



ہائیر ایجوکیشن کمیشن

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Academics Division

No. HEC/CD/NCRC/HISTORY/2025/**7632**

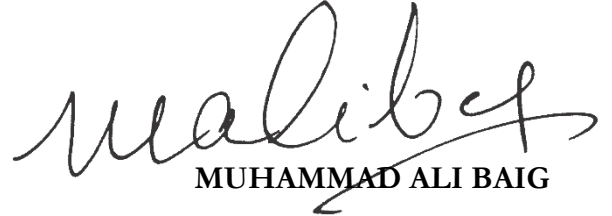
June 26, 2025

**SUBJECT: REVISED CURRICULA FOR HISTORY DEGREE PROGRAMS**

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, as mandated by its law, provides guidance to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on curricula for tertiary education levels in alignment with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). To address evolving academic trends and market demands, HEC has revised the curricular standards for History degree programs at NQF levels 5-7. These updated standards are intricately aligned with HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy (V 1.1), Graduate Education Policy (2023) and NQF ensuring coherence with national priorities and adherence to international benchmarks.

2. The revised curricula for History degree programs are hereby notified. Universities offering these programs are advised to align their curricula with these updated standards as a minimum requirement. The respective departments must also develop course contents in accordance with the prescribed framework, ensuring that the programs address evolving academic, societal, and professional needs to enhance the relevance and impact of History graduates. Subsequently, the finalized course contents should be submitted electronically to this office at the earliest. An electronic copy of the revised curricula is available on HEC's official website.

3. With the support of universities in implementing these standards, HEC envisions a future where History graduates contribute meaningfully to historical scholarship, informed citizenship, policymaking, education, and national development through critical engagement with the past and its relevance to contemporary challenges.

  
**MUHAMMAD ALI BAIG**

**Vice Chancellors/Rectors/Heads**

All Public/Private Sector Universities/DAIs

***Copy for information to:***

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**CURRICULUM FOR**

**HISTORY DEGREE PROGRAMS**

**Associate Degree | Bachelor of Studies | Master of Studies**

**2025**

**Academics Division  
Higher Education Commission, Islamabad  
Government of Pakistan**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |       |     |
|---|-------|-----|
| <b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>                          | ..... | III |
| <b>PREFACE</b>                                | ..... | V   |
| <b>GUIDING PRINCIPLES</b>                     |       |     |
| Minimum Standards                             | ..... | 01  |
| Course Sequence, Titles & Credits             | ..... | 01  |
| Course Learning Outcomes                      | ..... | 01  |
| Course Syllabus                               | ..... | 01  |
| General Education                             | ..... | 01  |
| Requirement of Internship                     | ..... | 01  |
| Requirement of Capstone                       | ..... | 02  |
| Associate Degree                              | ..... | 02  |
| Electives                                     | ..... | 02  |
| Equivalence of Qualifications                 | ..... | 02  |
| Entry & Exit Provisions                       | ..... | 02  |
| <b>BACHELOR OF STUDIES (BS)</b>               |       |     |
| Program Description                           | ..... | 04  |
| Standard Nomenclature                         | ..... | 04  |
| Program Learning Outcomes                     | ..... | 04  |
| Eligibility & Admission Criteria              | ..... | 04  |
| Program Structure                             | ..... | 04  |
| Recommended List of Interdisciplinary Courses | ..... | 08  |
| Degree Award Requirements                     | ..... | 08  |
| <b>MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS FOR BS HISTORY</b>   |       |     |
| Central Asian History                         | ..... | 10  |
| European History                              | ..... | 10  |
| History of East & Southeast Asia              | ..... | 11  |
| History of Pakistan                           | ..... | 11  |
| History of the USA                            | ..... | 12  |
| Islamic & Muslim World History                | ..... | 12  |
| Middle Eastern History                        | ..... | 13  |
| Modern World History                          | ..... | 14  |
| South Asian History                           | ..... | 14  |
| <b>MASTER OF STUDIES (MS)</b>                 |       |     |
| Program Description                           | ..... | 16  |
| Standard Nomenclature                         | ..... | 16  |
| Program Learning Outcomes                     | ..... | 16  |
| Eligibility & Admission Criteria              | ..... | 16  |
| Program Structure                             | ..... | 17  |
| Degree Award Requirements                     | ..... | 18  |

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Advanced Philosophy of History .....                  | 20 |
| Advanced Research Methods for History .....           | 20 |
| Global History of Colonialism .....                   | 20 |
| History of British Rule in South Asia .....           | 20 |
| History of Central Asia .....                         | 20 |
| History of China .....                                | 20 |
| History of Early Modern Europe: 1453–1789 CE .....    | 20 |
| History of Early Muslims: 570–661 CE .....            | 21 |
| History of Early South Asia .....                     | 21 |
| History of Modern Europe – II: 1789–1945 .....        | 21 |
| History of Modern Middle East .....                   | 21 |
| History of Pakistan – I: 1947–1971 CE .....           | 21 |
| History of Pakistan – II: 1971–2024 CE .....          | 21 |
| History of the Umayyads & Abbasids: 661–1258 CE ..... | 21 |
| History of the Ottoman Empire: 1299–1924 CE .....     | 21 |
| History of the USA .....                              | 21 |
| Introduction to Historiography .....                  | 22 |
| Introduction to History .....                         | 22 |
| Introduction to World Civilizations .....             | 22 |
| Muslim Rule in South Asia – I: 712–1526 CE .....      | 22 |
| Muslim Rule in South Asia – II: 1526–1707 CE .....    | 22 |
| Philosophy of History .....                           | 22 |
| Research Methods for History .....                    | 22 |

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## PREFACE

The curriculum serves as a comprehensive blueprint for the teaching-learning process that students must navigate to achieve specific academic objectives. This encompasses clearly defined prior learning requirements, program objectives, scheme of studies, and course learning outcomes. As knowledge rapidly evolves and new fields emerge, it is crucial to continually develop and revise curricula to ensure they remain current, relevant, and impactful.

