

Programme Code:

Course name: Introduction to Himalayan Studies

Course Code:

Course Credit: 4

Marks Allotted: 75, (Theoretical: 60, Continuing Evaluation: 15)

Course Type: Basket (Multidisciplinary)

Brief Course Description:

This introductory course on Himalayan Studies is intended to provide an overview of the region to the undergraduate students. It is hoped an engagement with this course will make their training in their respective specialized fields more inclusive and grounded. Having initiated with the basics of Himalayan Studies the young minds will be able to relate their studies within a context in the vicinity of which not only the University but their lives and residences are located.

Prerequisites:

- i) General interest and curiosity to know unknown landscapes
- ii) Intention to contextualize studies and acquired skills

Knowledge acquired:

- i) Understanding the geophysical details of the region
- ii) Understanding the socio-economic, political importance of the region
- iii) Understanding the ecological significance of the region

Skills gained:

- i) Ability to treat Himalaya as significant for academic and policy perspectives
- ii) Skills to explicate Himalaya's relevance for the region we live in

Competency developed:

- i) Competency to relate the specialized training in one's local context
- ii) Capacity to consider Himalaya not merely as a resource
- iii) Competency to value and appreciate the distinctiveness of the landmass

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course code INTRODUCTION TO HIMALAYAN STUDIES **Marks: 75**

15 hrs. × 4 units+10 hrs. for Continuing evaluation assignment **4**
Credits

Unit I: Himalaya Physical – Geographic regions, Climatic divisions, River systems, Forest types

Unit II: Himalaya Socio-Economic – Pilgrimage, Pastoral Nomadism, Shifting Cultivation, Plantations, Tourism, Mountaineering,

Unit III: Himalaya Geo-Political - Strategic Importance, Chinese Interest and Security Concerns, Water Diplomacy

Unit IV: Himalaya Ecological – Major Ecological Threats, Hydropower Projects, Ecological Resistances/ Movements, National Mission of Himalayan Studies (NMHS)

Reading List

Bhattacharya-Panda, Nandini. (2015). *Culture, Heritage and Identity*. New Delhi: K. W. Publishers Private limited.

Bose, S.C. (1972). *Geography of the Himalaya*. New Delhi: National Book Trust.

Chaube, S. K. Ed. (1985). *The Himalayas: Profiles of Modernisation and Adaptation*. New Delhi: Sterling Publishing House.

Choudhury, Maitreyee. Ed. (2008). *Himalayan Studies in India*. New Delhi: Mittal Publications.

Datta, Karubaki. Ed. (2006). *Urbanisation in the Eastern Himalayas: Emergence and issues*, New Delhi: Serials Publications.

Datta, Karubaki. Ed. (2017). *Man, and Forest in the Himalayas and Northeast India*. New Delhi: B. R. Publishing Corporation.

Gunaratne, Arjun. Ed. (2010). *Culture and the Environment in the Himalaya*. London: Routledge.

Lall, J. S. Ed. (1981). *The Himalaya: Aspects of Change*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Pandit, Maharaj K. (2017). *Life in the Himalaya: An Ecosystem at Risk*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Warikoo, K. Ed. (2009). *Himalayan Frontiers of India: Historical, Geo-Political and Strategic Perspectives*. London: Routledge.

Zurick, David and P. P. Karan. (1999). *Himalaya: Life on the Edge of the World*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Useful Web Resources

Digital Himalaya (<https://www.digitalhimalaya.com>)

Pahad (<https://pahar.in>)

Resources Himalaya Foundation (<https://resourcehimalaya.org>)

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (<https://www.icimod.org>)