

Debra Thana Sahid Kshudiram Smriti Mahavidyalaya (Autonomous)

Syllabus for 4 Year B.A. Major in History

1st Semester

Course Type: Major -1

Course Code: HISHMJ01

Course Title: T: Ancient India from the Earliest Times to 325 BCE

(Credits 04)

Unit 1: Understanding Early India

1.1: Historical theories and interpretations of the Indian past

1.2 The idea of Bharatavarsha: Indian subcontinent with all its diversity and cultural traditions

1.3 An overview of literary and archaeological sources

Unit 2: Neolithic to Chalcolithic settlements

2.1 The earliest village farming community in India—transition from pastoral life to the practice of agriculture: Mehrgarh and its various cultural phases

2.2 The first Urbanization in the Indian subcontinent—Indus civilization: contemporary perspectives through a historiography

2.3 The early Harappan, Harappan and late Harappan phases: technology, architecture, religion and maritime trade.

2.4 End/transformation of the Indus civilization: different theories.

Unit 3: The Aryans in India: Vedic Age

3.1 The historiography of the concept 'Aryan'

3.2 The spread of Aryan settlements in India

3.3 The period of the Vedas, Brahmanas and Upanishads: pastoralism, agriculture and other occupations

3.4 Political development, culture and rituals

Unit 4: North India in the sixth century BCE

4.1 Establishment of kingdoms, oligarchies and chiefdoms: sixteen Mahajanapadas

4.2 The Autonomous Clans

4.3 Rise of Magadhan imperialism

4.4 The Persian and the Greek Invasions of India and Their Impact

Unit 5: Ideas and institutions in early India

5.1 Varna and Jati: the issue of upward mobility among the Shudras

5.2 Slavery: ancient forms and modern debates

5.3 Untouchables

5.4 Women

5.5 Forms of marriage

Unit 6: Cults, doctrines and metaphysics

6.1 The religion of the Vedas

6.2 The unorthodox sects – Buddhism, Jainism and the doctrine of the Ajivikas

6.3 Scepticism and Materialism

Unit 7: Aspects of the economy in the age of Buddha

7.1 Economic changes: use iron, rural economy, trade and crafts, guilds

7.2 Taxation

7.3 The Second Urbanization

Unit 8: The cultural milieu

8.1 Education

8.2 Language and Literature

8.3 Science and Technology

Suggested Readings:

A. L. Basham, *The Wonder That Was India*

D.D. Kosambi, *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*

---, *Culture and Civilization of Ancient India in Historical Outline*

Romila Thapar, *Early India from the Origins to c. AD 1300*

Hermann Kulke and D. Rothermund, *A History of India*

R.C. Majumdar, ed., *The Vedic Age* (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan series, Vol. 1)

---, ed., *The Age of Imperial Unity* (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan series, Vol. 2)

Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*

Ranabir Chakravarti, *Exploring Early India: Upto c. AD 1300*

Jean-Francois Jarrige et al, eds., *Mehrgarh: Field Reports from Neolithic Times to the Indus*

Civilization

Bridget Allchin and F.R. Allchin, *The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan*

B.B. Lal and S.P. Gupta, eds., *Frontiers of the Indus Civilization*

Gregory L. Possehl, *The Indus Civilization: A Contemporary Perspective*

---, ed., *Ancient Cities of the Indus*

Shereen Ratnagar, *Encounters: The Westerly Trade of the Harappan Civilization*

Asko Parpola, *Deciphering the Indus Script*

Nayanjot Lahiri, ed., *The Decline and Fall of the Indus Civilization*

R.S. Sharma, *Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India*

---, *Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India*

---, *Sudras in Ancient India: A Social History of the Lower Order Down to c. AD 600*

Dev Raj Chanana, *Slavery in Ancient India*

G.S. Ghurye, *Caste, Class and Occupation*

T.W. Rhys Davids, Buddhist India

Brian K. Smith, Classifying the Universe: The Ancient Indian Varna System and the Origins of Caste

Sukumari Bhattacharji, Women and Society in Ancient India

Patrick Olivelle, ed., Between the Empires: Society in India 300 BCE to 400 CE

Skill Enhancement Course in History

Course Type: SEC – 1

Course Code HISSEC01

Course Title: P: Techniques of History Writing

(Credits 3)

Unit 1: What is History, Meaning and Scope of History, Generalization in History, Judgement in History

Unit 2: Understanding Sources of History, Survey of Sources: Archaeological and Literary Sources, Accounts of the Foreign Travellers, Oral History, Sources of Contemporary History, Data Mining from Internet/Web Sources

Unit 3: History Writing: Review of a Research Paper/ Original Work/ Book on General History/Biography etc.

