Courses of at M.Phil/ Ph.D Level

1. Research Methods in Humanities and Social Sciences MPhil/PhD-01 (Compulsory) (pg 2-3)
2. Society, Culture and Polity of North East India MPhil/PhD-02 (Compulsory) (pg 4-5)
3. Writings from North East India: Poetry, Fiction & Non-Fiction MPhil/PhD-03 (optional) (pg 23-25)
4. Folk Cultures of North East India MPhil/PhD-04 (optional) (pg 17-19)
5. Tribes, Epistemology and Methods of Enquiry in North East MPhil/PhD-05 (optional) (pg 12-16)
6. Women in India’s North East: Voices, Spaces and Conflict MPhil/PhD-06 (optional) (pg 26-28)
7. Rights, resources and identities: Matrix of Ecological Politics in North East India MPhil/PhD-07 (optional) (pg 7-11)
8. Politics of Domination, Dissent, Resistance and Conflict MPhil/PhD-08 (optional) (pg 20-22)
9. Developing an Annotated Bibliography MPhil/PhD-09 (Compulsory) (pg 6)

*The scholar is required to choose one paper out of the 6 optional papers
1: Research Methods in Humanities and Social Sciences

Course No. : PhD01/Integrated M.Phil-PhD01
Course Title : Research Methods in Humanities and Social Sciences
Course In-charge (s) : Prof. Tiplut Nongbri
Credits : 4.0
Method of Instruction : Lecture & Group Discussions
Evaluation : Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit)
End-semester examination (75/3 Credit)

Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to introduce basic concepts and techniques of social science research and develop research capabilities of the students. The course hopes to give them hands-on experience in preparing them for their research work.

This course is compulsory.

Evaluation procedures:

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

Assignments 10%
Mid-term examination 15%
End-semester examination 75%

The course is divided into five units:

Unit I: Social science research
- Principles of social research
- Types and stages of research
- Research ethics
- Why social science research methods?

Unit II: Designing of research
- Research proposal
- Literature review
- Research design
- Qualitative methods
- Quantitative methods

Unit III: Data collection
- Sampling
- Case study method

Lecture per unit
8
7
7
Content analysis
Questionnaire
Interview
Field observation
Conducting research in conflict zones

**Unit IV: Data analysis**  
6  
Qualitative data
Quantitative data

**Unit V: Regional Studies**  
3  
Techniques of analysis

**Reading list**


Johannes Wheeldon, Mauri K. Ahlberg, *Visualizing Social Science Research: Maps, Methods, & Meaning*, 2012


2: Society, Culture and Polity of North East India

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<tr>
<th>Course No.</th>
<th>PhD02/Integrated MPhil-PhD02</th>
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<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Society, Culture, and Polity of North East India</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Prof. Monirul Hussain</td>
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<td>Lecture &amp; Group Discussions</td>
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<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit) End-semester final examination (75/3 Credit)</td>
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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
- People, State & Livelihoods
- Ideas of border, borderland, frontier and periphery
- Diversity
- Development
- Traditional institutions
- Institutions of local self governance

Lecture per unit 7

Unit II: Colonial Intervention
- Advent of the colonial rule
- Political transformation
- Constituent Assembly debates
- Economic transformation

Lecture per unit 5

Unit-III: Partition and border
- Border and livelihood
- Migration

Lecture per unit 6
• Border management

**Unit-IV: Insurgency and Ethnicity**
- Geopolitics
- Insurgency
- Ethnic politics
- Politics of peace

**Reading list**


Elwin V., *A Philosophy of NEFA*, 1959a

Elwin V., *India’s North East Frontier in Nineteenth Century*, 1959b


Mackenzie, Alexander, *History of Relations of the Government and the Hill Tribes of the North East Frontier of Bengal*, 1884


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

Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

**THEORY (M.Phil-Ph.D-09)**

Developing an Annotated Bibliography/ Review of Literature

Course Mentor: Prof. Amarjeet Singh

This is a tailor-made paper offered to the research scholars in accordance with their interest area. Here each scholar is required to review three books/texts depending upon their area of interest based on which a review essay is written. The students are individually guided by the concerned professor in developing an annotated bibliography. The main aim of this paper is to impart the skill of review of literature, content analysis etc. which forms the basis of M.Phil. dissertation/ Ph.D. Thesis in the subsequent semesters.
07: Rights, resources and identities: Matrix of Ecological Politics in North East India

