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University Sikh society – Sikh Studies Course

OVERVIEW

This course is open to any member of university Sikh society who would like to undertake a systematic study of Sikhi. Elements of the course may vary from region to region.

OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students will have a:

- broad overview of Sikh history and ideology, encompassing the various schools of academic thought in Sikh studies today;
- 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.

This will form a base to enable students to write a 10,000-word dissertation during the summer break on a topic relating to Sikh Studies, should they so wish. All participating students will be rewarded with a cash prize, whilst the writer of the most commendable dissertation from across the UK will receive a financial grant towards further academic study.

WORKLOAD

Lecture/Seminar will be held once a week for a one-hour period and will require minimal preparatory reading to be completed before class. Students will be asked to complete a 400-word journal entry of thoughts, questions and reflections following each class.

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 movement, Gaddar Party, arrival of the SGPC and Partition of the Punjab.
- 11. The Struggle:** Following the Punjabi Suba movement from language, river redirection and border realignment of the Punjab.
- 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 ex-patriot Sikhs and those residing in the Punjab.
- 14. The New World:** The Sikhs in the 21st Century: are we progressing or repeating past mistakes?

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Attendance (10%); two 1000-word papers at the end of each seven-week period of study (60%); journal entries (30%).



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