As mandated by its law through Clause 10-1 (a), (l), (s), and (v), the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has been developing and periodically updating curricula through its National Curriculum Revision Committees (NCRCs). These committees are generally composed of subject matter experts, researchers, and representatives from accreditation bodies, professional councils, and industry. In response to the evolving needs, HEC has undertaken the task to develop robust standards for the curricula of degree programs in History at levels 5-7 of the National Qualifications Framework. These standards are meticulously structured in accordance with the HEC's Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 (2023) and Graduate Education Policy (2023), ensuring alignment with both national priorities and international educational standards.

The degree programs in History are designed to develop students' critical understanding of historical processes, ideas, cultures, and institutions across time and space. These programs offer a balanced foundation in global, regional, and thematic histories, equipping graduates with analytical, interpretive, and research skills essential for academic inquiry and civic engagement. The curricular standards, developed by academic experts and practitioners from across the country, aim to elevate the quality and relevance of historical education by promoting scholarly excellence, critical thinking, and ethical academic practice. Through these programs, graduates will be prepared for diverse career pathways in education, research, public service, cultural heritage, policy, media, and other sectors where historical knowledge and critical reasoning are essential.

With the support of universities in implementing these standards, HEC envisions a future where History graduates contribute meaningfully to national development, informed citizenship, and global understanding through critical engagement with the past and its relevance to contemporary challenges.

**Dr. Amjad Hussain**

Director General  
Academics Division

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### Minimum Standards

The curricular standards and guidelines prescribed in this document are mandatory at minimum level. Universities or the departments concerned may, however, set higher standards provided that the standards prescribed herein are not reduced or compromised.

### Course Sequence, Titles & Credits

For Associate Degree (AD), Bachelor of Studies (BS) and Master of Studies (MS) History, the sequence of courses prescribed in this document is logically arranged and is suggestive only. The department concerned may rearrange the sequence and alter the course titles and credit hours provided that the essence of the courses prescribed herein remains intact. The department concerned may also add more courses as and when required subject to the approval of the university's relevant statutory body.

### Course Learning Outcomes

Course learning outcomes (CLOs) are the bare minimum standards of learning that students must achieve upon completing a specific course. While these standards must not be compromised, departments are encouraged to enhance the rigor of the CLOs by incorporating additional learning outcomes, provided these do not alter the essence of the prescribed standards. In this document, CLOs are developed for major and interdisciplinary courses and whereas for electives, the concerned departments are required to develop their CLOs considering nature of the course. For General Education courses as prescribed in the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 including the courses of "Pakistan Studies" and "Understanding of Holy Quran I & II", the departments may adopt the CLOs as prescribed in the HEC developed model courses.

### Course Syllabus

This document serves as a comprehensive guideline delineating the CLOs for each course as prescribed for the AD, BS and MS History as minimum standards. The department concerned is required to prepare, modify, and tailor the syllabus of each course, ensuring alignment with the stipulated learning outcomes and scholarly demands. It is in this regard imperative that the department concerned utilizes instructional, reference, and reading materials that it deems appropriate to effectively meet the CLOs.

### General Education

For AD and BS History, the courses for General Education component including the courses of "Pakistan Studies" and "Understanding of Holy Quran I & II" must mandatorily be offered with the same titles and credit hours as prescribed in the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1., and subsequent notifications. The department concerned may adopt and follow the learning outcomes and study contents developed by HEC for these courses as available on its website. The requirement of General Education is not applicable to MS History.

### Requirement of Internship

Supervised internship of 3 credit hours in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V.1.1. is a mandatory degree award requirement for BS. This requirement must be graded and supervised under a faculty member in collaboration with a supervisor in the field, protocols of which will be determined by the concerned department subject to approval of the same by the university's relevant statutory body.

### Requirement of Capstone

It is a mandatory degree award requirement of 3 credit hours for BS History. The capstone is a multifaceted body of work that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. It must be supervised and graded by a faculty member as per the protocols prescribed by the department concerned. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional course work or internship.

### Associate Degree

The eligibility criteria and the first-four semesters of the BS History as prescribed in this document guide the admission requirement and the structure of AD History, respectively. Field experience / internship is not a mandatory requirement for the AD History.

### Electives

- a) In accordance with the National Qualifications Framework, the department is required to offer at least 7 electives comprised of 21 credit hours i.e., minimum of 25% of the major i.e., History comprised of 84 credit hours, to meet the criteria of nomenclature with specialization. Where the department increases the range of major beyond 84, the number of electives will accordingly be adjusted.
- b) Where the electives are opted from the general pool, the degree will be awarded as BS History in its generic form and without any specialization. Example: **Bachelor of Studies in History**.
- c) Where the electives are opted from within a single specialization domain, the degree will be offered as Bachelor of Studies in History (with name of specialization) in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (2015). Example: **Bachelor of Studies in History (European History)**, **Bachelor of Studies in History (South Asian History)** etc.
- d) Subject to approval of the relevant statutory body, the department may develop additional specializations other than those prescribed in this document. It should however be noted that offering of the degree program with specialization is prescribed in this document as an option only and **not** as a mandatory requirement or a binding on the offering department. In view of this, the department concerned may consider offering the degree program with specialization or not, in accordance with its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.

### Equivalence of Qualifications

All the graduates having degrees of BS History with or without specialization will be considered at par in terms of their knowledge, skills and abilities acquired through the course of the degree program, for the purpose of employment and further education. Therefore, all graduates having BS History with any specialization are considered equivalent to a generic BS History. However, where specific specialization is required by employment agencies such as History (European History), the same cannot be considered at par with any other specialization such as History (American History). The titles given here are examples for clarification only.

