School of Liberal Studies
Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Time Slot: _________________

Course Code: SLS2HS310

Title: Experiences of Working People in the Indian Sub-Continent

Type of Course: Discipline (History)

Cohort for which it is compulsory: MA History

Cohort for which it is elective: All others

No of Credits: 6

Semester and Year Offered: 4th Semester (Winter Semester 2018)

Course Coordinator and Team: Dr Dhiraj Kumar Nite

Email of course coordinator: dhiraj@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites: None.

Aim: This course will equip the student with research techniques, and engage them with philosophy and practice of socio-economic history of the labour processes and wellbeing.

A brief description of modules/ Main modules: This is a seminar course to be available to the student of MA history at fourth semester. It posits the life of working people as a site of understanding of the condition of the vast segment of Indian society and grasping the relationship between human life and the pattern of value formation or accumulation. The course examines experiences of labouring people in its totality, as it were, on the Indian subcontinent during the 17th and the 20thc. It focuses on the wage relations, work-time relations, workplace risks, the gendering of labour relations, familial life, leisure culture, labour laws and the political interface between workers, employers and the state. It equips the budding researcher with the methodology concerned with this particular subject, question formulation, narrative structure, conceptual and theoretical framework, and the archival and oral data generation.

Assessment Details with weights:

1) Historiographical exercise in the first month of the course and its presentation;
2) Generation of archival and oral data in the subsequent months;
3) Monthly presentation of the data analysis.
4) Final presentation towards the end of semester.
A Brief Reading List:


Chakrabarty, Dipesh, 2001/07, Provincialising Europe: postcolonial thought and historical difference (Chapters: Two Histories of Capital; Translating Life-worlds into Labour and History).


Chibber, V. 2005. ‘From Class Compromise to Class Accommodation: Labor’s Incorporation into the Indian Political Economy’, in Mary Katzenstein and Raka Ray (eds), *Social Movements and Poverty in India*, Rowman and Littlefield.


Mohapatra, P. *Immobilising Labour: Recruitment under the the Indentured Labour System in Assam and West Indies*, A NLI paper series.


