

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY (KKHSOU)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN MIGRATION HISTORY



FEBRUARY, 2026

PAPER I

MIGRATION: THEORIES, IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

CREDITS- 4

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The course intends to introduce the learners with the fundamental concepts, definitions, and categories of migration. It aims to give a background of the major theories of migration and analyse the different forms of migration. It will also deal with the various historical issues and challenges related to migration and development.

COURSE OUTCOMES: After completion of the course:

- Learners will understand the key concepts and terminologies related to migration
- Understand the major theories of migration and how to apply those theories to historical and contemporary cases
- Learners will be able to interpret migration in a multidisciplinary lens
- Learners will gain an understanding of the different concepts of diaspora, trans-nationalism, refugees etc and connect these concepts to the organizational frameworks

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION

- i. Definition and scope
- ii. Migration history and migration studies: its differences
- iii. Pull and Push factors

UNIT 2: SOURCES

- i. Archival records,
- ii. Census data
- iii. Oral histories

UNIT 3: CONCEPTS

- i. Emigration, immigration, refugee, exile

UNIT 4: THEORIES OF MIGRATION

- i. Functionalist theory
- ii. Historical structural theory

UNIT 5: TYPES OF MIGRATION

- i. Voluntary and forced
- ii. Internal and international migration
- iii. Temporary, seasonal and permanent migration
- iv. Rural-urban, urban-urban, transnational migration

UNIT 6: TRANSNATIONALISM

- i. Trans-nationalism: Concept; transnational networks and remittances

UNIT 7: DIASPORA

- i. Concept and meaning
- ii. Historical and contemporary diasporas

UNIT 8: MIGRATION, IDENTITY AND CULTURAL CHANGE

- i. Assimilation, integration and multiculturalism
- ii. Acculturation and hybrid identities

UNIT 9: GENDER AND MIGRATION

- i. Feminization of migration
- ii. Feminist perspectives and experiences
- iii. Migration and women empowerment

UNIT 10: DISPLACEMENT AND REHABILITATION

- i. Internal displacement, cross border displacement: causes and impact
- ii. Refugee crisis
- iii. Border control and rehabilitation challenges

UNIT 11: MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- i. Social impact
- ii. Economic impact
- iii. Brain drain and brain gain

UNIT 12: MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- i. Human Rights: Principles and Practice
- ii. Violation of Human Rights.

UNIT 13: ORGANIZATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- i. United Nations (UN) and migration governance

- ii. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- iii. European Union (EU), ASEAN, SAARC and migration policies
- iv. Role of NGOs

UNIT 14: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

- i. Human trafficking
- ii. Covid 19 pandemic and migrant workers

READINGS

Castles, S. and Miller, M. J.: (2003): *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World (3rd edition)*: Palgrave Macmillan.

De Haas, H. (2010): *Migration and development: A theoretical perspective*. International Migration Review, 44(1): pp- 227-264.

Brettel, Caroline B., and Hollifield, James F.:(2014): *Migration Theory: Talking Across Discipline*: Routledge

Cohen, Roberta, and Deng, Francis: (1998): *Masses in flight: The Global crisis of Internal displacement*: Brookings Institution Press

Ferris, Elizabeth, and Khalid Koser: *The Politics of Migration: Managing Forced Displacement*

PAPER II
HISTORY OF MIGRATION IN INDIA
CREDITS - 4

Course Objectives: The course is designed to familiarize the learners with the history of migration in India. It aims to trace the historical patterns of migration in India and examine the role of political, economic and cultural forces. The course will acquaint the learners about the historical knowledge on how migration shaped the history of India. It also aims to bring forth the issues related to migration and provide an interdisciplinary approach to study of the subject

Course Outcome: After the completion of the course:

- Learners will understand the changing patterns and trends of migration in India from the pre-historic to the contemporary period.
- Learners will be able to critically discuss and deconstruct ideas, perceptions, definitions, and narratives of migration and social change
- Critically assess the historical impact of migration on agrarian change, urbanisation, labour systems, and identity formation in Indian society.