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<td>: Rights, resources and identities: Matrix of Ecological Politics in North East India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course In-charge (s)</td>
<td>: Sunil Pradhan</td>
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</table>
| Evaluation          | : Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit)  
                          End-semester examination (75/3 Credit) |

**Course Objective:**
This course is aimed at developing an understanding of the North East region of India through the theoretical and methodological approach of political ecology, the study of socio-ecological systems that focuses on conflict, power relationships and the unequal distribution of environmental costs and benefits. The course will thus initiate the students in carefully examining the socio political articulations in the region in the context of the interfaces between people, nature and nation state. Specially in the light that most of the conflicts in post colonial northeast are related to issues of resource control amidst the growing inability of the people to interact meaningfully to the ecological habitat (Karlsson, 2011) and the growing understanding that ‘varieties of nationalism are mediated and constructed through reference to the natural’ (Cederlof and Sivaramakrishnan, 2015), engagements with political ecological approach will provide the students with fresh insights to examine the nature of state-society interactions and identity construction in North East India.

**Evaluation procedure:**
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: Understanding the North East as an ecological unit and a site of ecological politics**

**Lecture per unit : 8**

- Ecological politics: theories and perspectives
- Ecological question and the paradigms of development in the Northeast: from colonial to post-colonial
- Climate change debates in the context of Northeast India

**Unit II: Ecology and the society in North East India: the interfaces**

**Lecture per unit : 8**

- Ecological Nationalism as a framework: issue of identities and community rights in the North East
- Nature, culture and religion in North East India: interfaces
- Ecology and gender practices: with a focus on eco feminist critiques

**Unit-III: State, social movements and disputes in North East India: The ecological context**

**Lecture per unit : 8**

- Making of a hydraulic frontier: disputes over water resources and dams
- Issues of forest rights and resources: the narratives and the unfolding.
- Dispute over minings and minerals extractions
- Case Studies from each state.
- Political Economy of Green Growth In North East India: State led Green Initiatives, Organic Agriculture, Eco Tourism

**Unit-IV: North East in transition: challenges and concerns, the ecological perspective**

**Lecture per unit : 10**

- Issue of displacement and the ‘climate refugees’
- Ecology of ‘out migration’ and ‘in migration’: the consequences
- Politics of compensation and rehabilitation
- Ecological politics under the era of Neo-liberalism in India: Energy and carbon emission in North East India
- Trans border cooperation and Act East initiative: the ecological perspective.
Reading list


Cederlöf, Gunnel. 2013. Founding an Empire on India’s North-Eastern Frontiers, 1790-1840, Oxford University Press.


Deka Meeta. 2013. Women's Agency and Social Change: Assam and Beyond, Sage Studies on India's North East, New Delhi, SAGE.


5: Tribes, Epistemology and Methods of Enquiry in North East

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<tr>
<th>Course No</th>
<th>PhD05/Integrated MPhil-PhD05</th>
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<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Tribes, Epistemology and Methods of Enquiry in North East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course In-Charge</td>
<td>Dr. Chinmayi Sarma</td>
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<td>End-semester examination (75/3 Credit)</td>
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Course objective:

This course attempts to make a critical engagement with tribes, epistemology and methods of enquiry in North East India. The learning objectives of this course is to build an embedded theoretical approach to understand tribes in a state context, situating the foundational value of ecology, history and culture as viewed from the reality of tribes, understanding epistemological issues and its political implication on the tribes, developing tribe centric perspective and methods of social science research. The course will also orient students towards contextualizing methods and approaches while engaging on knowledge production.

Evaluation procedure:

- Assignment : 15%
- Presentation : 10%
- Final Examination : 75%

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

Unit-I: The Tribal Question: Conceptual Categories:

- Perspectives on Tribes and the State: Colonialism, Nation-State, Nationalism, Oriental Others, Natives and Nation, Subject-Citizen Dichotomy;
- Tribal Identity & its Construction: Ethnicity, Tribe & Caste Continuum, Tribe-Peasant Continuum, Schedule Tribe and Adivasi, Tribe as Indigenous People;
- Tribal Culture: Culture and Politics, Tribe in Transition: Perspectives from Within.
Unit-II: Tribal Epistemology: Lectures per Unit: 9

- Tribe and Social Structure: Kinship & Clan, Gender Norms, Political Systems, Beliefs and Rituals, Cosmology and Worldview;
- Tribe and Ecology: History and Contemporary, Ecological Romanticism, Forest Communities
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems;
- Legal Framework and Tribal Question, PESA

Unit-III: Theory and Critique: Lectures per Unit: 6

- Science and Tribal Society (an object of enquiry): positivism, empiricism and constructivism; functionalism and structuralism, essentialism and elementalism, tribal studies;
- Representation of Tribe: Discourses and Difference, Politics of Colonial Ethnographer, Tribes as Static Societies, Death of Tribes, Universal Altruism versus Universal Individualism;
- Social Anthropology and Tribe.

