

## ***Culture and Festivity (Seminar Course)***

**Course Instructor: S.Gunasekaran**

1. Festivals, rituals, ceremony, pilgrimages, ritualised bodily practices, performance were important social and cultural aspects of medieval society. These often evolved as cultural forms of memory to remember and preserve the social past of groups.
2. Festivity is used here in a broader context as to include any forms of celebration which brought individuals in society together. It can be festivals related any religions, folk rituals/ceremonies/festivals associated with common people, court rituals/ceremonies/festivals associated with elites, political events such as construction of monuments( to commemorate a victory or a defeat), etc
3. In addition to writing their histories, researches under this course will explore the social meanings of such cultural forms and their role and impact on society and polity.

**Sources:** Folk Narratives and oral sources, any form of written documents, court narratives, literatures, chronicles, travellers accounts, inscriptions, paintings, sculptures, monuments, or any other sources not listed here.

### **Structure of Seminar paper**

- a. **Introduction:** Introduce your research topic and the historical question/problem you want to explore through this study. Your research can make a fresh argument/interpretation or extend additional information/sources to support the existing arguments/interpretation.
- b. **Literature Review/historiography:** You need to situate your research problem in a proper historical and theoretical context. Therefore, all available secondary literatures related to your topic need to be critically reviewed. In this process, you need to state how your research would bring additional information or interpretation on this subject.
- c. **Analysis of primary sources:** This is important stage of your research. Analyse your primary sources and narrate it in different chapters/ sections. You can also take the support of secondary source to validate your findings.
- d. **Conclusion:** Provide the summary of your research with special emphasize on your major findings/arguments.
- e. **Citation and Bibliography:** Your research paper should follow a standard citation method (footnotes or endnotes). All other people's ideas always need citation. Add a detailed bibliography at the end of your paper.

**Method of evaluation:** the following aspects would be evaluated: **1.** summarizing and synthesizing skill. **2.** Ability to extract the main arguments from various texts and using them in the appropriate context **3.** Ability to identify and state the research problem **4.** Selection and use of primary sources **5.** Coherency in the narration and consistency in the arguments made. **6.** Intellectual ethics (primarily plagiarism).

**Timeline:** (1) Submission of abstract: **1<sup>st</sup> Feb.** (2) Identification of primary and secondary sources: **15<sup>th</sup> Feb** (3) Draft of review of literatures: **1st March** (4) Draft analysis of primary sources- **5<sup>th</sup> April.** (5.) Submission of first draft of complete paper:**12 April.** (6) Submission of second draft: **19<sup>th</sup> April** (7) Final submission:**27<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Note: Compulsory meeting with the Course Instructor: Thursday at 10 a.m.**