

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Monsoon/Winter Semester

School: Undergraduate Studies

Programme with title: BA History (Honours)

Semester to which offered: (I/II/ III/IV/ V/VI) Winter

Course Title: Modern and Post-modern World 1750-2010

Credits: 4

Course Code (new): SUS1HS405

Course Code (old):

Type of Course:	Compulsory	Yes	Cohort	BA (H) History
	Elective	Yes	Cohort	BA (H) other than History

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory) X
4. Discipline (Elective)
5. Elective X

Course Coordinator and Team: TBD

Email of course coordinator:

Pre-requisites: NONE

Aim: It focuses on the emergence and progression of modern and postmodern world. It lays bare the nature of and reasons responsible for the great divergence, as it were, between the north Atlantic and the Asians. It discusses the significance of advancement of modernity– the claim for progress in the shape of formation of a virtuous world on the basis of reason, rationalism, individualism, worldliness, naturalism, common good and economic prosperity. Equally, it considers the germination of postmodernity – the emphasis on perspectivism, personal autonomy, difference and refutation of the modernist claims for

seamless progress. Here, modernity and postmodernity are not viewed as a force imposed by the West on 'The Rest'. Rather, it was something emerging from the new pattern of interactions between commercial-industrial societies of the northern and western hemispheres and the peoples of the East and South, who witnessed a comparatively advanced early modern past, colonial downfall and ex-colonial reconstruction / resurgence.

The economic order of modernity is characterized by the driving concerns for affluence, accelerating consumption, intensification of resource use and sustained (technological) growth. Modern polity is characterized by the nation-state, developmental state, and military fiscalism; characterized by the centrality of citizenship, civic rights and political representation. The changes in social structure involve the identification of persons on the basis of 'individual' merit or roles rather than inherited or ascribed status, the collapse of primordial social relationships ('orders' of society) and formation of new classes and social categories. The shifts in cultural patterns, occurring in tandem with social changes, include secularization, entrenchment of scientific and professional ethics, privatization of many areas of social life, the establishment of status based on consumption, and more rigorous segregation of leisure from labour/work. By contrast, information accumulation (the function of ICT and service economy as the basis of sustained economic growth) and the preeminence of finance capital characterize the beginning of postmodern world from the third quarter of the 20thc and onwards. A shift from the polity of discipline to that of control and bio-politics defines its political order. The presence of accentuated inequality, a large proportion of the precariat population in the midst of surfeit, on one side, and the demand for autonomous individuality and difference, and a critique of surveillance and disciplinarian power, on the other, are noticeable in this world. All these issues form different modules of this course.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

- I. Asia and Western Europe in comparison before domination and colonization efforts of the European; the Agrarian economic changes, Proto-industrialisation and Proto-capitalism in Europe and Asia; and the Slave economy on the plantation in the Americas, Africa and Asia.
- II. the Meaning of Modernity; Tendencies and Geographies of Early Modern World: the Humanist Revolution: renaissance, reformation, the Copernican revolution.
- III. Strands of enlightenment thoughts and practices; Political strives for liberty, equality, fraternity, happiness, prosperity, and utilitarianism in the 19thc.
- IV. Strands of enhanced-modernity and Postmodernity; Political strives for freedom, equality, peace, happiness, social justice in the 20thc and 21stc; conflicts between secularism and religious matters; prosperity and fragility of the eco-system.
- V. The first Industrial revolution; 'modern industrialization path'; social problems of the industrialising society in the 18th and 19thc.
- VI. The second industrial revolution; new geographies of late industrialization; protectionism or import substitution; human resource development and R&D; fordism; scientific management (taylorism); the great depression; social life in the late-19thc and early-20thc.
- VII. Economic life and its philosophies in the 19th and 20thc: Capitalism, Utilitarianism, Colonialism/Imperialism and Socialism/Communism; Underdevelopment, De-colonization and ex-colonial resurgence; Information accumulation and postmodernisation of the economy; Postmodernism; Multiculturalism.

VIII. A case of Islamicate world: the Ottoman Empire, its predicament, breakdown and reorganization.

Reading List:

1. Heuman, G. and T. Burnard, *The History of Slavery*, Oxen: Routledge, 2011
2. Gay, Peter, *The Enlightenment, a Reinterpretation: The Science of Freedom*, 1976. [essential]
3. Pomeranz, K, *The Great Divergence: Western Europe, China and Japan and the Making of Modern World Economy*, 2002. [essential]
4. Arrighi, G, *The Resurgence of East Asia: Perspectives of 1000, 500, 100, and 50 years*, 2003.
5. Clark, G, *Farewell to Alms: A brief economic history of the world*, Princeton University Press, 2007.
6. Allen, Robert C, *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*, Cambridge, 2009. [four chapters: essential]
7. Parthasarathi, Prasannan. *Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia Did Not: Global Economic Divergence, 1600-1850*, Cambridge, 2011.
8. Nayyar, Deepak. *Catch Up: Developing Countries in the World Economy*, 2013. [last three chapters: essential]
9. Piketty, Thomas, *Capital of the Twenty-First Century*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014.
10. Arrighi, Giovanni. *The Long Twentieth Century: Money, Power, and the Origins of Our Times*, 1994.
11. Braudel, Fernand. *Civilisation and Capitalism, vol. III: the perspective of the world*, 1984. [chapters – 4, 5, 6.]
12. Hardt and Negri, *Empire*, Harvard University Press, 2000. [essential]
13. Foucault, Michel. *The Order of Things*, 1966. [essential]
14. Bayly, C.A. *The Birth of Modern World, 1780-1914*, 2009. [chapters on the political revolutions, the 2nd Industrial Wave, the Ottoman Empire]
15. Hobsbawm, EJ. *The Age of Extremes, 1914-91*. [chapters on the USSR and the Arabs: essential]
16. Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation*, 1956.
17. de Vries, Jean. *The Industrious Revolution: Consumer Behaviour and the Household Economy from 1650 to the Present*, 2008.
18. Maddison, A. *Monitoring the World Economy, 1820-1992*.
19. Wallerstein, Immanuel. *The Decline of American Power*, 2003.
20. Wallerstein, I. *The Modern World System vol. III: the second great expansion of the capitalist world-economy 1730-1840s*, 1989.
21. Wallerstein, I. *The Modern World System vol. IV: the triumphant of centrist liberalism, 1789-1914*, 2011.

Historical documents

1. Paine, Tom, *The Rights of Man*, 1790; *Common Sense*, 1774.
2. de Gouges, Olympe, *The Declaration of the Rights of Women*, 1791.
3. List, F. *The System of National Economy*, 1885.
4. Nehru, J. *The Discovery of India*, 1946; *Glimpses of World History*, 1935/2003.
5. Fanon, F. *The Wretched of the Earth*, 1961.
6. Mandela, N. *A Long Walk to Freedom*, 2006.
7. Foucault, M. *The Order of Things*, 1986.

Secondary Readings:

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Assessment	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Essay	Mid semester	40%
2	Essay	End semester	40%
3	Weekly discussion	Weekly	20%
4			