

**GOVERNMENT GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE, MANGALKOTE**

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

ADD-ON COURSE:

**Role of Museums in Understanding History**

Academic Session 2021-2022



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### **COURSE BACKGROUND:**

The main function of museums has traditionally revolved around collecting, preserving, researching and displaying objects. In the last 50 years, a greater emphasis has been placed on exhibitions, interpretation, learning and audiences. Furthermore, the number of museums has grown dramatically in this period, with an incredible range of themes and subjects covered. Displays are still constructed essentially around objects, thus making material culture a key constituent of most museum interpretation narratives. History consumed in museums is closer to what might be termed 'public history' than the history that circulates within the academy. Despite the rapid expansion of museum collections throughout the last century historians have preferred to research in the familiar comfort of the archive and the library rather than in the museum object store. Recently, historians have become more engaged by objects as new technology has resulted in digitized collections being made available through the internet. They have also become more involved in the development of new museum galleries and temporary exhibitions. The history of museums and of collecting has become a specialized field.

Museums are important because they preserve history, heritage, culture and the evolutionary trajectory of nature and human beings. This programme will give a key insight to the students in understanding these issues.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Museums are important and necessary for the students of History as well as other social science and natural science disciplines for several reasons. The objectives of this course are the following:

1. This course will teach the basics of museums and their various important roles. It aims to introduce students to the origins, emergence, and concepts of museums and museology in India and around the world.
2. This course introduces students to the institutions that house and maintain documentary, visual, and material remains of the past. They will learn about the concept of conservation and gain an understanding of the preventive conservation of museum objects.
3. It helps students understand the significance of museums and how they work.
4. Students will be encouraged to undertake the collection, documentation, and exhibition of materials in their localities and colleges. The course will introduce learners to the community's perception of museums and the concepts of New Museology and Intangible Cultural Heritage.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

| <b>Units</b> | <b>Topics/ Themes</b>   | <b>Contact Hours</b> |
|--------------|---|----------------------|
| 1            | Definition and history of development (with special reference to India and Bengal)  | 6                    |
| 2            | Types of Museums: Understanding the traditions of preservation in India Collection policies, ethics and procedures, Collection: field exploration, excavation, purchase, gift and bequests, loans and deposits, exchanges, treasure trove, confiscation and others Documentation: accessioning, indexing, cataloging, digital documentation and deaccessioning. | 8                    |
| 3            | Preservation: Curatorial care, preventive conservation, chemical preservation and restoration   | 8                    |
| 4            | Museum Presentation and Exhibition (Special Reference to Local Museums). Movie on Museums (Night at The Museum- Part 1 and Part 2)  | 3+2.5+2.5= 8         |
|              | <b>Total</b>  | <b>30</b>            |

## COURSE OUTCOMES:

1. Students will be able to pursue further studies in museology and conservation matters.
2. They will understand the importance of ancient objects, artifacts, pictures, manuscripts, etc., and the necessity of their conservation.
3. Additionally, they will be able to sensitize local people to this purpose.
4. Students are expected to handle museum objects, identify issues and causes of deterioration, and take proper protective measures.
5. They are also expected to understand curatorial responsibilities and the ethics of collection.
6. Furthermore, students should be able to document and classify museum objects and acquire the skills to manage and demonstrate them in a museum.

## CAREER PROSPECTS:

This course will offer opportunities for further studies in museology, archive management, or cultural and heritage studies. Students can also establish museums in their local areas. There has been an increase in the number of museums managed by the government, as well as the public and private sectors, in India and abroad. Additionally, there has been a rise in the number of small museums with interesting concepts in many regional areas. Students will be able to build their careers in these promising fields, as they need trained and efficient personnel to maintain these institutions.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Mandatory for all students of the BA History Honours programme. Interested students from other programmes may also apply.
2. The intake capacity is 50.
3. The course will be taught by the faculty members of the Department of History. Online lectures will also be organized with invited resource persons.
4. There is no course fee.
5. Attendance in 80% of the lectures and the field visit (if necessary) is compulsory.
6. All students opting for the course will have to submit all assignments and appear in the examinations to successfully complete the course and be eligible to receive the completion certificate.
7. Total number of contact hours: 30 hours

