

**M Phil in Northeast India Studies in GUINEIS**  
**(Under Gauhati University)**  
Effective from 2018

**1. COURSE BACKGROUND AND BASIC FEATURES**

M Phil in Northeast India Studies is interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary programme meant to promote an interdisciplinary perspective and discuss even the discipline specific issues relating to the region in a broader context. Some of the basic guidelines for the course are outlined as the following.

- A. All students admitted will do a six months interdisciplinary course work on the socio-economic, geographical, geopolitical and other relevant aspects of Northeast India. The purpose is to equip scholars with the specialties, peculiarities and potentialities of the region so that the researchers can frame their discipline specific research proposal in a truly North East Indian context.
- B. After successfully completing the course work, a student may pursue research and prepare the dissertation under guidance of a supervisor from the department of her/his PG discipline. This is expected to deepen the scholar's own area of specialization and will also equip her/him with a higher degree in his/her own discipline which is important for one's marketability in the job market. Indeed the dual nature of the program may empower a scholar even more than one pursuing only discipline specific M Phil.
- C. To ensure Northeast India focus of the M Phil dissertation, the topic of research undertaken by a scholar, though discipline specific, should be contextualized in the Northeast Indian perspective.
- D. The area in which the M Phil degree will be awarded should indicate the discipline in which the dissertation is prepared apart from emphasizing on the fact that it has been done in the North-east Indian context. Thus the degree may be named as M Phil in Northeast India studies in (in the discipline concerned, say History or Geography or Economics ... etc.)**
- E. The intake in the batch under the program will not exceed twenty (20) in a single batch, out of which five (5) would be from Northeast Indian States other than Assam. To maintain the interdisciplinary character of the programme there broad discipline specific quota has been fixed within the total intake. The scheme of quota suggested by the Advisory Committee for GUINEIS is:
  - 9 seats for social sciences (Sociology, History, Economics, Political Science etc.)
  - 7 seats for language, literature, culture etc.
  - 4 seats for others including Geography, Geology etc. (The seats for this subgroup has been limited anticipating scarcity of laboratory facility)

The cross discipline transfer of seats may be permitted only if a particular quota remains unfulfilled.

- F. The programme will be self-financed but moderately priced. The target of self-financing is primarily to cover the expenses of the sessions to be taken by Guest Faculty in the Course Work.

## **2. THE COURSE STRUCTURE**

As per M Phil/Ph D Regulations 2017 of Gauhati University, the course has to be completed between 1 to 2 years from the date of admission. In the first 6 months the admitted scholars will do a course work. The Dissertation will have to be completed and submitted within the next 18 months.

### **2(a) Syllabus for One Semester Course Work**

The Course Work consists of FOUR PAPERS of 6 Credits (100 marks) each. Total Credits are 24 (400 marks). The course contents of the papers are detailed below:

#### **MPHIL-NIS-I: Research Methodology: Materials and Tools**

- 1.1** Idea of Research – Types – Qualitative and quantitative, Material for research
- 1.2** Techniques of qualitative survey/investigation – Participatory observation and appraisal, Ethnography as a research method – Focus group discussion – Case studies– Uses and limitations of qualitative survey
- 1.3** Sampling design for primary data collection: Probability and non-probability sampling – Framing of survey schedule
- 1.4** Content analysis – Sourcing and analyzing archived material
- 1.5** Introduction to computer software: MS EXCEL, SPSS, GIS packages
- 1.6** Field Work/Survey
- 1.7** Data entry - Descriptive Statistics – Summarization and presentation of data in tables, graphs and charts – bivariate presentations using Scatter, Radar and Bubble diagrams (using software packages)

[Instructions are imparted through classroom lectures and laboratory practical sessions. Internal assessment through class/home assignments carries 20 marks. End semester examination consists of written examination of 60 marks and practical examination of 20 marks]

#### **MPHIL-NIS-2: Research Methodology in Practice**

- 2.1** Preparation of research/project proposal – Sourcing and reviewing literature – Identification research gap – Formulation of research questions/hypotheses – Articulation of research objectives.
- 2.2** Critical summary of articles and chapters in book/report. (Home study and presentation)
- 2.3** Group field work on a given area – Documentation and analysis of findings with reference to different subjects of concerned students.

- 2.4 Statistical estimation and inference – Framing and testing of hypothesis.
- 2.5 Multivariate analysis – Factor analysis and principal components – Discriminant analysis - Multiple regression.
- 2.6 Documenting research – Structure of a research paper/dissertation – Citing and listing of references: alternative formats – Use of quoted text – Preparation of a presentation (use of Power Point and animations)
- 2.7 Preparation of Term Paper on assigned topic (Library and laboratory work. Will involve preparation of the write up, presentation, and discussion of paper by another student).

[Instructions are imparted through classroom lectures, home assignments and practical. Marks allotted for home assignments/practical will be 20. End semester examination consists of a term paper and a written examination. The term paper carries 20 marks – 10 for the write up, 5 for presentation and 5 on the scholar's performance as a discussant of another term paper. The written examination carries 60 marks.]

### **MPHIL-NIS-3: North East India: Land and People**

- 3.1 Physical Description of the North East Region – Geological and Geographical features and their implications for organization of social and economic life of the inhabitants – Land use pattern – The ecology and the environment.
- 3.2 Demographic features – Population growth – Density, sex ratio, urbanization trend – Work force participation, literacy and education – Health status – Diversities within: across states, over the hills and plains and in communities.
- 3.3 Evolution of the North East as a region through to the colonial period upto its present dispensation: A historical Perspective of its political, administrative and socioeconomic dimensions.
- 3.4 North East India as a linguistic and cultural mosaic – Socioeconomic transitions – Traditional institutions in a modernizing sociopolitical framework – Identity aspiration and movements – The issues of common property and traditional knowledge.

[Instructions are imparted through classroom lectures. Evaluation is based on a unit test carrying 20 marks during the semester and an semester-ending written examination carrying 80 marks]

### **MPHIL-NIS-4: Economy, Infrastructure and the Periphery of Northeast India**

- 4.1 Economic growth and development – Trends in domestic product, Per capita income and sectoral compositions of the region and the states in it – State of Infrastructure, Health and Education – Poverty and inequality.

- 4.2** The state of agriculture – Agriculture in the hills: Transition from shifting cultivation to settled and commercial crops – The potentiality of high value horticultural, organic and plantation crops – Agriculture in the plains: cropping patterns and intensity – Technological advancement and input use – The agrarian institutions and infrastructure.
- 4.3** Status of non-agricultural sectors – Trends and composition of manufacturing output – Constraints of utilizing natural resources for industrial development – Potential and reliability of power generation – Role and prospect of tourism
- 4.4** Centre-State and Inter-State relation in North East India – Political and fiscal dimensions of the centre and the region – Interstate dependence and disputes.
- 4.5** North East India and its external orientation – Interrelation with Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar – India-China relation: implications for the region – Look/Act East policy and the region.

[Instructions are imparted through classroom lectures. Evaluation is based on a unit test carrying 20 marks during the semester and an semester-ending written examination carrying 80 marks]

## **2(b) DISSERTATION:**

After Completion of the Course Work, each scholar will carry out research on an assigned topic and prepare a dissertation on it under an assigned guide. The duration and evaluation process for this part of the course will be as per Gauhati University M Phil/Ph D Regulations 2017.