UNIT 1: SOURCES AND METHODS

- i. Archaeological and epigraphic evidence
- ii. Ancient texts and chronicles
- iii. Colonial census, gazetteers, official reports
- iv. Oral traditions, literature, and oral histories

UNIT 2: PREHISTORIC MIGRATION

- i. Hunter-gatherer migrations and emergence of early farmers (10000-6000 BCE)
- ii. Migrations in the Neolithic age(6000-2500BCE) : food production and population expansion
- iii. Bronze age migrations

UNIT 3: MIGRATION IN THE VEDIC PERIOD

- i. The Indo-Aryan migration: theories and debates
- ii. Impact of the Aryan migration in culture, language etc

UNIT 4: ANCIENT MIGRATION

- i. Migration in Maurya and Gupta periods: its impact, assimilation, changes in the society and polity
- ii. Greek, Kushan, Shaka, and Hun migrations

UNIT 5: MIGRATION IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

- i. Turkic, Afghan, and Mughal migrations into India
- ii. Migration of traders, labours, peasants, slaves and artisans: economic impact

UNIT 6: MIGRATION AND ISSUES IN COLONIAL INDIA

- i. Internal labour migration for agriculture, industries and plantation
- ii. Indentured labour migration to Africa, Caribbean and Southeast Asia
- iii. Tribal and peasant displacement
- iv. Migration and growth of colonial cities

UNIT 7: PARTITION AND MIGRATION

- i. Partition of 1947: displacement, refugee flow, rehabilitation and demographic change

UNIT 8: POST COLONIAL MIGRATION

- i. Linguistic reorganization of states and migration
- ii. Migration and remittances in India's economy
- iii. Urbanisation and rural–urban migration

UNIT 9: CONTEMPORARY MIGRATION AND DIASPORA

- i. Globalisation and migration
- ii. Student migration and brain drain/brain gain

UNIT 10: MIGRATION HISTORY OF NORTH-EAST INDIA: PRE-COLONIAL PERIOD

- i. Pre-colonial migrations: Ahom migration, tribal movements, hill–plain interactions

UNIT 11: COLONIAL ANNEXATION AND MIGRATION

- i. British annexation and in-migration of tea garden labourers from Central India
- ii. Migration of Bengali clerks, teachers, and professionals
- iii. Nepali migration and settlement in Assam

UNIT 12: MIGRATION AND LAND SETTLEMENT POLICIES

- i. Peasant migration from East Bengal to Assam
- ii. Impact on agrarian society and demographic shifts
- iii. Line system

UNIT 13: MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT IN POSTCOLONIAL NORTH-EAST INDIA

- i. Refugee settlements: Chakma-Hajong, Tibetan refugees in Arunachal Pradesh
- ii. Bangladesh liberation war (1971) and refugee influx
- iii. Assam Movement (1979–85) and anti-immigration struggles
- iv. NRC (National Register of Citizens) and CAA, identity assertion and migration politics

UNIT 14: MIGRATION, ECONOMY AND CULTURE

- i. Migrants and agrarian transformation in the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys
- ii. Cultural change : festivals, language, food habits, religious practices
- iii. Migration and the making of modern Assamese identity

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Castles, S. and Miller, M. J.: (2003): *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World* (3rd edition): Palgrave Macmillan.

De Haas, H. (2010): *Migration and development: A theoretical perspective*. *International Migration Review*, 44(1): pp- 227-264.

Bellwood, Peter (ed): (2014): *The Global Prehistory of Human Migration*. Wiley-Blackwell:

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Tumbe, Chimay: (2018): *India Moving: A History of Migration*: Penguin Books

Thapar, Romila: (2003): *Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300*: Penguin

Chandra, Satish: (2020): *A History of Medieval India*: Orient Blackswan.

Guha, Amalendu: (2014): *Planter Raj to Swaraj: Freedom Struggle and Electoral Politics in Assam*: Tulika Books

Sinha A.C, Subba T.B.(ed): (2003): The Nepalis in North-east India: A search for community for identity, Indus publishing company.

Saikia, Rajen (ed). (2024): Political History of Assam, Vol I (1947-1971): Assam Publication Board

Mahanta, Nani Gopal. (2021): Citizenship Debate Over NRC and CAA: Assam and the Politics of History: Sage Publications.

Raghuram, P. (2009): Which migration, what development? Unsettling the edifice of migration and development: Population, Space and Place, 15(2), 103-117.