Unit-IV: Enquiring About the North East: Framework and Methods: Lectures per Unit: 7

- Methods: Historical Re-construction, Rational Re-construction, Narratives, Discourse Analysis,
- Alternative Framework for Re-imagination of the Tribal Question: Decolonizing Methodologies, Subjectivism and Hermeneutics, Phenomenology; Indigenous methods, Context Dependent Methods versus Generalization-Dependent Methods; Disciplinary versus Interdisciplinary; Value and Ethics of Research.
Reading List


Akhup, Alex. 2016 (ed.). Identities and Their Struggles in North East (Tribal and Adivasi Studies: Perspectives From Within 2). Kolkata: Adivaani.


Nandini Sundar. 2016. The Scheduled Tribes and their India, Delhi, OUP.


4: Folk Cultures of North East India

<table>
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<th>Course No.</th>
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<td>Folk Cultures of North East India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course In-charge (s)</td>
<td>Debajit Bora</td>
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<td>End-semester final examination (75/3 Credit)</td>
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Course objective:

This course intends to introduce students to the basic theories of folklores and folkloristics and analyzing oral traditions, folk forms and folk cultures in India while comparing it to the oral traditions, folk theatre, folk arts, folk music and other folk forms of the north eastern region of India. The paper would aim to locate the north east in the larger scheme of the folk traditions prevalent in the country.

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: Introduction to Folkloristics**

- What is Folklore?
- Folklore and folkloristics
- Theories and Methods

**Lectures per Unit**

8

**Unit II: Introduction to Indian folklore**

- Introduction and growth of Folklore Studies in India
- Oral traditions
- Folk Art and Culture
- Folk Performances
- Other Folk Forms

**Lectures per Unit**

8
Unit III: Folk cultures and Traditions of North East India  

- Oral Traditions of the region  
- Folk Theatre of the region  
- Folk arts tradition of the region  
- Music and crafts of the region  
- Other Folk Forms of the region  

Reading List  

Bareh, H, *The History and Culture of the Khasi People*. 1985  


Datta, Birendranath, *Folklore and Historiography*. 2002  

Desmond L Kharmawphlang, ‘*When the stone crumbles*’, In *Indian Folklore Research Journal*. Vol.1 No.1. 2001  


Dundes, Alan (ed), *The Study of Folklore*. 1965  

Dundes, Alan, *Interpreting Folklore*. 1980  

Dundes Alan, *Analytical Essays in Folklore*. 1975  

Dutta, Birendranath, (Ed) *Traditional Performing Arts of North East India*. 1990  


Elwin Verrier, *The Art of North- East Frontier of India, North East Frontier Agency Shillong*  


Handoo, J, *Folklore in Modern India*. 2008


Kharmawphlang, Desmond L & Sen, Soumen, *Orality and Beyond A North-East Indian Perspective*. 2007

Khiangte, Lalitluangliana, *Folktales of Mizoram*. 1997


Murasingh, Chandrakanta, *Kokborok Folksongs, Tales and Myths*. 2008


Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri, “*The Institutionalization of Tribal Religion Recasting the Donyi-Polo Movement in Arunachal Pradesh*” *Asian Ethnology Volume 72, Number 2*, 2011


8: Politics of Domination, Dissent, Resistance and Conflict

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<td>: Politics of Domination, Dissent, Resistance and Conflict</td>
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<td>Course In-charge</td>
<td>: K Kokho</td>
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<td>Evaluation</td>
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**Course objective:**

This course examines the emergence of domination, dissent and resistance in both historical and contemporary contexts, and the relationship of domination, dissent and resistance movements to social change in the North East.

This course focuses on exploring the root cause, nature and context of conflict in the North East by delving through the historical relationship between communities and experiences of colonialism and de-colonialism to understand the culture of domination, dissent and resistance. It also examines the socio-historical and political inter-linkages with the ongoing conflicts in the region.