### Entry & Exit Provisions at Undergraduate Level

#### Pathway for Graduates with Associate Degree

- a) Candidates who have completed AD History are allowed admission in the fifth semester of the BS History with or without any deficiency course up to a maximum of 18 credit hours as determined by the concerned university / department. In case the deficiency courses are of more than 18 credit hours, the university concerned may decide not to offer admission in

accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

- b) Candidates who have completed AD in any discipline other than History shall be required to complete deficiency courses up to a maximum 18 credit hours in a bridging semester as determined by the concerned university / department on case-to-case basis. In case the deficiency courses are of more than 18 credit hours, the university concerned may decide not to offer admission in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.
- c) The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in the above cases is 2.00 / 4.00 CGPA in the prior qualification i.e., AD. The university concerned may, however, set higher eligibility and admission criteria for admission in the fifth semester of BS History.

#### **Pathway for Graduates with Conventional BA / BSc / Equivalent Degree Programs**

- a) Candidates having completed two-year conventional BA / BSc / equivalent degree programs are allowed admission in the fifth semester of BS History in which case, such students shall be required to complete deficiency courses up to a maximum of 21 credit hours through a bridging semester as determined by the concerned university. In case the deficiency courses are of more than 21 credit hours, the university concerned may decide not offer admission, in accordance with its screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.
- b) The minimum eligibility for admission in the fifth semester in this case is 45% cumulative score in the prior qualification i.e., two-year conventional BA / BSc / equivalent degree programs. The university concerned may, however, set higher eligibility and admission criteria for admission in the fifth semester of BS History.

#### **Exiting from Bachelor of Studies in History with the Associate Degree**

Students enrolled in BS History are allowed to exit the program provided they have completed the requirements of the first-four semesters of BS as prescribed in this document, and subject to approval of the university's relevant statutory body. Internship and capstone are not required for exit from BS with AD.

## BACHELOR OF STUDIES (BS)

### Program Description

The program of BS History is structured in accordance with the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1 (2023) and subsequent notifications, to provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary understanding of the human past through critical engagement with historical processes, sources, and interpretations. The program is designed to equip students with a strong foundation in global, regional, and thematic areas of history, enabling them to understand the complexities of change and continuity over time. The curriculum covers a wide range of historical periods and geographical regions including South Asia, Europe, the Middle East, the Americas, Central and East Asia, and the Islamic and Muslim world. Students will be engaged with primary and secondary sources, develop evidence-based arguments, and apply analytical tools drawn from the social sciences and humanities. The program will foster skills in critical thinking, academic writing, digital literacy, and interdisciplinary analysis, preparing graduates for careers in education, research, public policy, media, cultural institutions, civil services, and related fields. In line with the national goals for higher education, the BS History program encourages intellectual curiosity, ethical inquiry, and civic engagement, aiming to produce graduates who contribute thoughtfully to scholarly discourse and to society at large.

### Standard Nomenclature

The scheme of study prescribed for the four-year undergraduate degree in History is based on a total of 7 electives. Where these courses are opted from the general pool of electives, the degree will be titled “**Bachelor of Studies in History**” with its short form as “**BS History**” in its generic form and without any specialization. Whereas, if all the electives are opted from a single specialization domain, the degree will be titled Bachelor of Studies in History with the name of specialization in parenthesis in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (2015). For clarification, refer to “Electives” explained at Page No. 2.

### Program Learning Outcomes

By the completion of BS History, the graduates will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate a broad understanding of major historical processes, ideas, civilizations, and traditions across different regions and time periods.
- b) Apply historical methods, critical reasoning and contextual analysis to interpret patterns of continuity and change in global, national and regional histories.
- c) Communicate historical narratives and interpretations effectively through clear writing, arguments, structured oral presentations, and use of evidence-based reasoning.
- d) Employ interdisciplinary perspectives to enhance historical inquiry and understanding.

### Eligibility & Admission Criteria

Higher Secondary School Certificate (involving 12 years of schooling) or an IBCC equivalent qualification in any group is the basic eligibility requirement for admission in the BS History. Further, the university concerned may set minimum eligibility scores and may conduct entry / admission test through its own testing body or an external testing services provider of repute as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

### Program Structure

The program BS History is structured in accordance with the provisions of the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. and comprises of minimum **136** credit hours spread over 8 regular semesters. Universities may offer courses up to a maximum of 148 credit hours provided that the total number

of credit hours are reasonably set to achieve the Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) without putting an undue burden on students.

|   |                                |  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Minimum Credit Hours</b><br>(including all program related requirements) |                                | 136  |
| <b>General Education</b>  |                                | 34 credit hours (15 courses)   |
| <b>Major</b>  | <b>a) Compulsory</b>           | 63 credit hours (21 courses)<br>Mandatory courses as reflected in the scheme of study, irrespective of the area of specialization (where applicable).    |
|   | <b>b) Mandatory Electives</b>  | 21 credit hours (7 courses)<br>(to be opted from either general pool of electives or from a particular specialization)                                   |
|   | <b>Total Major Requirement</b> | 84 credit hours (28 courses)   |
| <b>Interdisciplinary Courses</b>  |                                | 12 credit hours (4 courses)  |
| <b>Internship</b>   |                                | 3 credit hours   |
| <b>Capstone Project</b>   |                                | 3 credit hours   |
| <b>Program Duration</b>   |                                | Minimum: 4 Years<br>Maximum: 6 Years<br><br>(further extendable to another year subject to approval of university's statutory body)                      |
| <b>Semester Duration</b>  |                                | 16-18 weeks for regular semesters<br>(1-2 weeks for examination)<br><br>8-9 weeks for summer semesters<br>(1 week for examination)                       |
| <b>Course Load (per semester)</b>   |                                | 15-18 credit hours for regular semesters<br><br>Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters<br>(for remedial / deficiency / failure / repeat courses only) |
| <b>3 Credit Hours (Theory)</b>  |                                | 3 classes (1 hour each) <b>OR</b> 2 classes (1.5 hour each) <b>OR</b> 1 class (3 hours) per week throughout the semester                                 |

