

Programme: M.A. (History)

Course Code: HSO-124

Title of the Course: Oral History

Number of Credits: 4

Effective from AY: 2018-19

<u>Prerequisites for the course:</u>	An avid interest to engage with oral history, conduct interviews, and undertake documentation of oral tradition in the field and its analysis. Knowledge of history of Goa, and the Konkani and Marathi languages is desirable.	
<u>Objectives:</u>	This course aims at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introducing the students to the meaning, scope and nature of oral history; • reviewing oral tradition as history and oral history interviewing; • analysing the historiographical emergence and development of oral history; • discussing the uses of oral history in a range of contexts; • developing practical skills in interviewing, recording, transcribing and preservation of oral material; • addressing theoretical and methodological issues in doing oral history; • introducing students to the wide array of theoretical issues raised by the intersection of history, memory and life story narratives with special reference to the Goan context; and • discussing the ethical considerations of oral history interviewing and archiving. 	
<u>Content:</u>	<p>I. What is Oral History? Meaning, Scope and Uses of Oral History. The History of Oral History. The Four Paradigm Transformations in Oral History. Use of Personal Testimony in historical presentation, Life History Interviewing and Oral Tradition as History. Oral History as an Instructional Methodology. Oral and Public History. The Feminist Practice of Oral History. Legal, Ethical and Archival Imperatives in doing Oral History.</p> <p>II. Oral History Interviewing Pre-interview Preparation and Research. Conducting the Interview: Interviewing Tools, Techniques and</p>	<p>14</p> <p>16</p>

	<p>Methods, Equipment and Technology. Skilled and Responsible Questioning. After the Interview: Transcription, Editing, Processing, Archives. Oral History in Print: Citing and Quoting.</p> <p>III. Oral Tradition as History Oral Tradition as Process and Product. Forms of Oral Tradition. Performance, Tradition and Text. Oral Narratives. History and Myth. Oral Tradition as Evidence: - From Observation to Permanent Record - Evidence of What? Comparative approaches to Fieldwork - Oral History and Anthropology. Ethnohistory.</p> <p>IV. Oral History Assessed Uniqueness and Limitations. Reliability and Validity in Oral History. Memory and Remembering in Oral History. From Memory to History - Using Oral Sources in Local Historical Research: The Case of Goa.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>14</p>
<u>Pedagogy:</u>	Lecture method/project-based learning/collaborative learning/visits to museums/field-work/self-study	
<u>References/Readings</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aarne, Antti and Stith Thomson. <i>The Types of the Folktale</i>. Helsinki: Folklore Fellows Communications, 1961. 2. Abrams, Lynn. <i>Oral History Theory</i>. 2nd Ed. London and New York: Routledge, 2016. 3. Appadurai, Arjun, Frank J. Korom and Margaret A. Mills, eds. <i>Gender, Genre and Power in South Asia: Expressive Traditions</i>. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1991. 4. Armitage, S. H., P. Hart and K. Weatherman, eds. <i>Women's Oral History: The Frontiers Reader</i>. Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press, 2002. 5. Baum, Willa K. <i>Transcribing and Editing Oral History</i>. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1985. 6. Beck, B., et.al, <i>Folklore of India</i>. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1987. 7. Ben-Amos, Dan. <i>Folklore in Context: Essays</i>. New Delhi: South Asian Publishers, 1982. 8. -----, "Toward a Definition of Folklore in Context." <i>The Journal of American Folklore</i> 84, no. 331 (1971): 3-15. 	

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10. Bhagwat, Durga. *An Outline of Indian Folklore*. Bombay: Popular Book Depot, 1958.
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24. Lummins, Trevor. *Listening to History: The Authenticity of Oral Evidence*. Totowa, N.J.: Barnes and Noble Books, 1988.
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<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	<p>Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtain competency with oral history as a method of historical research; • acquire experience of interviewing, transcribing, indexing, archiving, analysing and curating oral history interviews; • engage with ethical concerns and issues and creative opportunities of using oral histories as source material; • learn about the importance of the integration of oral history with other more traditional kinds of research and explore the ways in which oral history can complement, supplement, and even contradict written, pictorial, and other records; • acquire practical skills on how to record, understand the theoretical issues involved in conducting and interpreting oral history interviews and be able to address the dynamics of the interview and fieldwork situation through theoretical analysis of the historic context in which the interview takes place; • obtain competencies in analysing the strengths and weaknesses of interviewing methods as they apply to existing disciplinary paradigms; and • understand oral history as academic method, data-source and creative story-form. 	

NOTE: This course will be offered to MA Part II for the Semester IV (2018-19) (Old Ordinance)