

Sikh Studies Course

OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

- broad overview of Sikh history and ideology, encompassing various schools of academic thought;
- grasp of the range of literature, scripture and poetry pertaining to Sikhi;
- greater understanding of the need for investment in the field of Sikh studies.

Lecture/Seminars will be held for a 1.5 hour period over 14 sessions and will require minimal preparatory reading.

SCOPE AND SYLLABUS STRUCTURE

- 1. The Beginning:**
Guru Nanak and the 239 year period of time in which the Sikh way of life was established.
- 2. The Khalsa:**
The culmination of Guru Nanak's ideology in 1699 and the dual relationship of Panth and Guru Granth.
- 3. The Republic:**
The establishment of the 1st Khalsa Republic by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and the Khalsa.
- 4. The Annihilation:**
The holocaust of the 18th century, repeated Afghan invasion and the devastation visited upon the Sikh people from all sides.
- 5. The Resurgence:**
The re-emergence of statehood under Khalsa doctrine and the relationships of the Sikh Misls.
- 6. The Raj:**
The Punjab under the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the onslaught of the British Empire.
- 7. The Stand:**
Punjab and Sikhdom circa 1849 focusing on Bhai Maharaj Singh & the Anglo-Sikh relationship.
- 8. The Reformers:**
The work of the Nirankari sect and the Kuka movement looking at personalities such as Bhai Ram Singh.
- 9. The Revolt:**
Evaluating British-Sikh relationships leading up to the turn of the 19th century and studying the emergence of the Chief Khalsa Diwan and the Singh Sabha movement.
- 10. The Establishment:**
Analysing Gurdwara reform, Babbar-Akali lehir, Gaddar Party, arrival of the SGPC and Punjab's Partition.
- 11. The Struggle:**
Following the Punjabi Suba movement from language, river redirection and border realignment.
- 12. The Migration:**
Studying trends in Sikh diaspora, the reasons for mass migration and socio-economic policies in the Punjab throughout the second half of the 20th Century.
- 13. The Challenge:**
The Sikhs and the Indian Govt from 1978-1999, evaluating the position of Diaspora and Punjabi Sikhs.
- 14. The New World:** The Sikhs in the 21st Century: are we progressing or repeating past mistakes?