The standard scheme of studies for the program of BS History (irrespective of the area of specialization) is given as under:

| <b>SEMESTER I</b> |   |                     |                   |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>S.N.</b>       | <b>COURSE</b>   | <b>CREDIT HOURS</b> | <b>CATEGORY</b>   |
| 1                 | Introduction to History   | 3 (3-0)             | Major             |
| 2                 | Introduction to World Civilizations                                   | 3 (3-0)             | Major             |
| 3                 | Quantitative Reasoning – I *  | 3 (3-0)             | General Education |
| 4                 | Functional English *  | 3 (3-0)             | General Education |
| 5                 | Islamic Studies *<br>(Religious Edu / Ethics for non-Muslim students) | 2 (2-0)             | General Education |

|                                 |  |         |                   |
|---------------------------------|--|---------|-------------------|
| 6                               | Applications of Information & Communication Technologies * | 3 (2-1) | General Education |
| 7                               | Understanding of Holy Quran – I *                          | 1 (0-1) | General Education |
| <b>Total Credits Hours = 18</b> |  |         |                   |

| <b>SEMESTER II</b>              |                                      |              |                   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N.                            | COURSE                               | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY          |
| 1                               | Introduction to Historiography       | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 2                               | History of Early Muslims: 570–661 CE | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 3                               | Quantitative Reasoning – II *        | 3 (3-0)      | General Education |
| 4                               | Pakistan Studies *                   | 2 (2-0)      | General Education |
| 5                               | Expository Writing *                 | 3 (3-0)      | General Education |
| 6                               | Social Sciences **                   | 2 (2-0)      | General Education |
| 7                               | Understanding of Holy Quran – II *   | 1 (0-1)      | General Education |
| <b>Total Credits Hours = 17</b> |                                      |              |                   |

| <b>SEMESTER III</b>            |   |              |                   |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N.                           | COURSE  | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY          |
| 1                              | History of the Umayyads & Abbasids: 661–1258 CE | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 2                              | Philosophy of History                           | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 3                              | History of Early South Asia                     | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 4                              | Natural Science ***                             | 3 (3-0)      | General Education |
| 5                              | Arts & Humanities ****                          | 2 (2-0)      | General Education |
| 6                              | Civics & Community Engagement *                 | 2 (2-0)      | General Education |
| 7                              | Ideology & Constitution of Pakistan *           | 2 (2-0)      | General Education |
| <b>Total Credit Hours = 18</b> |   |              |                   |

| <b>SEMESTER IV</b>             |   |              |                   |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N.                           | COURSE                                      | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY          |
| 1                              | Muslim Rule in South Asia – I: 712–1526 CE  | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 2                              | History of the Ottoman Empire: 1299–1924 CE | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 3                              | History of the USA                          | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 4                              | Global History of Colonialism               | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 5                              | Entrepreneurship *                          | 2 (2-0)      | General Education |
| 6                              | Interdisciplinary Course – I *****          | 3 (3-0)      | Interdisciplinary |
| <b>Total Credit Hours = 17</b> |   |              |                   |

| <b>SEMESTER V</b> |  |              |          |
|-------------------|--|--------------|----------|
| S.N.              | COURSE                                       | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1                 | History of Pakistan – I: 1947–1971           | 3 (3-0)      | Major    |
| 2                 | History of Early Modern Europe: 1453-1789    | 3 (3-0)      | Major    |
| 3                 | Muslim Rule in South Asia – II: 1526–1707 CE | 3 (3-0)      | Major    |

|                                |                                       |         |                   |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| 4                              | History of British Rule in South Asia | 3 (3-0) | Major             |
| 5                              | History of China                      | 3 (3-0) | Major             |
| 6                              | Interdisciplinary Course – II *****   | 3 (3-0) | Interdisciplinary |
| <b>Total Credit Hours = 18</b> |                                       |         |                   |

| SEMESTER VI                    |  |              |                   |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N.                           | COURSE                                   | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY          |
| 1                              | History of Pakistan – II: 1971–2024      | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 2                              | History of Modern Europe – II: 1789–1945 | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 3                              | History of Central Asia                  | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 4                              | History of Modern Middle East            | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 5                              | Interdisciplinary Course – III *****     | 3 (3-0)      | Interdisciplinary |
| <b>Total Credit Hours = 15</b> |  |              |                   |

| SEMESTER VII                   |                              |              |          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N.                           | COURSE                       | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1                              | Elective – I *****           | 3 (3-0)      | Major    |
| 2                              | Elective – II *****          | 3 (3-0)      | Major    |
| 3                              | Elective – III *****         | 3 (3-0)      | Major    |
| 4                              | Elective – IV *****          | 3 (3-0)      | Major    |
| 5                              | Research Methods for History | 3 (3-0)      | Major    |
| <b>Total Credit Hours = 15</b> |                              |              |          |

| SEMESTER VIII                  |                                     |              |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N.                           | COURSE                              | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY          |
| 1                              | Elective – V *****                  | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 2                              | Elective – VI *****                 | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 3                              | Elective – VII *****                | 3 (3-0)      | Major             |
| 4                              | Interdisciplinary Course – IV ***** | 3 (3-0)      | Interdisciplinary |
| 5                              | Capstone Project                    | 3            | Capstone          |
| <b>Total Credit Hours = 15</b> |                                     |              |                   |

- \* HEC designed **model courses** for general education may be used by the university.
- \*\* The university / concerned department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Social Sciences”** including but not limited to a course of Sociology, Social Work, Anthropology, Psychology, Education etc.
- \*\*\* The university / concerned department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Natural Sciences”** which should have relevance to the purpose of the degree program.
- \*\*\*\* The university / concerned department may offer any course in the broader category of **“Arts & Humanities”** including but not limited to a course of regional or international language such as Chinese, Arabic, French, Spanish etc. or any other course such as Philosophy, Comparative Religion, Cultural Studies etc.
- \*\*\*\*\* The university / concerned department must offer at least 4 **interdisciplinary courses** from the recommended list provided in this document, or any other such course to enhance the

interdisciplinary understanding of the students, keeping in view the available academic, human and infrastructural resources of the department.