## EVALUATION PATTERN:

1. Written Assignment and Viva-Voce: (20 marks)
2. MCQ based Test (10 marks)
3. The full mark of the course is 30.

## GRADATION PATTERN:

| Percentage of Marks Obtained | Grades                       |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 100 – 90                     | A+ (Outstanding)             |
| 89 – 80                      | A (Excellent)                |
| 79 – 70                      | B+ (Very Good)               |
| 69 – 60                      | B (Good)                     |
| 59 – 50                      | C (Fair)                     |
| Below 50                     | Not Eligible for Certificate |



## SUGGESTED LEARNING RESOURCES:

1. Nigam M.L. 1966. Fundamentals of Museology. Navahind Prakashan.
2. Timothy, Ambrose and Paine, Crispin.1993. Museum Basics. ICOM. Routledge, New York.
3. Agrawal, Usha. Museums in India – a brief directory
4. Key concepts of Museology. ICOM Publication (online).
5. Museology working papers. ICOM Publication (online).
6. Seth, Manvi. 2012. Communication and Education in Indian Museums. Agam Kala Prakashan, New Delhi.
7. Pomian, Kyrzysztof. 1994. „The Collection: Between the visible and the invisible,“ Ch 23, Susan Pearce (ed) Interpreting Objects and Collections, Routledge.
8. Pearce, Susan. 1994. “Collecting Reconsidered,“ Ch 26, Pearce op.cit.
9. Baudrillard, Jean. 1994. “The system of collecting,“ From John Elsner and Roger Cardinal (eds) Cultures of Collecting, Reaktion Books, London.
10. Shelton, Anthony. “Cabinets of Transgression: Renaissance Collections and the Incorporation of the New World,“ from Elsner and Ardinal, op.cit.
11. Findlen, Paula. 2004. „The Museum: Its Classical Etymology and Renaissance Genealogy,“ in Bettina Messias Cardinal (ed.) Museum Studies: An Anthology of Contexts, Blackwell Publishing.
12. Preziosi, Donald. 1996. “In the Temple of Entelechy: The Museum as Evidentiary Artifact,“ in The Formation of National Collections of Art and Archeology.
13. Roy, Shilpi. 2019. Museum documentation: a potent tool for collection management. Delhi: Agam Kala Prakashan, 258 p.30165.
14. Wintle, Claire. 2013. Colonial collecting and display: encounters with material culture from the Andaman and Nicobar islands. New York: Berghahn books, 244 p. 930.1/Win. 27860.
15. Culture: collection and preservation.-- Midnapur: Rarh, Sanskriti Sangrahalaya, 1995. vii,104 p.069.53/CUL.15814.
16. Elsner, John.1997. The Cultures of Collecting.-- London: Reaction Books Ltd., 312 p. 709/CUL. 21656 19563.
17. Martin, Paul.1999. Popular collecting and the everyday self: the reinvention, of Museums? -- London: Leicester University Press, xii, 179 p. 069.4/Mar. 19033.
18. Agrawal, O.P. 1977. Care and Preservation of Museum Objects, NRLC, New Delhi.





Department of History

# GOVERNMENT GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE MANGALKOTE

(Affiliated to The University of Burdwan)

## Certificate of Completion

This certificate is awarded to Mr./Miss .....bearing Roll No.....of Semester.....of the session **2021-2022** of the Department of...**History**....,G.G.D.C.Mangalkote, for successfully completing Add-on Course entitled “**ROLE OF MUSEUMS IN UNDERTSANDING HISTORY**” during his/her.....Semester study.

The candidate has fulfilled all requirements and specifications set by the institute.

Grade: .....




Hirak Kumar Sinha Mahapatra  
(Head, Department of History)  
G.G.D.C.Mangalkote



Dr. Debraj Biswal  
(IQAC Coordinator)  
G.G.D.C. Mangalkote



Dr. Pradipta Kumar Basu  
(Officer In Charge)  
G.G.D.C. Mangalkote

  
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Grade for the certificate, 90-100% 'A', 70-89% 'B', 50-69% 'C' and 40-49% 'D'

Date of issue: .....