

FIRST SEMESTER
DSC 1(C/M): HIST-111
History of India (from the Earliest Times to Gupta Period)

Credits-4

Marks: 100 (IA: 30+TH: 70)

Course Description

The course discovers the fascinating history of ancient India spanning from prehistoric times to the Gupta period. The students shall learn about the sources, civilization, and socio-political developments during the Harappan, Vedic, Mauryan and Gupta periods. They shall gain a deeper understanding of the religious diversity, literature, and cultural dynamics that have shaped ancient India.

Course Objectives

1. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the concept of history, its scope, and significance.
2. To realize the past glory and to appreciate the values of the life in the ancient period.
3. Analyze the sources and historiographical trends in ancient Indian history.
4. To impart knowledge on the Indian heritage.

Course Outcomes

1. Identify approaches towards the sources and the study of ancient Indian history.
2. Increase the awareness of the transition from territorial states to the emergence of empires.
3. Evolution of socio-religious and political institutions in the different periods of ancient times.
4. Analyze the emergence of the Mauryan and Gupta empires during the 'classical age' in India.

Section- I

Sources, Historiography and Prehistoric India

- a. What is History: Meaning, scope and significance.
- b. Sources and Historiographical trends of Ancient Indian History.
- c. A survey of Prehistoric India: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures.

Section- II

Harappan and Vedic Civilizations

- a. Harappan Civilization: Origin, significant features, decline and survival.
- b. Aryans: Original home, myths and realities of Aryan invasion; various theories.
- c. Vedic culture: Early Vedic and post-Vedic literature, polity, society, economy and religion.

Section III

Post-Vedic Culture and Religious Heterodoxy

- a. Iron Age and Megalithic Culture.
- b. Mahajanapadas: Rise of Magadha.
- c. Religious Heterodoxy: Buddhism, Jainism, Ajivika and Charvaka

Section IV

Mauryan, Sangam and Gupta Age

- a. The Mauryan Empire: State, administration & economy, Ashoka and the fall of Mauryan empire.
- b. Polity in post Mauryan Age: Satavahanas and Kushanas.
- c. Sangam Age: Literature, society and culture.
- d. Gupta Empire: State, administration and the golden age in Indian history.

Essential Readings

- Basham, A. L., *The Wonder That Was India*, Picador India, New Delhi, 1967, reprint 2019.
- Basham, A. L., *History and Doctrines of Ajivikas: A Vanished Indian Religion*, Motilal Banarasidass, New Delhi, 2009.
- Battacharya, N. N., *Jainism: A Concise Encyclopedia*, Manoharlal Publishers and Distributors, New Delhi, 2009.
- Carr, E. H., *What Is History*, Punguin Classics, London, 2018.
- Chaitnya, Akshay, *Charvaka Philosophy Truth Inquirer*, Lap Lambert Academic Publishing, 2011.
- Chakrabarti, Dilip K., *India: An Archaeological History: Palaeolithic Beginnings to Early Historic Foundations*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2009.
- Chakravarti, Ranbir, *Exploring Early India up to C. AD 1300*, Visionias, New Delhi, 2010.
- Jha, D. N., *Early India: A Concise History*, Manohar publishers & Distributors, New Delhi, 2004.
- Jaiswal, Suvara, *Caste: Origin, Function and Dimensions of Change*, Manohar Publishers and Distributors, Delhi, 1998.
- Karashima, Noboru (ed.), *A Concise History of South India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2014.
- Kosambi, D.D., *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*, Sangam Books Ltd., Hyderabad, 2023 (revised).
- Majumdar, R. C. et al., *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai, 1951.

- Ratnagar, Shereen, *Understanding Harappa: Civilization in the Greater Indus Valley*, Tulika Books, New Delhi, 2001.
- Ray, Himanshu, P., *Monastery and Guild: Commerce under the Satavahanas*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1996.
- Raychaudhuri, H. C., *Political History of Ancient India*, with a commentary by B. N. Mukherjee, Calcutta University Press, Calcutta, 1996.
- Sharma, R.S., *Perspectives in Social and Economic History of Early India*, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, New Delhi, 2003.
- Singh, Upinder, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*, Pearson Education India, New Delhi, 2013.
- Thapar, Romila, *Early India from the Origins to AD 1300*, The Penguin, New Delhi, 2002.

