

Epigraphy

Semester First
Paper VI
Credit Hours: 3
Lecture hours 48

Objectives

The objective of this course is to enable the students to explain the comprehensive knowledge of ancient and medieval epigraphy of Nepal.

Course Contents

- Unit I Introduction to Epigraphy** **12**
- (1) **Introduction to Epigraphy:** Meaning and scope: decipherment, interpretation and classification of inscriptions
 - (2) Materials, tools and techniques, designs and motifs, art and crafts of Nepali inscriptions.
 - (3) Technical expressions, beginning and closing formulas, system of abbreviation, language and style,
- Unit II Types of Inscriptions** **10**
- (1) *Official* Inscriptions: Royal Charter, Orders and proclamations, *Prasādaśāsana*, Eulogy or *Praśasti*, Donatives or *Dānaśāsana* and Treaties or *Sandhipatra*,
 - (2) Private Inscriptions: Donatives and Commemoratives
- Unit III Significance of Inscriptions** **10**
- (1) History of epigraphic studies in Nepal
 - (2) Importance of Epigraphy for the study of history and culture of Nepal
 - (3) Demerits of Epigraphy
- Unit IV System of Dating and Eras used in Epigraphy** **9**
- (1) The eras used in the first and second series of ancient inscriptions
 - (2) An introduction to the Vikrama, Śaka and Nepal Samvats
 - (3) Numeral systems in Brāhmī, Lichchavi and Newari Inscriptions and Nepali Manuscripts;
 - (4) Introduction to Word Numeral System; Letter numeral system and decimal system
- Unit V Manuscript writing in Nepal** **7**
- (1) Materials, size, writing, miniature painting and colophon
 - (2) Book Art of Nepal
 - (3) History of the study of Nepali manuscripts

References

1. Bajracharya , Dhanavajra, *Lichchhaci Kal Ka Abhilekh* (Inscriptions of Lichhavi Period) Kathmandu: CNAS.
2. _____ VS. 2056, *MadhYa kal Ka Abhilekh (Inscriptions of Mediaeval Period)* Kathmandu : CNAS.
3. Buhler, J.George, 1980. ***Indian Palaeography***, New Delhi: Oriental Books.
4. Dani, Ahmad Hasan, 1963 ***Indian Palaeography***, Oxford: The clarendon Press.
5. Joshi, Hari Ram, 2030 VS *Nepal Ka Prachin Abhilekh (Ancient inscriptions of Nepal)* Kathmandu: Royal Nepal Academy .
6. Ojha, G.H 1959,. *Bharatiya Prachin Lipimala (A Garland of Ancient Indian Scripts)*, Delhi : Munshiram Manoharlal,
7. Regmi, D.R, 1983, **Inscriptions of Ancient Nepal** (Vol I, II, III) New Delhi : Abhinav Publications.
8. Regmi, D.C. **V.S.2060., Puralekhan ra Abhilekh (Palaeography and Epigraphy)**, Kathmandu: Himalaya Book Stall.
9. Sircur, D.C., 1965 **Indian Epigraphy**, Delhi Motilal Vanarasi dass .