaii, Africa and Australia.

**HIS 305, International History of the Twentieth Century (cross-listed as IR 201-01) (Raghavan) [Monsoon 2016]**

**Course Description:** This course will chart and analyse the transformation of the international and global politics over the long twentieth century. It will focus on events and processes from the late nineteenth century to the present, covering the two world wars and the cold war, the fall and rise of global capitalism, revolutions and decolonization, international institutions and economic development, ideologies and religion, new discourses of neoliberalism and human rights."

**HIS 306, Unpacking the Mughal World (Nath)[Spring 2017]**

In this course, you will explore the Mughal imperial experience through a close reading of the latest historical scholarship on the subject as well as some primary sources. You will unravel the dynamics of Mughal statecraft, the role of religion in its development, and the imperial ideology guiding it. You will investigate the relationship of the Mughals with their imperial neighbours and their Central Asian past. You will also look at imperial wars, arts, and economy as well as issues of gender and language. Finally, you will study the perceptions of and resistances to Mughal empire-building by various regional communities.

**HIS 307, Artefacts and Texts: Understanding the Relationship of History and Archaeology (Lahiri) [Spring 2017]**

This course will look at the possibilities and challenges involved in the dialogue between material culture and writing in reconstructing the pasts of various societies, from the ancient to the modern. In which ways are artefacts and texts different, yet similar? How does this impact the relationship between history and archaeology? How have places mentioned in Classical

texts been identified on the ground? Can the study of religions like Buddhism and Islam, which are grounded in textual traditions, be enriched through the archaeology of their practices? The case studies will look at these themes and at a few others that concern Roman Pompeii, the early modern movements of people, and modern war remembrance.

### **HIS 308, History of South India, from Ancient to Early Modern (Kelly) [Spring 2017]**

Southern India from the Ancient period to the Early Modern has its own unique cultures, languages, texts, and history, distinct but not disconnected, from North India. While most courses in Indian history focus primarily on the North, this course will instead explore the distinct cultural and historical traditions, and the distinct sources of South Indian history, including literary and oral traditions of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam, from the Ancient and Medieval periods, and continue through the period of the early colonial encounters with the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and Danes.

### **HIS 399, Independent Studies Module**

In consultation with a member of the History faculty, a student may design an independent studies module, on a topic of their choosing. A faculty member must agree to supervise the module, and determine the modes of evaluation. Faculty and student together will determine an appropriate reading list and schedule of weekly meetings to discuss the readings. This option may not be available every semester, depending on the availability of faculty.

HIS-399-01 Mukherjee

HIS-399-02 Vaidik

HIS-399-03 Kelly

HIS-399-04 Lahiri

HIS-399-05 Rangarajan

HIS-399-06 Nath

## **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH THESIS/PROJECT**

All History majors must complete a UG research thesis/project before graduation (usually in the second semester of their third year). Majors must do either the Thesis or the Project, but they may decide which of these two they wish to pursue. History minors are not required to do a UG research thesis/project, but may take the option with the consent of the UG research coordinator, and a chosen faculty supervisor. This course functions as an independent study module, and is a full four-credit course. It provides students an opportunity to put into practice their understanding of the discipline of history by undertaking independent inquiry on their chosen historical theme.

Students should begin to consult faculty members early in the first semester of the third year to discuss potential research topics and find the best fit for a faculty to supervise their research thesis/project. On questions of procedure and policy the

students should consult the UG Research Coordinator. Before course registration students must have the UG Research Thesis/Project Form filled and signed by themselves, the supervising faculty, and the UG Research Coordinator.

The UG Research thesis/project will be evaluated and graded by a committee comprised of the supervising faculty plus two additional faculty members (at least one of which must be from within the history programme, and the second may come from history or another related and relevant programme or department).

Students **must** print out the form on the last page of this handbook, and fill up both copies. Both copies must be signed by the student, the supervisor, and the UG Research Coordinator. The Coordinator will retain one copy, and the other copy will go to the Office of Academic Affairs, to enable the student to enroll in the course for the Spring semester.

### **HIS 401 - Undergraduate Research Thesis**

The Undergraduate Research Thesis is an original work of writing and research. Students conduct their own original historical research using a variety of historical sources, in order to write a thesis on a focused and specific historical topic. The topic and plan of research and writing must be made with mutual agreement between student and supervising faculty, and approved by the UG Research Coordinator. Registration is only by consent of the faculty (and students must have the UG Research Thesis/Project form signed by both the coordinator and the potential supervisor).

HIS-401-01 Mukherjee  
HIS-401-02 Vaidik  
HIS-401-03 Kelly

HIS-401-04 Lahiri  
HIS-401-05 Rangarajan  
HIS-401-06 Nath

### **HIS 402 - Undergraduate Research Project**

For the Undergraduate Research Project, students devise a research based project that can have a variety of different outputs, besides a traditional thesis. These can include, but are not limited to: creative and artistic projects, documentary films, museum exhibits, web-based projects, or hands-on experience in historical or archaeological research. Both the topic and the kind of output must be decided and agreed upon in advance between the student, the UG Research Coordinator, and the faculty who will supervise the project (and students must have the UG Research Thesis/Project form signed by both the coordinator and the potential supervisor).

HIS-402-01 Mukherjee  
HIS-402-02 Vaidik  
HIS-402-03 Kelly

HIS-402-04 Lahiri  
HIS-402-05 Rangarajan  
HIS-402-06 Nath

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH THESIS/PROJECT**  
FORM MUST BE FILLED AND SUBMITTED BEFORE COURSE REGISTRATION

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

UG Research Thesis    UG Research Project (✓ one)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Supervising Faculty Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH THESIS/PROJECT**  
FORM MUST BE FILLED AND SUBMITTED BEFORE COURSE REGISTRATION

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

UG Research Thesis    UG Research Project (✓ one)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Supervising Faculty Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_