



SOUTHASIA INSTITUTE FOR HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

# A COURSE ON NEW HUMANITIES

**Theory, Philosophy and History**

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## **Course Objectives**

The aim of this module is to introduce three inter-related terms Theory, Philosophy and History in their outlines and schematically so as to enable the students to situate their own perceptions and thinking in relation to the available discussions and revisions.

**Total Duration:** 5 sessions (10 hours)

**Mode:** Lectures, demonstrations and collaborative discussions

## **Introduction**

**Class 1** Terminology, relations, scope; Central concern, ways of knowing (experience); ways of reasoning (Inference, reasonableness, reflection)

## **Theories and Theorising**

**Class 2** Empirico-rationalism and its limits (sciences); Status of theory  
Evolutionary schemes and alternatives: Better/More general laws with time?

## **Doing Philosophy**

**Class 3** *Constituents*

Ontology (Existence of Sky-flower); Metaphysics (Consciousness or Emptiness); Epistemology (Causality); Ethics (Dilemmas on common good)

*Practice and Praxis*

Axioms (numbers); Presuppositions (minimal a priories); Reasoning (dialogical, analogical and metaphorical)

## **Thinking Historically**

**Class 4** *Concepts*

Historical inference, diachronism-anachronism, telology, Past-in-present vs Present-in-past

*Practicing History*

Texts, source criticism, ideology, chronology, historical reasoning laws/theories in history

## **Intersections**

**Class 5** *Cognitive plurality*

Conceptual and anti-conceptual (viz. Buddhist) ways

Philosophies and non-philosophies (viz/ Laruelle)

Narrative, performative (viz/ rituals) and embedded (viz. memory) histories.

**Assessment:** Participation, engagement, inputs and reception; Group discussions

**Assignment:** Short readings and collaborative models

**Auditing:** Observational feedbacks and peer-discussions