

**2: Society, Culture and Polity of North East India**

Course No.	: PhD02/Integrated MPhil-PhD02
Course Title	: Society, Culture, and Polity of North East India
Course In-charge (s)	: Prof Monirul Hussain & Prof M Amarjeet Singh
Credits	: 4.0
Method of Instruction	: Lecture & Group Discussions
Evaluation	: Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit) End-semester final examination (75/3 Credit)

**Course Objective:**

This course is aimed at developing an understanding of North East of India on a range of issues. This course will introduce students to selected topics to understand society and politics of North East India..

**Evaluation procedures:**

Grades for this course are based upon classroom participation and the following grading instruments:

Assignments	10%
Mid-term examination	15%
Final examination	75%

The main themes of the course are divided into four units.

**Unit I: Situating the North East**

Lecture per unit  
7

- People, State & Livelihoods
- Ideas of border, borderland, frontier and periphery
- Diversity
- Development
- Traditional institutions
- Institutions of local self governance

**Unit II: Colonial Intervention**

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- Advent of the colonial rule
- Political transformation
- Constituent Assembly debates
- Economic transformation

**Unit-III: Partition and border**

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- Border and livelihood
- Migration
- Border management

**Unit-IV: Insurgency and Ethnicity**

- Geopolitics
- Insurgency
- Ethnic politics
- Politics of peace

**Reading list**

- Alexander Mackenzie, *The North East Frontier of India*, (Originally published in 1884, reproduced in 2011)
- Ashley South, *Ethnic Politics in Burma: States of Conflict*, 2008
- Chaube, S.K. *Hill Politics in Northeast India*. New Delhi: Orient Longman, 1999.
- Barpujari, HK, *Assam in the Days of the Company*, 1963.
- Elwin V., *A Philosophy of NEFA*, 1959a
- Elwin V., *India's North East Frontier in Nineteenth Century*, 1959b
- Gait, E., *A History of Assam*, 1926
- Government of Assam, *White Paper on Foreigners' Issue*, 2012
- John Coakley, *The Territorial Management of Ethnic Conflict*, 2003
- Mackenzie, Alexander, *History of Relations of the Government and the Hill Tribes of the North East Frontier of Bengal*, 1884
- Paul R. Brass, *The Politics of India Since Independence* (Second Edition), 1994
- Rustomji Nari, *Imperiled Frontiers: India's North-Eastern Borderlands*, 1983
- Sajal Nag, *India and North East India: Mind Politics and the Process of Integration 1946-1950*, 1998
- Singha, Komol & M. Amarjeet Singh: *Identity, Contestation and Development in Northeast India*, 2016.
- Singha, Komol: *Understanding ethnicity-based autonomy movements: A study of Manipur*, *Studies in Indian Politics*, 2017, 5(1): 55-66.
- Syiemlieh David R (Ed.), *Challenges of Development of North East India*, 2006
- Ted Robert Gurr, *Peoples versus States: Minorities at Risk in the New Century*
- Willem van Schendel, *The Bengal Borderland; Beyond State and Nation in South Asia*, 2005

**: Women in India's North East: Voices, Spaces and Conflict**

Course No.	: PhD06/Integrated MPhil-PhD06
Course Title Conflict	: Women in India's North East: Voices, Spaces and
Course In-charge (s)	: Prof. Simi Malhotra
Credits	: 4.0
Method of Instruction	: Lecture & Group Discussions
Evaluation	: Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit) End-semester final examination (75/3 Credit)

**Course objective:**

The course will introduce students to India's North- eastern region through a gendered lens to understand the region through a feminist sensitivity and criticality by looking at the culture and memories, politics and dilemmas of the people, especially women, over the ages. It will also look at agencies of change and how the region has been represented, and shaped and consequently evolved over time as a result of the interface with different agents and forces from the colonial period to the present day, especially women.

**Evaluation procedures:**

Grades for this course are based upon classroom participation and the following grading instruments:

Assignments	10%
Mid-term examination	15%
Final examination	75%

The main themes of the course are divided into three units.

**UNIT I: Framing of the India's North East**

Lectures per Unit: 8

- Trajectories of History and Identity
- Race, Ethnicity and Culture
- Impact of Christianity in the region
- Gendered History- or the lack of it

**UNIT II: Realities of the Gendered Space- Assumptions and Realities**

Lectures per Unit: 6

- Matrilineal Societies
- Political Representation
- Customary Laws and Practices



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- Contribution of Women to the labour and economy of the region
- Women's Movement in the North East

### UNIT III: Conflict and its Impact on Women

Lectures per Unit: 8

- History of conflict in the region
- AFSPA
- Effect of conflict on women
- Women in Civil Society Movements

#### Reading List

Adino Vitso, *Customary Law and Women- The Chakhesang Nagas*. 2003

Aparna Mahanta, 'Patriarchy and the state system in Northeast India: A Historical and Critical Perspective' in Kumkum Sangari and Uma Chakravarti (eds.), *From Myths to Markets: Essays on Gender*. 1999

Arkotong Longkumer, "Who sings for the Hornbill?" *The Performance and Politics of Culture in Nagaland, Northeast India. The South Asianist*. Vol.2, no.2

Asad, Talal, *Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter*. 1973

Banerjee, Paula, "Between two Armed Patriarchies: Women in Assam and Nagaland", in Rita

Manchanda, (Ed.), *Women, War and Peace in South Asia: Beyond Victimhood to Agency*. 2007

Baruah, Manjeet, "Assamese Language, Narrative and the Making of the North East Frontier of India: Beyond Regional Indian Literary Studies", in *Modern Asian Studies*. 2012

Bodhisattva Kar, "Can the Postcolonial Begin?: Deprovincializing Assam", in Saurabh Dube (ed.), *Handbook of Modernity in South Asia: Modern Makeovers*. 2011

Borooah, Romy. "Transformations in Trade and the Constitution of Gender and Rank in Northeast India", in *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 27, No. 2. 2000

Chatterjee, Partha, *The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*. 1993

Chatterjee, Piya, *A Time for Tea: Women, Labor, and Post/Colonial Politics on an Indian Plantation*, 2001

Gill, Preeti. (Ed.), Introduction: Engaging with the Northeast: The 'outsiders' looks 'in' *The Peripheral Centre: Voices from India's Northeast*. 2013