Suggested Readings

- Akira, Heerakawa, *A History of Indian Buddhism: From Sakyamuni to Early Mahayana*, Motilal Banarasidass, New Delhi, 2007.
- Agarwal, D.P., *The Archaeology of India*, Bio-Green Books, Delhi, 2021.
- Childe, Gordon V., *The Most Ancient East: The Oriental Prelude to European Prehistory*, Kegan Paul, Trench Turner & Co., 1928.
- Fea, John, *Why Study History? Reflecting on the Importance of the Past*, Baker Publishing Group, Michigan, 2013.
- Gordon, D. H., *The Prehistoric Background of Indian Culture*, Munshiral Manoharlal Publishers, New Delhi, 1996.
- Jha, D.N., *Ancient India in Historical Outline (Fourth Revised Edition)*, Manohar publishers & Distributers, New Delhi, 2009.
- Singh, G. P., *Ancient Indian Historiography: Sources and Interpretations*, D. K. Print world, New Delhi, 2003.
- Munshi, K. M., *The History and Culture of Indian People: The Classical Age*, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai, 1954, (reprint, 1970).
- Sankalia, H.D., *Prehistory and Proto history in India and Pakistan*, University of Bombay, Mumbai, 1962.
- Jain, V. K., *Prehistory and Protohistory of India: Palaeolithic-Non Harappan Chalcolithic Cultures*, D.K. Print World, New Delhi, 2006.
- Stevenson, Sinclair, *The Heart of Jainism (Classical reprint)*, Forgotten Books, 2018.
- Sen S.N., *Ancient Indian History and Civilization*, New Central Book agency Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, 2017.
- Tripathi, R. S., *History of Ancient India*, Motilal Banarasi Dass, Allahabad, 1977.
- Thapar, Romila, *Ashoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*, Oxford, New Delhi, 2012.
- Albinia, Alice, *Empires of The Indus*, John Murray Press, London, 2009.

Books in Hindi

- झा, आचार्य आनंद, *चार्वाक दर्शन*, उत्तर प्रदेश हिंदी संस्थान, लखनऊ, 2013.
- कोसाम्बी, डी.डी., *मिथक और यथार्थ*, संगम बुक्स, नई दिल्ली, 2001.
- गार्डन, डी० एच०, *भारतीय संस्कृति की प्रागैतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि*, (हिंदी अनुवाद: वीरेंद्र कुमार सिन्हा), बिहार हिंदी ग्रंथ अकादमी, पटना, 2016.
- गार्डनचाइल्ड, वी०, *प्राचीनतम प्राच्य सभ्यता पर नया प्रकाश*, (हिंदी अनुवाद: राधाकृष्ण चौधरी), बिहार हिंदी ग्रंथ अकादमी, पटना, 2016.
- जैन, वी.के., *भारत का प्रागैतिहास और आद्य इतिहास: एक अवलोकन, पाषाणकालीन एवं गैर-हड़प्पाई ताम्र पाषाणिक संस्कृतियां*, नई दिल्ली, 2008.
- झा, डी. एन., *प्राचीन भारत: एक रूपरेखा*, मनोहर पब्लिशर्स, नई दिल्ली, 2013.
- झा, द्विजेन्द्र नारायण एवं श्रीमाली, कृष्णमोहन, *प्राचीन भारत का इतिहास*, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली, 2016.
- ठाकरान, आर० सी०, दत्त, शिव, और कुमार, संजय, *भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप की संस्कृतियां*, भाग 1, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली, 2015.
- ठाकरान, आर० सी०, दत्त, शिव, और कुमार, संजय, *भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप की संस्कृतियां*, भाग 2, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली, 2015.
- थापर, रोमिला, *पूर्व कालीन भारत: प्रारम्भ से 1300 ई. तक*, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली, 2008.
- थापर, रोमिला, *आर्य संरचना का पुनर्गठन*, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली, 2011.
- थापर, रोमिला, *अशोक और मौर्य साम्राज्य का पतन*, ग्रन्थ शिल्प, दिल्ली, 2014.
- पांडे, राजबली, *प्राचीन भारत*, विश्वविद्यालय प्रकाशन वाराणसी, संशोधित संस्करण, वाराणसी, 2010.
- बैषम, ए. एल., *अद्भुत भारत*, शिवलाल अग्रवाल एण्ड कम्पनी, आगरा, 2002.
- चक्रवर्ती, रणबीर, *भारतीय इतिहास: आदिकाल*, नई दिल्ली, ओरियेंट ब्लैकस्वान, 2012.
- शर्मा, आर. एस., *प्रारम्भिक भारत का आर्थिक और सामाजिक इतिहास*, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली, 2002.
- शर्मा, रामशरण, *भारत में आर्यों का आगमन*, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली, 2017.
- सर मार्टिनर व्हीलर, *पृथ्वी से पुरातत्व*, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली, 1968.