Unit 4: Writing Biographical History: Individual, Family, Organization History

Unit 5: Writing Local History: Village/ Town/ Street/ Festival/ Monument etc. Problems and Scope

References:

1. E.H. Carr, What is History, Penguin Classic
2. E. Sreedharan, A Text Book of Historiography, Orient Longman
3. Sumit Sarkar, Writing Social History, Oxford University Press
4. B. Sheikh Ali, History-Its Theory and Method, Laxmi publications

6. Steven Roger Fischer, History of Writing, Reaktion Books
7. Amartya Sen, Argumentative Indian, Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity,
8. R.G. Collingwood, The Idea of History, Oxford University Press
9. K. Rajayyan, History in Theory and Method: A Study in Historiography, Raj Publishers
10. G. P Singh, Ancient Indian Historiography Sources and Interpretations, D.K.Print World Ltd
11. N.R. Ray, Sources for the History of India, New Delhi
12. R.C.Majumdar, Historiography in Modern India: 18th and 19th Centuries, Asia Publishing House
13. Ramasundari Mantena, The Origins of Modern Historiography in India: Antiquarianism and Philology, 1780- 1880, Palgrave and Macmillan
14. Arthur Marwick, The Nature of History, Palgrave and Macmillan

Syllabus for 4 Year B.A. Minor in History (For other discipline)

Course Type: Minor 01

Course Code: HISM01

Course Title: T: Ancient India

(Credits 04)

Course Contents:

Unit 1. Evolution of Harappan Culture: Maturity of Civilization, Town Planning and Causes of Decline

Unit 2. Vedic Age: Corpus of Vedic Literature, Society, Economy and Polity in Early & Later Vedic Period

Unit 3. State Formation in Early India: Mahajanapadas

Unit 4. Mauryan Empire: Chandragupta Maurya to Asoka: Polity, Administration, Society, Culture and Mauryan decline

Unit 5. Gupta Empire: Chandragupta I to Skandagupta: Polity, Administration, Society, Culture and Downfall

Unit 6. Overview of the Early Medieval India: Formation of Regional States: Shashanka and Harsha, the Chalukyas, the Palas and the Senas of Bengal, Tripartite Struggle, the Rashtrakutas and the Gurjara-Pratiharas, the Pallavas and the Cholas. The Economy, Society and Culture of Early Medieval India.

Suggested Readings:

1. Allchin, Bridget and Raymond, The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan.
2. Basham, A.L., The Wonder that Was India.
3. Bhattacharjee, Sukumari, Women and Society in Ancient India.
4. Chakrabarty, Ranabir, Exploring Early India upto A.D. 1300.
5. Habib, Irfan (General Editor), A Peoples History of India
(a) Vol. I –Pre History.

(b) Vol. II –The Indus Civilization.

(c) Vol. III – The Vedic Age.

(d) Vol. IV –The Mauryas.

6. Jha, D.N., Ancient India in Historical Outline

7. Jha, D.N., Ancient India : An Introduction.

8. Kochar,R., The Vedic People.

9. Kosambi, D.D., An Introduction to the Study of Indian History.

10. Kulke, H., The State in India (1000-1700).

11. Lahiri, Naianjyot, The Decline and Fall of the Indus Civilization.

12. Ratnagar, Shireen, The End of the Great Harappan Tradition.

13. Sastri, K.A., A History of South India from Pre-historic Times to the Fall of Vijaynagara,

14. Sharma, R.S., India's AncientPast.

15. Singh, Upinder, A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India.

16. Thapar, Romila, From Lineage to State.

17. Thapar, Romila, Early India: From the Origins to A.D. 1300.

18. Thapar, Romila, TheMauryas Revisited.

19. Romila, Thapar, Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas.

20. Ranabir Chakraborty, Bharat Itihaser Adiparba