

CBCT

Title of the Course: History of Assamese Book

Course Code: AS 503

Course Teacher: Sanjib Deka

Medium of Instruction: English

This paper aims to encourage students to gain knowledge on the history of Assamese books which includes manuscripts and printed texts. Hem Saraswati ushered in the tradition of writing book in Assamese in early fourteenth century and the tradition, both writing and scribing manuscript, persisted till mid twentieth century. With the arrival of the Baptist Missionaries, the nineteenth century Assam witnessed the 'coming of the book'. This paper will enable the students to learn the impact of print and the standardisation of language, the history of Assamese books as well as literature from fourteenth century onwards. The paper will also impart skills like reading medieval manuscript, preservation, archiving old manuscripts and printed texts, proof reading and editing.

Unit I

Book History: Theory and Scope, Development of Book History as a new branch of history in Europe, Coming of Print and Book History in India

Unit II

History of Assamese Manuscripts, Major Writers (from Fourteenth century to Eighteenth century), Script Diversity in Assamese language, Preparation of manuscripts in Medieval Assam, Reading Medieval Manuscript, Preservation and Archiving

Unit III

Impact of Print Culture in Colonial Assam, Print and the Making of Standard Assamese language-Debates, History of Assamese Literature, Literacy and Reading Culture

Unit IV

History of Press and Publishing Industry in Assam (Book Publishing in Nineteenth Century, Bhattacharjya Agency, Agency Company, Harinarayan Dutta Barua, Barkatay Company, Barua Agency, Durgadhar Barkataky, Puthitirtha Prakashan, Lawyers' Book Stall, Chapala Book Stall), Proof Reading and Editing

References:

Asamiya Sahityar Buranji (all volumes), ABILAC

Dimbeswar Neog Racanavali. ed. Nagen Saikia. Guwahati: Publication Board of Assam, 2013.

The Coming of the Book: The Impact of Printing, 1450—1800. Lucien Febvre, Henri-Jean Martin. Verso, 2010.

Prabandha. Ranjit Kumar Dev Goswami. Guwahati: Lawyers' Book Stall, 2019.