

## IIT Mandi

## Proposal for a New Course

<b>Course Name:</b>	<b>The Historian's Craft</b>
<b>Course Number:</b>	<b>HS 637</b>
<b>Credits:</b>	<b>3-0-0-3</b>
<b>Students intended for:</b>	<b>M.A. and Ph.D. students in H&amp;SS</b>
<b>Elective or Compulsory:</b>	<b>Elective</b>
<b>Semester:</b>	

**Course Description:** This course introduces the student to the diverse concerns and approaches in historical thinking. All historians are concerned with change over time but there is not just a single way in which historians operate. In this course we will explore the myriad dimensions involved in historian inquiry. We will ask fundamental questions such as: Who writes history and for whom? What are the fundamental preoccupations of historians in the contemporary period? In the process we will address issues of power and the production of historical knowledge, subjects and scales of history, questions of space and place, and ethical issues associated with historical writing. Finally we will ask: what is the future of the discipline?

**Course Content:**

1. Foundations: (6 hours)
  - a. History and Social Theory
2. Subjects of History: (9 hours)
  - a. Working Class
  - b. Implications of race and gender
3. Scales of History (6 hours)
  - a. Grand narratives
  - b. Micro-history
4. Space and place: (9 hours)
  - a. Nature and environmental history
  - b. Nations and nationalism
  - c. Borderlands and frontiers
5. (Re) Constructing History: (6 hours)
  - a. Power and Knowledge
  - b. Memory and the Archives
  - c. Subaltern Studies
6. Ethical dilemmas: (3 hours)
  - a. Writing histories of war and genocide
7. The Future of the Discipline (3 hours)
  - a. Interdisciplinarity
  - b. Digital Humanities

**Readings:**

1. Ana Maria Alonso, *Thread of Blood: Colonialism, Revolution, and Gender on Mexico's Northern Frontier*, (University of Arizona Press, 1995)
2. Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (New York: Verso, 2006).
3. Peter Burke, *History and Social Theory* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005)
4. Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008)
5. Mike Davis, *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World* (New York: Verso, 2001).
6. John Lewis Gaddis, *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004).
7. Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: the Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1980).
8. Ranajit Guha, *Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India* (Durham: Duke Univ Press, 1999)
9. Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2001)
10. Joanne Rapaport, *Cumbe Reborn: An Andean Ethnography of History* (Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press, 1994)
11. Joan Scott ed., *Feminism and History* (New York: Oxford Univ Press, 1996)
12. William Sewell, *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation*, (Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press, 2005)
13. K. Sivaramakrishnan, *Modern Forests: Statemaking and Environmental Change in Colonial Eastern India*, (Stanford: Stanford Univ Press, 1999)
14. E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (New York: Vintage Books, 1966)
15. Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (New York: Beacon Press, 1997)

Other Faculty Members interested in teaching this course: .....