**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: Conceptual understanding**

- Domination
- Dissent
- Resistance
- Conflict

**Unit II: Pre-colonial era inter-community relationship**

- Pre-colonial life of the North East
- State (Traditional) system
- Inter-community relations
- Hill-Valley interfaces

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<th>Lecture per unit</th>
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Unit-III: Impact of colonialism and de-colonialisation

- Colonial encounter
- Socio-cultural, political and economic transformation
- Processes of de-colonialisation/neo-colonisation
- North East States Re-organisation

Unit-IV: Understanding the ongoing protracted conflict

- Historical interpretations and imaginations
- Geo-political, economic and ethnic driven politics
- State policies and responses
- Politics of ceasefires and peace talks
- Envisioning a new future

Reading List


Vahabzadeh, Peyman. 2002. *Articulated Experiences: Toward a Radical Phenomenology of Contemporary Social Movements* (*Suny Series in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences*)
3: Writings from North East India: Poetry, Fiction & Non-Fiction

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Writings from North East India: Poetry, Fiction &amp; Non-Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course In-charge (s)</td>
<td>Prof. Simi Malhotra</td>
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Course objective:

This course is aimed at developing an understanding of the literature from the North East region of India. This course will introduce students to writings from the region in terms of poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

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 Literature from North East India

Lectures per Unit

- Bengali Renaissance and its Effect on Assam and others
- Christianity and Introduction of Print Media in the North East
- Emerging Literatures from North East India - An Overview

UNIT II: Poetry

Lectures per Unit

- Thangjam Ibopishak Singh
- Desmond Kharmawphlang
- Robin Ngangom
- Kynpam Sing Nongkynrih
- Mamang Dai

(Various works of the abovementioned poets would be studied to give an idea about the body of their work and their concerns)

UNIT III: Fiction

Lectures per Unit

- Temsula Ao, “These Hills Called Home”
- Mamang Dai, “The Legends of Pensam”
- Esterine Kire, “Bitter Wormwood”
- Esterine Iralu, “A Terrible Matriarchy”
- Siddharta Deb, “The Blind Witness”
- Anjum Hassan, “Lunatic in My Head”
- Janice Pariat, “Boats on Land”
- Aruni Kashyap, “The House with A Thousand Stories”

UNIT IV: Non Fiction

Lectures per Unit

- Sanjoy Hazarika, “Strangers in the Mist”
- Mamang Dai, “Arunachal Pradesh: The Hidden Land”
- Binodini, “The Maharaja’s Household: A Daughter’s Memories of Her Father”
- Nandita Haskar, “Across the Chicken Neck: Travels in Northeast India”

Reading List
Baruah, Manjeet, *Frontier Culture: A Social History of Assamese Literature*, 2012


Bayly, C.A., *Empire and Information: Intelligence Gathering and Social Communication in India*. 1999

Cohn, Bernard, “Colonialism and its Form of Knowledge: The British in India”. *The Bernard Cohn Omnibus*. 2011

Gurdon, P.R.T., *The Khasis*. 2010

Hazarika, Sanjoy, *The Rites of Passage*. 2000

Hazarika, Sanjoy, *Writing on the Wall*. 2008


Margaret Zama (Ed), *Emerging Literatures from North East India: The Dynamics of Cultures, Society and Identity*. 2013


Mishra, Udayon, *The Periphery Strikes Back: Challenges to the Nation- State in Assam and Nagaland*. 2011


Preeti Gill (Ed), *The Peripheral Centre: Voices from India’s Northeast*. 2013


Tillotama Misra (Ed), *The Oxford Anthology of Writings from North East India*, Volume I. 2010

Tillotama Misra (Ed), *The Oxford Anthology of Writings from North East India*, Volume II. 2010
 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
• 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


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


Kikon, Dolly, *Experience of the Naga Women in Armed Conflict: Narratives from a Militarised Society*. 2004


Nandini Thockchom, “Meira Paibi The role of women’s movements in Meitei society”, in Preeti Gill (Ed.), *The Peripheral Centre: Voices from India’s Northeast*. 2013

Nongbri, Tipltut, “Ethnicity and Gender: Identity Politics among the Khasi”, in Mary E. John (Ed.), *Women’s Studies in India: A Reader*. 2008


Ramirez, Phillippe, *People of the Margins: Across Ethnic Boundaries in North-East India*. 2014

Sharma, Jayeeta, *Empire’s Garden: Assam and the Making of India*. 2011

Syiem, Esther, “Khasi Matrilineal Society: The Paradox within”, in Preeti Gill (Ed.), *The Peripheral Centre: Voices from India’s Northeast*. 2013