\*\*\*\*\* Read in conjunction with guidance given on “**Standard Nomenclature**” in this document, the university / concerned department may offer any 7 advanced courses from either the general pool or from any one of the specializations as **electives** keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.

### Recommended List of Interdisciplinary Courses

Students may opt interdisciplinary courses from the following list where required in the scheme of studies for BS History, from the same or other departments to complement their holistic understanding of the major, provided that the same is allowed by the department concerned. The list provided here is a recommended one only and the department concerned may add more courses as and when needed.

1. Culture and Society: A Global Perspective
2. Environmental Humanities
3. Intercultural Communication
4. Introduction of Media Studies
5. Introduction to Anthropology
6. Introduction to Gender Studies
7. Introduction to Human Geography
8. Introduction to International Relations
9. Introduction to Philosophy
10. Introduction to Political Science
11. Introduction to Public Administration
12. Introduction to Sociology
13. Sustainable Development Goals
14. Technology & Society in the 21st Century
15. World Religions and Interfaith Harmony

### Degree Award Requirements

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for the award of BS History:

- a) All courses in the General Education category with titles and credit hours as prescribed in HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. including the courses of “Pakistan Studies”, “Understanding of Holy Quran – I” and “Understanding of Holy Quran – II” must be completed.
- b) A minimum of **136** credit hours as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- c) A capstone of 3 credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework or internship / field experience.
- d) A supervised internship of 3 credit hours must be completed in accordance with HEC Undergraduate Education Policy V 1.1. This requirement cannot be substituted with additional coursework, capstone or project work.
- e) CGPA must not be below 2.00/4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may, however, set a higher standard in this regard.
- f) The minimum duration to complete the degree is 8 regular semesters spread over 4 years whereas the maximum duration is 12 regular semesters spread over 6 years. The maximum

duration may further be extended to 2 more semesters **(OR)** 1 year, in extraordinary circumstances subject to approval of the university's relevant statutory body. Summer semester is not considered as a regular semester.

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## MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS FOR BS HISTORY

### Major Specializations for BS History

The following are a few example specialization streams in case the BS History is offered with specialization. Subject to approval of the relevant statutory body, the department may develop additional specializations other than those prescribed below. The department concerned may consider offering the degree program with specialization or otherwise, keeping in view availability of its academic, human and infrastructural resources.

### Specialization 1: Central Asian History

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. Ancient Civilizations of Central Asia
2. Central Asia & Chinese Influence
3. Central Asia in the Russian Empire
4. Central Asia under Persian & Hellenistic Influences
5. Collapse of the USSR & Central Asian Republics
6. Environmental & Cultural Challenges in Central Asia
7. Islam in Central Asia
8. Nationalism & Identity in Central Asia
9. Post-War Soviet Central Asia (1945–1991)
10. Regional Geopolitics: Russia, China & the U.S. in Central Asia
11. The Indian Revolutionaries in Central Asia
12. The Scythians, Sogdians & Early Nomads
13. The Silk Road: Trade, Culture & Exchange
14. The Timurid Empire & Cultural Flourishing
15. Turkic Migrations & State Formation

### Specialization 2: European History

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. Classical Europe: Greece
2. Classical Europe: Rome
3. Early Medieval Europe
4. Europe During World War I
5. Feudalism & Society in Medieval Europe
6. History of Fascism & Nazism
7. Imperialism & Colonial Europe
8. Industrialization & Urban Society
9. Migration, Multiculturalism & Identity in Europe
10. Nationalism & Unification Movements (Italy & Germany)
11. Post Modern Europe: Populism & Political Change

12. Reformation in Europe
13. Rise of Nation States in Europe
14. The Black Death & Social Transformation
15. The Crusades & Religious Conflict
16. The Enlightenment and Age of Reason
17. The European Union: Origin & Evolution
18. The French Revolution & Napoleonic Europe
19. The Renaissance in Europe

### **Specialization 3: History of East & Southeast Asia**

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. Ancient Civilizations of China
2. Buddhism & Cultural Exchange in Asia
3. China's Reform Era & Global Emergence (1978–Present)
4. Cold War Politics in East & Southeast Asia
5. Colonialism in Southeast Asia
6. Confucianism, Daoism & East Asian Philosophies
7. Economic Growth in East Asia
8. History of Imperial China
9. History of Korean Conflict
10. Japan after Second World War
11. Maritime Asia: Trade, Piracy & Power
12. Military in Politics in Myanmar
13. Nationalism & Revolution in China (1911–1949)
14. Regional Organizations of South East Asia
15. Religion & Identity in Southeast Asia
16. The Cultural Revolution in China
17. The Mongol Invasions in Asia
18. The Rise of Singapore and Hongkong
19. The Vietnam War: Origin, Impact & Legacy
20. Tradition and Modernity in Southeast Asia

### **Specialization 4: History of Pakistan**

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. Civic Education in Pakistan
2. Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan
3. Cultural Heritage of Pakistan
4. Ethnic & Linguistic Politics in Pakistan
5. History of Bureaucracy in Pakistan
6. History of Electoral Politics in Pakistan
7. History of Parliament in Pakistan

8. History of Political Parties in Pakistan
9. History of Social Movements in Pakistan
10. Introduction to Archives and Historical Records
11. Islamization in Pakistan
12. Judicial History & Constitutional Crises
13. Kashmir Conflict in Historical Perspective
14. Local Self Government in Pakistan
15. Minorities in Pakistan
16. Pakistani Society and Culture
17. Quaid-i-Azam as a Political Leader
18. Regional Histories of Pakistan
19. Regional Leadership and Movements in South Asia
20. Women and Gender in Pakistan

### **Specialization 5: History of the USA**

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. African American History & Culture
2. American Women's History
3. Civil Rights Movement in America
4. Colonial America: Settlement & Society
5. Contemporary U.S. Society & Political Culture
6. History of American Education & Social Policy
7. Immigration & Ethnicity in American History
8. Indigenous American History & Resistance
9. The American Revolution: Causes & Consequences
10. The Civil War & Reconstruction
11. The Cold War & U.S. Global Strategy
12. The Gilded Age & Progressive Era
13. The Great Depression & the New Deal
14. The U.S. in the Post-Cold War World
15. The United States & World War I
16. The United States & World War II
17. U.S. Constitution & the Founding Era
18. U.S. Foreign Policy: 19th Century Expansionism
19. U.S. History through Film & Media
20. U.S. Political Institutions & Party Development