PAPER III

MIGRATION IN THE MODERN WORLD

CREDITS: 4

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The course aims to study the historical processes of migration in the modern era and understand the movement of people during the periods of industrialisation, colonialism and globalisation. The course also intends to analyse the impact of migration on societies, economies and cultures; and connect the historical patterns of migration with present day global issues.

LEARNING OURCOMES: After completion of this course:

- Learners will be able to examine the patterns of migration in the world from the age to discovery to the 21st century.
- Learners can evaluate the role of colonialism, industrialisation, and capitalism in shaping modern migration patterns.
- Learners can apply historical perspectives to understand present-day issues of global migration, including brain drain, student migration, remittances, and climate change.

UNIT 1: EARLY MODERN MIGRATION (1500–1800)

- i. Age of Discovery and European colonisation
- ii. Transatlantic slave trade and African displacement
- iii. Settlement in the Americas and Oceania

UNIT 2: INDUSTRIALISATION AND MIGRATION

- i. Industrial Revolution and European overseas migration (to US, Canada, Australia, Latin America)
- ii. Indentured labour migration: Indians and Chinese to the Caribbean, Mauritius, Fiji, Southeast Asia, Africa

UNIT 3: MIGRATION AND COLONIALISM

- i. Labour flows in colonial empires
- ii. Indian, Chinese, and African diasporas in the British, French and Dutch empires
- iii. Migration and colonial city growth (Bombay, Calcutta, Singapore, Nairobi)

UNIT 4 – MIGRATION AND WORLD WARS

- i. Displacement and refugee flows (Armenians, Jews, Poles, Koreans, Chinese) during WWI and WWII
- ii. Post-war reconstruction and migration to Europe and the US
- iii. Holocaust and its migration consequences

UNIT 5: PARTITION AND DISPLACEMENTS

- i. Indian partition of 1947 and refugee flow
- ii. Partition of Palestine, Korea and displacements

UNIT 6: DECOLONISATION AND MIGRATION

- i. Return migration of Europeans from colonies (pieds-noirs, Anglo-Indians)
- ii. Migration from colonies to metropolises (Caribbeans to Britain, Algerians to France, Indians to UK)
- iii. Migration and identity in postcolonial societies

UNIT 7: COLD WAR MIGRATIONS

- i. Cuba
- ii. Vietnam
- iii. Afghanistan

UNIT 8 AFRICAN MIGRATION

- i. African decolonisation and resettlement
- ii. Migration from North Africa to Europe

UNIT 9: AFRICAN DISPLACEMENT AND MOVEMENTS

- i. Displacement due to wars, coups, and conflicts in Africa
- ii. Apartheid, liberation struggles, and refugee movements

UNIT 10 – MIGRATION IN ASIA

- i. Partition migrations in Asia
- ii. Refugee crisis

UNIT 11 – CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL MIGRATION

- i. Migration to the Gulf, Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific
- ii. Refugee crises: Africa (Rwanda, Sudan), Balkans, West Asia
- iii. Migration, multiculturalism, and identity politics

UNIT 12 – MIGRATION IN THE ERA OF GLOBALISATION

- i. Transnationalism and global migration networks
- ii. Remittances and migration economies
- iii. Migration governance: UNHCR, IOM, SDGs, regional policies (EU, ASEAN, SAARC)

UNIT 13: CONFLICT AND MIGRATION IN THE 21st CENTURY

- i. Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syrian refugee crises
- ii. Rohingya displacement
- iii. International refugee law and UNHCR

UNIT 14: ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND MIGRATION

- i. Climate change and environmental migration
- ii. Migration in global culture: literature, film, and memory

READINGS

Castles, S. and Miller, M. J.: (2003): *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World (3rd edition)*: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hoerder, Dick: (2002): *Cultures in Contact: World Migrations in the Second Millennium*: Duke University Press Books(Reprint)

Hollifield, James F. & Foley, Neil (ed): (2022): *Understanding Global Migration*: Stanford university Press

Betts, Alexander: (2011): *Forced Migration and Global Politics*: Wiley-Blackwell

McKeown, Adam. (2004). Global Migration, 1846-1940. *Journal of World History*, 15(2), 155–189.

PAPER IV

CASE STUDY/DISSERTATION

CREDITS: 4