

Approval: 4th Senate Meeting

Course Name	: Introduction to World History
Course Number	: HS-391
Credits	: 3-0-0-3
Prerequisites	: None
Intended for	: 3 rd /4 th year B. Tech
Distribution	: Elective

Preamble: This course would be a good complement to courses in Indian history as well as to other courses which examine aspects of societies and cultures of the world.

Course Outline: In the fifteenth century, Asia and Africa were among the regions that had the most flourishing civilizations while the West was relatively powerless. Five hundred years later the picture is very different. Western countries such as the United States and certain European countries have outstripped most countries in the non-West in terms of GDP and overall prosperity. Even starker, multinational corporations now are sometimes even more rich and powerful than many nation-states. What accounts for such enormous changes in the course of the last 500 years? In this course we will look at important moments and processes in world history to answer this question. In charting the trajectory of world history, this course will emphasize the theme of connections at the global level from the 15th Century up to the present.

Modules:

1. Approaches to world history- 3 hours
2. Empire-building and the development of global webs (15th to late 18th Century)- 15 hours
 - a. The world in the 15th Century
 - b. The movement of goods in the 17th Century
 - c. Slave trade and piracy in the 18th Century Atlantic
3. Industrialization, interdependence, and divergence (late 18th to early 20th Century)- 12 hours
 - a. Industrial revolution
 - b. Colonialism in India and Imperialism in China
 - c. An ecological perspective: 19th Century El Niño famines
4. Crises, the emergence of three worlds, and contemporary globalization (Early 20th Century to the present)-9 hours
 - a. Bolshevik revolution
 - b. The World Wars and the Cold War
 - c. Globalization since the 1970s
5. Connecting World History to issues today (lessons learnt): 3 hours

Textbooks:

1. Marks, Robert B. The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Ecological Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-first Century. Second edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. 2007.

References:

1. Brook, Timothy, *Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World*. New York: Bloomsbury Press. 2008
2. Davis, Mike, *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World*. London: Verso. 2001
3. Lindsay, Lisa A. *Captives as Commodities: The Transatlantic Slave Trade*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall. 2008
4. Steger, Manfred B. *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*. Second edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2009