### **Specialization 6: Islamic and Muslim World History**

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. Abbasid Intellectual & Cultural Achievements
2. Administrative Systems of the Umayyads

3. Fatimid Caliphate & History of the Ismailis
4. Islam & Modernity: Reform, Revivalism & Reaction
5. Islamic Jurisprudence: Historical Development
6. Islamic Mysticism in Historical Context
7. Modern Islamic Movements & Political Islam
8. Muslim Diasporas & Transnational Networks
9. Pre-Islamic Arabia & the Rise of Islam
10. Reform Movements in the 18th & 19th Centuries
11. Rise & Administration of the Safavid Empire
12. Science & Philosophy in the Golden Age of Islam
13. The Crusades from the Muslim Perspective
14. The Mamluk Sultanate & its Institutions
15. The Muslim World & European Colonialism
16. The Muslim World in the 21st Century
17. The Pan-Islamic Movement in Global Context
18. The Rashidun Caliphate & Early Expansion
19. The Role of the Ulama in Muslim Societies
20. Women in Islamic History

### **Specialization 7: Middle Eastern History**

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. Abbasid Baghdad & the Intellectual Golden Age
2. Arab Spring & Political Transformations
3. Emergence of Arab Nationalism
4. European Imperialism & Middle Eastern Resistance
5. Gulf Wars & U.S. Involvement in the Middle East
6. Identity, Sectarianism & Conflict in the Contemporary Middle East
7. Mandate System & Inter War Middle East
8. Ottoman-Mamluk Rivalry & Regional Dynamics
9. Pre-Islamic Civilizations of the Middle East
10. Safavid Persia: State, Society & Religion
11. The Arab Conquests & Early Islamic State
12. The Arab Revolt (1915) & the End of Ottoman Rule
13. The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Historical Roots & Evolution
14. The Crusades & Muslim-Christian Encounters
15. The Decline of the Ottoman Empire (19th–Early 20th Century)
16. The Fatimids & Shi'ism in the Middle East
17. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 & Aftermath
18. The Mamluks & Military Rule in Egypt & Syria
19. The Middle East & the Mongol Invasions
20. The Tanzimat Reforms & Modernization in the Ottoman Empire

**Specialization 8: Modern World History**

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. Age of Revolutions: America, France & Haiti
2. Anti-Colonial Movements in Africa & Asia
3. Climate Change & the Anthropocene in Historical Perspective
4. Decolonization & the End of Empires in 20<sup>th</sup> Century
5. Evolution of Global Trade Networks
6. Global History of Slavery & Emancipation
7. Globalization: Cultural, Political & Economic Dimensions
8. History of Global Pandemics
9. Humanitarian Interventions & Global Ethics
10. Imperialism & the Scramble for Africa
11. Intellectual Movements: Marxism, Liberalism, Conservatism
12. Migration & Refugee Crises in Modern History
13. Modern Science & Technological Change
14. Rise of Capitalism & Industrial Societies
15. Rise of Totalitarian Regimes
16. The Cold War: Origin, Crises & Diplomacy
17. The Green Revolution & Global Food Politics
18. The Spread of Nationalism in the 19th Century
19. The United Nations & Post-War Global Governance
20. Women's Rights Movements in Global Context

**Specialization 9: South Asian History**

Below is the recommended list of courses within the given specialization. The department concerned may offer courses from the following list or any other course as elective(s) relevant to the given specialization, keeping in view its available academic, human and infrastructural resources:

1. Afghanistan after Saur Revolution (1978-2021)
2. Bhakti & Sufi Movements in Historical Perspective
3. Culture and Society under the Mughals
4. Ethnicity & Nationalism in South Asia
5. European Trading Companies in South Asia
6. History of Gandhara Civilization
7. History of Modern Afghanistan
8. History of Non-Violent Resistance in South Asia
9. Indus Valley Civilization
10. Language, Identity & State Formation in Bangladesh
11. Maratha Confederacy & Regional Power Struggles
12. Partition & Communal Politics in South Asia
13. Post-Colonial Nation Building in India, Pakistan & Bangladesh
14. Regional Kingdoms in Medieval India (8th–12th Century)
15. Religious Pluralism in Pre-Colonial South Asia
16. Rise of Nationalism in South Asia

17. Spread of Buddhism & Jainism in South Asia
18. The War of Independence (1857) & its Aftermath
19. Trade, Culture & Contact in Ancient South Asia
20. Women's Movements in South Asian History

## MASTER OF STUDIES (MS)

### Program Description

The Master of Studies (MS) in History program is designed in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy 2023 to provide students with an advanced, research-oriented understanding of historical processes, historiographical debates, and methodological approaches within their area of specialization. The program is structured to promote critical inquiry, intellectual independence, and scholarly engagement with regional and global histories. Through a blend of core courses and advanced electives, students will gain in-depth knowledge of both classical and contemporary historical issues, while developing skills in source evaluation, analytical reasoning, academic writing, and ethical research practices. Core courses in advanced philosophy of history and research methods will lay the foundation for rigorous inquiry, while the advanced electives will allow students to focus on a specific historical region, theme, or tradition. Graduates of the program will be well-prepared for careers in academia, policy research, cultural institutions, civil services, and heritage management, or to pursue further doctoral studies in history or related disciplines.

### Standard Nomenclature

The standard nomenclature for all NQF level 7 qualifications in the field of History must be “**Master of Studies in History**” with its short form as “**MS History**”.

