
Democracy and Historical Writing

Course Overview

Democracy, development and culture are three thrust areas around which Social Sciences and Humanities at the Savitribai Phule Pune University are concentrating their research efforts. A strong and robust democracy can thrive in a society that has a rich tradition of multiple historical narratives written in a responsible and humane manner. In a maturing democratic nation such as India, social scientists always feel the need to achieve the critical balance between the factual and interpretative perspectives of historical narration. History needs to offer a place to voices from all sections of the society; and it also needs to make a meaningful narrative with a sound theoretical base. An orientation in the fundamentals of the idea of democracy and historical writing would be useful for students, researchers and teachers of all social sciences, especially history and political science.

An interactive and bilingual course on Democracy and Historical Writing is being offered at the Department of History of SPPU. Professor Antoon de Baets from the University of Groningen in Netherlands is an internationally acclaimed historian with three decades of experience and serious research in History, Ethics and Human rights. He will conduct the course entitled 'Democracy and Historical Writing'. Dr. Kumbhojkar of the Department of History will provide simultaneous Marathi translation to ensure vigorous participation in discussions.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the course are as follows:

1. Familiarising the participants with the basic idea of Democracy as a historically evolved concept.
2. Enabling the participants to visualise the linkages between democracy and the process of history writing.
3. Providing insights to the participants as to how historical writing can be practiced so as to enshrine democratic attitudes and worldview amongst the practitioners and 'consumers' of history.
4. Examining case studies based on European as well as Asian events which can underline the relationship between historical writing and the concept of democracy.

Course details

The course will be a combination of *ex cathedra* lectures with simultaneous Marathi Translation followed by discussion with participants. Pre-circulation of relevant materials will ensure that the discussions are focused around specific ideas and interpretations.

Proposed Programme with some scope for eventual modification is as follows-

5th June 2017	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Historian	14-00 to 17-00
6th June 2017	The Dead and the Historian	14-00 to 17-00
7th June 2017	The Freedom of Expression Framework Applied to History	14-00 to 17-00
8th June 2017	Responsible and Irresponsible History	14-00 to 17-00
9th June 2017	Historical Injustice and What Historians Can Do about It	14-00 to 17-00
10th June 2017	Democracy and Historical Writing	14-00 to 17-00

Dates	June 5-10, 2017. Maximum Number of participants: 60.
Who Can Attend?	Anybody with an interest in the course topic and adequate basic training in History and/or Social Sciences may attend. The course is designed for advanced undergraduates or graduate/postgraduate researchers. Specialised knowledge of Historiography is not required. Participants should have basic knowledge of the theory and practice of History and should be engaged in the process of historical/social scientific research and writing. Selection on first-come-first-served basis after ensuring reasonable background (total capacity: 60; some seats reserved for students from the Savitribai Phule Pune University). Resume/CV with an English/Marathi statement of interest/purpose (200 words) is REQUIRED for selection and registration.
Fees	One-Time GIAN Registration: Visit http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/GREGN/ Course Fees: Those affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University or affiliated colleges: No fee, but registration on GIAN website is required. Those affiliated to other academic institutions, research institutes, NGOs, etc.: ₹ 1000. Others: ₹ 2000. Fees cover any instructional material provided by the expert faculty and tea with light snacks. Out-station candidates need to arrange for food, transport and accommodation on their own. 100% attendance is necessary to be eligible for certificate of participation. Appearing for evaluations/examinations during the course is necessary for certificate of grades in the course.



Antoon de Baets is a Professor of History, Ethics and Human Rights by Special Appointment of the Foundation Euroclio at the University of Groningen. (the Netherlands) His area of expertise is relationship between history, ethics and human rights. He has more than 175 articles, including 5 books to his credit on subjects related to History, Ethics, Democracy and Responsible History Writing, among others. He has won prestigious grants of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), and the annual history prize from the Belgian province of East Flanders. He has consistently worked as the head of the Network of Concerned Historians for the last twenty-one years. He has been a member of the International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography since 1995. His expertise in the field of history and ethics as also his experience of already having offered a course on Democracy and Historical Writing will prove valuable in conducting this course.

Course Coordinator

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GIAN One-Time

Registration

<http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/GREGN/>