सिंह, उपिन्दर, *प्राचीन एवं पूर्व मध्यकालीन भारत का इतिहास से पाषणकाल: 12 वीं शताब्दी तक*, पियर्सन एजुकेशन इंडिया, नई दिल्ली, 2016.

सिंह, आनन्द, *प्राचीन भारतीय धर्म: उद्भव एवं स्वरूप*, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली. 2010.

Suggested Online Link

<https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in>

<https://epustakalay.com>

<https://archive.org>

<https://ignou.ac.in>

www.cec.nic.in

SECOND SEMESTER
DSC 2(C/M): HIST-121
History of India: Post Gupta to 1200 CE

Credits-4

Marks: 100 (IA: 30+TH: 70)

Course Description

The course explores the political, social, economic and cultural aspects of the Early Medieval Period in Indian history. It explores the origins, conflicts, feudal advancements, and emergence of new powers, as well as religious, intellectual, and artistic developments. This course will analyze the transition to the early and medieval periods and its spatial and chronological context.

Course Objectives

1. To gain an understanding of the various types of historical sources such as texts, inscriptions, and coins.
2. Examine the impact of invasions on Indian society and polity.
3. Gain an understanding of political structures in significant kingdoms including the regional powers.
4. To study of various changes that have occurred in society, economy and culture over time to gain a better understanding of how different societies have evolved throughout history.

Course Outcomes

1. The students will develop the ability to interpret various historical sources to reconstruct the early Medieval period.
2. Analyze the political landscape, including the emergence of regional powers and shifts in power dynamics.
3. Evaluating the socio-economic changes brought about by trade networks and outside invasions.
4. Gain an understanding of the intellectual and artistic expressions that were prominent in early medieval Indian culture

Section-I

Beginnings of Early Medieval Period

- a. Sources: Texts, epigraphic and numismatics.
- b. Harsha Kingdom and administration.
- c. Feudal Formation in the beginning of early Medieval India.

Section II

Political Structures & Castes

- a. Tripartite struggle and rise of Rajput.
- b. Imperial Cholas and administration.
- c. Proliferation of Castes.

Section-III

Society, Economy and New Powers

- a. Inter-regional trade, Maritime trade and Guild system in early medieval India.
- b. Arab Conquests of Sindh.
- c. Turkish invasions and establishment of Sultanate; Mahmud of Ghazni and Shahab-ud-din of Ghur.

Section-IV

Religious and Cultural Developments

- a. Puranic tradition and Shakta Tantrism.
- b. Islamic intellectual traditions: Al-Biruni.
- c. Art and Architecture: Evolution of regional styles.

Essential Readings

- Abraham, Meera, *Two Medieval Merchant Guilds of South India*, Manohar Publishers, Delhi, 1988.
- Ambedkar, B. R., *Caste in India their Mechanism, Genesis and Development*, Neha Publishers and Distributers, Delhi, 2020.
- Bhattacharya, N. N., *A History of Sakta Religion*, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, New Delhi, 1974, reprint, 1996.
- Chakrabarti, Ranbir, *Exploring Early India Up to c. AD 1300*, Primus Books, New Delhi, 2016.
- Chattopadhyaya, B.D., *The Making of Early Medieval India*, Oxford, New Delhi, 1994.
- Gopal, Lallanji, *The Economic Life of Northern India c. A. D. 700-1200*, Motilal Banarasidass, Varanasi, 1965.
- Jain, B., *Guild Organisations in Northern India from Early Times to 1200 A.D.*, Pratibha Prakashan, Delhi, 1990.
- Jaiswal, Suvira, *Caste: Origin, Function and Dimensions of Change*, Manohar Publishers and Distributers, Delhi, 1998.
- Karashima, Noboru (ed.), *A Concise History of South India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2014.
- Mahajan, V. D., *History of Medieval India: Sultanate Period and Mughal Period*, S. Chand, Noida, 1991 (Eleventh edition).
- Somany, R. V., *Prithviraj Chauhan and his Time*, Publication Scheme, 1981.
- Sachau, Edward C., *Alberni's India: An Account of the Religion, Philosophy, Literature, Geography, Chronology, Astronomy, Customs, Laws and Astrology of India About A. D. 1030*, Rupa & Co., New Delhi, 2015.
- Sastri, K.A.N., *The Cholas*, University of Madras, Madras, 1975.