### Note:

- a) The degrees of “Master of Studies” (MS) and “Master of Philosophy” (MPhil) in History are both positioned at Level 7 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and are therefore considered equivalent, in all aspects.
- b) The nomenclature of the degree as “Master of Studies” (MS) may be substituted with “Master of Philosophy” (MPhil), subject to the approval of the relevant statutory body of the university, provided that all other prescribed standards and requirements remain unchanged.

### Program Learning Outcomes

By the completion of MS History, the graduates will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate advanced knowledge of historical theories, historiographical traditions, and interdisciplinary approaches relevant to their area of specialization.
- b) Critically analyze and interpret historical events, narratives, and sources using scholarly perspectives and methodological rigor.
- c) Design and conduct independent, evidence-based historical research that adheres to academic conventions and ethical standards of the discipline.
- d) Communicate historical arguments, interpretations, and research findings effectively to academic and professional audiences through advanced written and oral expression.

### Eligibility & Admission Criteria

- a) An undergraduate degree (involving 16 years of education) in History or a related field is the basic eligibility requirement for admission. In case the candidate has knowledge deficiency, the university concerned may offer deficiency courses up to a maximum of 9 credit hours as it may determine on case-to-case basis and in accordance with HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).
- b) In addition to the basic eligibility, the university concerned is further required to conduct a rigorous admission test as an eligibility condition for admission to the program, with a passing

score of 50% **(OR)** accept the GRE / HAT General / equivalent tests, with a passing score of 50%. The university concerned may also set minimum eligibility scores (above 50%) as per the screening, admission and merit calculation criteria approved by its statutory bodies.

**Program Structure**

The standard structure of the degree program is as below:

|                                   |                                     |   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Minimum Credit Hours</b>       |                                     | 32  |
| <b>Course Work</b>                | a) <b>Mandatory Subject Core</b>    | 6 credit hours (2 courses)  |
|                                   | b) <b>Subject Electives</b>         | 18 credit hours (6 courses)   |
|                                   | c) <b>Mandatory Quranic Courses</b> | 2 credit hours (2 courses)  |
|                                   | <b>Total Coursework Requirement</b> | 26 credit hours   |
| <b>Research Thesis</b>            |                                     | 6 credit hours  |
| <b>Program Duration</b>           |                                     | Minimum: 1.5 Years (3 regular semesters)<br>Maximum: 4 Years (8 regular semesters)<br><br><b>Note:</b><br>In case a student is unable to secure an MS within the prescribed timeframe and claims for extension in duration, the university may constitute appropriate authority and determine the causes of delay. In the event of force majeure (i.e., delay on account of circumstance beyond the control of student), the university may grant an extension in the period of award of MS degree in accordance with the duration limiting factor(s) and shall also take corrective measures in case the delay is caused by process or administrative reasons. |
| <b>Semester Duration</b>          |                                     | 16-18 weeks for regular semesters<br>(1-2 weeks for examination)<br><br>8-9 weeks for summer semesters<br>(1 week for examination)  |
| <b>Course Load (per semester)</b> |                                     | 09-12 credit hours for regular semesters<br><br>Up-to 8 credit hours for summer semesters<br>(for remedial / deficiency / failure / repetition courses only)  |
| <b>3 Credit Hours (Theory)</b>    |                                     | 3 classes (1 hour each) <b>OR</b> 2 classes (1.5 hour each)<br><b>OR</b> 1 class (3 hours) per week throughout the semester   |

The standard scheme of studies for MS History, irrespective of the area of specialization is given below:

| SEMESTER I                     |   |              |          |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|----------|
| S.N.                           | COURSE                                  | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1                              | Advanced Philosophy of History *        | 3 (3-0)      | Core     |
| 2                              | Advanced Research Methods for History * | 3 (3-0)      | Core     |
| 3                              | Elective – I **                         | 3 (3-0)      | Elective |
| 4                              | Elective – II **                        | 3 (3-0)      | Elective |
| <b>Total Credit Hours = 12</b> |   |              |          |

| SEMESTER II                    |                   |              |          |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------|
| S.N.                           | COURSE            | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY |
| 1                              | Elective – III ** | 3 (3-0)      | Elective |
| 2                              | Elective – IV **  | 3 (3-0)      | Elective |
| 3                              | Elective – V **   | 3 (3-0)      | Elective |
| 4                              | Elective – VI **  | 3 (3-0)      | Elective |
| <b>Total Credit Hours = 12</b> |                   |              |          |

| SEMESTER III                  |                                      |              |                   |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| S.N.                          | COURSE                               | CREDIT HOURS | CATEGORY          |
| 1                             | Understanding of Holy Quran – I ***  | 1 (0-1)      | General Education |
| 2                             | Understanding of Holy Quran – II *** | 1 (0-1)      | General Education |
| 3                             | Thesis ****                          | 6            | Research          |
| <b>Total Credit Hours = 8</b> |                                      |              |                   |

- \* These are the **mandatory** courses for the program, irrespective of the area of specialization.
- \*\* The university / concerned department may offer any advanced course in the field of History as an **elective**, where required as per its available academic, human and infrastructural resources.
- \*\*\* These are prescribed for all NQF level 4-8 qualifications as mandated vide HEC letter **No. 10-01/2022/Coord(Acad)/HEC/235** dated March 28, 2025.
- \*\*\*\* **Research** work for thesis must be conducted by students individually in accordance with the university's policy as approved through its statutory bodies provided that the same is in accordance with the HEC Graduate Education Policy (2023).

### Degree Award Requirements

The following minimum requirements are prescribed for the award of MS History:

- a) A minimum of 26 credit hours of course work including 6 credit hours for core courses, 18 credit hours for general or specialization-oriented electives and 2 credit hours for Quranic courses as prescribed in this document must be completed.
- b) In addition to coursework, a research thesis of 6 credit hours must also be completed individually as partial fulfilment of the degree program. Requirement of research thesis is mandatory and cannot be substituted with additional course work.

