

Themes in Nepalese History and Culture

Semester- I
Paper - I
Credit- 3
Teaching Hours - 48

Course Objective

This paper is designed to train students in understanding the method of history writing and to analyze issues related to major themes of debate in Nepalese history.

Unit I. Historiography and the pattern of history writing

8 hours

This course is designed to train students in understanding the method of history writing along with meaning of history, history as an art or a science, the modern concept of history, necessity of studying history, an introduction to the Nepali historiography and pattern of history writing in Nepal. Students are required to review the readings as suggested.

Unit II Sources of Nepalese history

12 hours

The attempt of this course is to help students learn to analyze historical data by studying different materials. Students study will study of the followings sources and prepare two seminar papers focusing on the nature, scope, weaknesses and authenticity of the sources.

1. Literary source

2. Material remains:

(Archaeological Remains, Epigraphs, Coins, Sculptures, Paintings and Monuments.)

3. Foreign Accounts: (Travelers and their chronicles)

4. Oral Traditions: Oral history, folklore and the problem of authenticity.

Unit III Themes in ancient Nepalese history

14 hours

This course is intended to train students to analyze issues related to major themes of debate in ancient and early medieval history of Nepal. Students are expected to write a seminar papers. Students are also required to review the readings as suggested.

The major themes are as follows –

1 The foundation of Political System in Nepal: The formulation of the course is in terms of a detailed reading around certain key issues relating to legendary and literary accounts of Nepal and the problem of authenticity.

2 Lichhavi rule: Under this course Students will study themes related to different aspect of Lichhavi polity; such as their emergence in polity, their contributions to the development of art and culture, political and cultural ties with the neighboring countries and their decline from the polity.

3 Debates in ancient history: Under this course Students will study themes related to historical conflict of ancient Nepal.

4. Religion and Society in ancient Nepal – It will focus on the position and status of religion in the polity and society.

5. Agriculture, Trade and traders in ancient Nepal – Under this theme students will be expected to explore technologies and relations of production. Students will also study themes related to emergence of trade networks in ancient Nepal

Unit IV. Themes in Medieval History of Nepal

14hours

Under this course students will study themes related to different aspect of Nepalese history and culture of medieval Nepal and prepare two discussion/seminar papers. Students are also required to review the readings as suggested.

Main themes to be studied are as follows:

1. **Nepal Samvat** as a major historiographic problem concerning its origin.
2. **The nature of the Medieval States ;** This topic intends to interrogate issues related to the nature of states in medieval period. It will cover themes like the nature of

states of Karnali Pradesh, Tirahut and Nepal Mandala. The debate on feudalism will be an important part of the study. Geo-graphical diversity and extent of the country in different periods. Achievement of the period to the development of art and culture.

3 Debates in Medieval history: Under this course students will study themes related to historical conflict of early medieval Nepal.

4. Religion and Society in Medieval Nepal –It will focus on the position and status of different religions in the polity and society.

5. Trade and traders in Medieval Nepal – Under these issue students will study themes related to emergence of trade networks in medieval Nepal.

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