Syllabus of M.Phil. Course in Himalayan Studies
Centre for Himalayan Studies
North Bengal University

1st Semester (Common for M.Phil. and Ph.D. Coursework)

Paper I: Area Studies: Perspectives and Approaches  50 marks
1. Origin, scope and definition of Area Studies
2. Orientalism and Area Studies
3. Relation of Area Studies with different branches of Social Science
4. Evolution of Area Studies as an academic field
5. Area Studies: Policy and methodology
6. Idea of Social Sciences – Claims of Scientificity in Social Sciences
7. Structuralism, Post-structuralism, and Post-modernism

Paper II: Research Methodology I  50 marks
1. Significance of research methods – Aims, objectives and designs
2. Research methods – Approaches and types
3. Comparison and generalization – Data sources and methods of Content Analysis
4. Collection of secondary data – Private and public sources
5. Collection of primary data – Methods of fieldwork, tools, and techniques of data collection, data analysis and preparation of ethnographic report
6. Reflexive methodology - Research ethics

Paper III – Research Methodology II  50 marks
1. Historiography – The historian and facts in history – Bias and objectivity in history – Approaches to history
2. Cartographic Techniques – Choropleth mapping for socio-economic data – Isotherms, Isohyets and Isobars for interpreting weather and climate
3. Book review
4. Aspects of research proposal
5. Art of report writing

Paper IV: Quantitative Methods and Computer Applications  50 marks
1. Use of statistics for analysis of numerical data – Application of quantitative techniques in Social Sciences: An Introduction – Histogram – Frequency tables – Correlation and Regression
2. Computer applications
2nd Semester

Paper I: Geography and History of Eastern Himalayas  
50 marks
1. Physical landscape of the Eastern Himalayas - Physiography, climate, drainage, flora and fauna
2. Natural resources of the Eastern Himalayas - Regionalisation - Conservation and management of resources – Perspectives of economic development
3. Environment and Sustainable Development in the Himalayas
4. Religion and State formation in Tibet, Bhutan and Sikkim
5. Tibetan Government outside Tibet and the question of Tibetan nationality
6. From monarchy to democracy: Political transformation in Sikkim and Bhutan
7. Constitutional changes and administrative reforms in Arunachal Pradesh and Darjeeling

Paper II: Economy and Politics in Eastern Himalayas  
50 marks
1. Traditional economy and occupation in the Eastern Himalayas: Class Structure – Relevance and concepts of tribal and peasant society in the Eastern Himalayan region
2. Patterns of urbanization, industrialization and State intervention in the Eastern Himalayas
3. Problems of development and security of small and landlocked countries – Strategic environment of the Himalayan Region
5. Culture, identity and politics: Critical perspectives in the study of Himalayan region
6. Community, civil society and State formation in the Eastern Himalayas

Paper III: People, Society and Culture in Eastern Himalayas  
50 marks
1. Peoples of Eastern Himalayas – Races, tribes, castes and religious communities
2. Social structure and social dynamics of major ethnic, caste and religious communities of Eastern Himalayas
3. Population movement and ethno-political processes – Migration, immigration and ethnicity in Eastern Himalayan region
4. Gender differences and status of women in the Eastern Himalayas
5. Process of assimilation and integration – Great traditions, little traditions and cultural syncretism in Himalayas

Paper IV: Tibetan/Nepali language

Tibetan  
50 marks
1. Introduction to the scripts of Tibetan – U Chen and U Med, vowel symbols, the Ing-Yig (reversed) and Thug-Yig (the letter) and the combination letters, Sub-joined letters of Ya, Ra, La and Wa, surmounting letters of Ra, La, Sa, consonantal suffixes and prefixes, methods of combination and formation of words
2. Basic grammatical rules, formations of words, demonstrative and descriptive adjectives, pronouns, particles, verbs, simple forms of tense
3. Composition and translation – Simple phrases and simple sentences, honorific terms
4. Conversation

Nepali
1. Grammar
2. Composition and translation
3. Conversation

Note: Details of this syllabus to be worked out by the concerned teacher in the model of the syllabus of the Tibetan language.
3rd Semester

Seminar paper: Content, presentation and participation: 50 marks

Term papers (two nos.): 50x2 = 100 marks

Synopsis for proposed M.Phil. Dissertation work: (written 40 + viva 10) = 50 marks

4th Semester

Dissertation and Viva Voce: (150 + 50) = 200 marks

Selected Readings

1st Semester

Paper I
Durkheim, Emile, Rules of Sociological Method.
Foucault, Michel, The Archaeology of Knowledge.
Hall, Robert B. (1947), Area Studies with Special Reference to their Implications for Research in the Social Science, Social Science Research Council, New York.
Paper II
Danda, A.K., Research Methodology in Anthropology, Inter India Publications New Delhi.

Paper III
Singh, Lekhraj, Cartographic Methods.

Paper IV
Mehmud, Aslam, Quantitative Methods for Geographers.

Selected Readings

2nd Semester

Paper I
Jha, Rajkumar, (1986), The Himalayan Kingdoms in Indian Foreign Policy. Maitreyee Publications.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shakabpa, T. W. D.</td>
<td><em>Tibet: A Political History</em></td>
<td>Yale University Press.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharma, S.K. and Usha</td>
<td><em>History and Geography of Tibet</em></td>
<td>Anmol, New Delhi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spate, O. H. K. and Learmonth, A. T. A.</td>
<td><em>India and Pakistan</em></td>
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<td>Subba, T. B. and Datta, K.</td>
<td><em>Religion and Society in the Himalayas</em></td>
<td>Gian.</td>
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<td>Tshering, Saky,</td>
<td><em>The Dragon in the Land of Snow</em></td>
<td>Pimlico.</td>
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**Paper II**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choudhury, Maitreyee</td>
<td><em>Sikkim: Geographical Perspectives</em></td>
<td>Mittal, New Delhi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phadnis, Urmila</td>
<td><em>Ethnicity and Nation-Building in South Asia</em></td>
<td>New Delhi: Sage Publications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramphel, Norbu</td>
<td><em>Bhutan: Emergence of a Nation State</em></td>
<td>New Delhi, Anmol Publications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ura, Karma and Sonam Kinga</td>
<td><em>Bhutan: Sustainable Development through Good Governance</em></td>
<td>Thimphu, The Centre for Bhutan Studies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Paper III

Paper IV
Tibetan Language

Nepali Language
Clark, T.W. (1977), *An Introduction to Nepali*, SOAS.

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