- c) CGPA must not be below 2.50 / 4.00 at the time of completion of the degree program. The university may, however, set a higher standard in this regard.
- d) The minimum duration required to complete the degree is 3 regular semesters which may be extended up to a maximum of 8 regular semesters. Summer semester is not considered as a regular semester.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

AD, BS & MS

(Arranged in Alphabetical Order)

### Advanced Philosophy of History

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- d) Critically evaluate major philosophical debates concerning the nature, purpose, and objectivity of historical knowledge.
- e) Analyze concepts such as causation, historical time, narrative construction, and moral responsibility in historical writing.
- f) Apply theoretical frameworks to interpret historical texts, events and case studies.

### Advanced Research Methods for History

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Design a comprehensive research proposal using appropriate research methods and interdisciplinary methodologies.
- b) Evaluate primary and secondary sources using advanced techniques of source criticism and contextual analysis.
- c) Employ digital tools, ethical practices, and data management strategies in historical research.

### Global History of Colonialism

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Trace the development and global spread of colonialism from the 15th century onward.
- b) Analyze the political, economic, and cultural impact of colonialism across different regions.
- c) Critically evaluate anti-colonial movements and the legacies of colonialism in the modern world.

### History of British Rule in South Asia

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Examine the establishment and expansion of British colonial control in South Asia.
- b) Analyze key administrative, economic, educational, cultural and social reforms introduced under British rule.
- c) Assess the impact of colonial rule on South Asian society, politics, and resistance movements.

### History of Central Asia

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Identify major empires, dynasties and cultural developments in Central Asian history.
- b) Analyze the influence of nomadic cultures and trade networks on the region.
- c) Evaluate the role of Central Asia in connecting civilizations and shaping global history.

### History of China

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Trace major dynastic, cultural, and philosophical developments in Chinese history.
- b) Analyze the impact of internal reform and external pressures on Chinese society.
- c) Evaluate China's transition from imperial rule to modern nationhood.

### History of Early Modern Europe: 1453–1789 CE

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Describe the Renaissance, Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution in Europe.
- b) Analyze the development of early modern states, absolutism, and mercantilism.
- c) Evaluate the intellectual and political changes leading to the French Revolution.

**History of Early Muslims: 570–661 CE**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Understand the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the emergence of Islam.
- b) Evaluate the challenges and response of the early Muslim community.
- c) Analyze the administrative, political and religious developments during the early Caliphate.

**History of Early South Asia**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Identify key civilizations and cultural developments in early South Asian history.
- b) Analyze the roles of religion, trade, and political systems in shaping the region.
- c) Interpret archaeological and literary evidence to reconstruct historical narratives.

**History of Modern Europe – II: 1789–1945**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Trace the major political revolutions and ideologies shaping modern Europe.
- b) Examine the impact of industrialization, nationalism, and imperialism.
- c) Analyze the causes and consequences of the World Wars in European history.

**History of Modern Middle East**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Examine the decline of empires and the emergence of nation-states in the Middle East.
- b) Analyze the influence of colonialism, oil politics, and Arab nationalism.
- c) Evaluate contemporary issues in the region through a historical lens.

**History of Pakistan – I: 1947–1971 CE**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Trace Pakistan's creation and early political developments.
- b) Analyze constitutional developments, political instability, and regional challenges.
- c) Evaluate the factors leading to the secession of East Pakistan.

**History of Pakistan – II: 1971–2024 CE**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Examine major political, social, cultural and economic developments in post-1971 Pakistan.
- b) Analyze changes in civil-military relations, governance, and foreign policy.
- c) Assess contemporary challenges and reforms in Pakistan's political history.

**History of the Umayyads & Abbasids: 661–1258 CE**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Analyze the governance and expansion under the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates.
- b) Understand the intellectual, scientific, cultural and administrative developments during their rule.
- c) Evaluate internal and external factors leading to political transformations.

**History of the Ottoman Empire: 1299–1924 CE**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Trace the origins, rise, and territorial expansion of the Ottoman Empire from the late 13th century to its zenith.
- b) Analyze the administrative, military, legal, and socio-cultural structures that shaped Ottoman governance and society.
- c) Evaluate the internal and external factors contributing to the empire's decline and eventual dissolution in the early 20th century.

**History of the USA**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Trace the major political, social, and economic developments in the history of the United States from colonization to the present.
- b) Analyze key historical events such as the American Revolution, Civil War, industrialization, World Wars, Cold War, and post-9/11 transformations.
- c) Evaluate the impact of U.S. domestic and foreign policies on national identity, civil rights, and global influence across different time periods.

### **Introduction to Historiography**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Trace major historiographical trends and prominent historians.
- b) Differentiate between schools of historical thought and methodology.
- c) Analyze how historiographical debates shape historical narratives.

### **Introduction to History**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Define history as a discipline and explain its scope and relevance.
- b) Identify basic historical concepts, periods, and terminology.
- c) Apply foundational skills in source analysis and historical writings.

### **Introduction to World Civilizations**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Identify major world civilizations and their contributions to human society.
- b) Compare social, political, and cultural developments across civilizations.
- c) Analyze patterns of contact, conflict, and exchange among civilizations.

### **Muslim Rule in South Asia – I: 712–1526 CE**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Evaluate the establishment and administration of the Sultanate.
- b) Analyze political, cultural, and architectural achievements during the period under discussion.
- c) Evaluate the causes of the Sultanate decline and regional fragmentation.

### **Muslim Rule in South Asia – II: 1526–1707 CE**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Evaluate the establishment and administration of the Mughal Empire.
- b) Analyze political, cultural, and architectural achievements under the Mughals.
- c) Evaluate the causes of the Mughal decline and regional fragmentation.

### **Philosophy of History**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Explain major philosophical questions concerning the nature and purpose of history.
- b) Evaluate the concepts of objectivity, causation and historical interpretation.
- c) Critically reflect on the moral and ethical dimensions of historical inquiry.

### **Research Methods for History**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- a) Identify quantitative and qualitative research methods relevant to historical and humanities disciplines.
- b) Develop research techniques and gather appropriate data from diverse sources.
- c) Apply ethical standards and methodological rigor in research design and presentation.