- Sastri, K. A. N., *A History of South India: From prehistoric Times to the Fall of Vijayanagar*, Oxford, Delhi, 2000.
- Saxena, Monika, *Women and the Puranic Tradition in India*, Routledge India, New Delhi, 2018.
- Seshan, Radhika., *Ideas and Institutions in Medieval India*, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi, 2013.
- Singh, Upinder, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*, Pearson Education, New Delhi, 2024.
- Sharma, R. S., *Early Medieval Society: A Study in Feudalization*, Orient Blackswan, Delhi, 2014.
- Sircar, D.C., *Indian Epigraphy*, Motilal Banarsidass, Ahmadabad, 2017.
- Sircar, D. C., *Studies in Indian Coins*, Motilal Banarsidass, Ahmadabad, 2008.
- Thapar, Romila, *Early India from the Origins to AD 1300*, The Penguin, New Delhi, 2002.
- Tripathi, R. S., *History of Ancient India*, Motilal Banarasi Dass, Allahabad, 1977, reprint 1999.
- Vaidya, C. V., *Early History of Rajputs (750 to 1000 A. D.)*, Gyan Publishing House, New Delhi, 2022.

Suggested Online Links

- <https://archive.org> (Mostly books are available for free in pdf)
- A Debated Question: The Genesis and Character of Landed Aristocracy in Ancient India on JSTOR
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3596303>
- The Essence of Feudal Economy and the Perspective of Third Urbanisation in India on JSTOR
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/41919541>
- Origin and Growth of Feudalism in Early India: From the Mauryas to AD 650 | Vijaya Laxmi Singh
https://www.academia.edu/95941052/Origin_and_Growth_of_Feudalism_in_Early_India_From_the_Mauryas_to_a_d_650
- Was there feudalism in Indian history? | Harbans Mukhia
https://www.academia.edu/2777599/Was_there_feudalism_in_Indian_history
- How Feudal Was Indian Feudalism? on JSTOR
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3517092>

Suggested Readings

- Ambedkar, B. R., *Annihilation of Caste*, Prabhat Prakashan, Delhi, 2022. (originally published in 1936)
- Ahmad, Qeymuddin, *India by Al-Biruni*, National Book Trust, New Delhi, 2018.
- Ashraf, K. M., *Life and Conditions of the People of Hindustan*, Gyan Publishing House, New Delhi, 1967, reprint 2000.
- Basham, A.L., *The Origins and Development of Classical Hinduism*, Motilal Banarasidass, Varanasi, 2016. (Edited and completed by Kenneth Zysk)
- Brooks, Douglas Renfrew, *The Secret of Three Cities: An Introduction to Hindu Shakta Tantrism*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1990.
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- Champakalakshmi, R., *Trade, Ideology and Urbanization: South India 300 BC-AD 1300*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2010.
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- Chaudhuri, K. N., *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean*, Cambridge University Press, 1985.
- Devahuti, D., *Harsha: A Political Study*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1999.
- Karashima, Noboru (ed.), *A Concise History of South India*, Oxford, New Delhi, 2014.
- Kumar, Sunil., *The Emergence of the Delhi Sultanate: AD 1192-1286*, Permanent Black, Ranikhet, 2007, reprint. 2023.
- Maclean, Derryl, N., *Religion and Society in Arab Sind*, Brill Academic Publications, New Delhi, 1997.
- Mohan, Peggy and Eanderes, Kings, *Merchants: The Story of India through its Languages*, Penguin Books, New Delhi, 2021.
- Sharma, R. S., *Indian Feudalism 3rd Revised Edition*, Macmillan Publishers India Ltd., Delhi, 2005.
- Sharma, Dashrath, *Rajasthan Through the Ages*, Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner, 2014.
- Veluthat, Kesavan, *The Political Structure of Early Medieval South India*, Orient Blackswan, Delhi, 2012.
- Chandramouli, Anuja, *Prithviraj Chauhan: The Emperor of Heart: The Emperor of Hearts*, Penguin Books New Delhi, 2017.
- Aquil, R., *The Muslim Question: Understanding Islam and Indian History*, The Penguin, New Delhi, 2017.
- Asher, Catherine and Talbot, Cynthia, *India before Europe*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2006.
- Chandra, Satish, *Medieval India: From Sultanate to the Mughals (Delhi Sultanat, 1206-1526) PART ONE*, Har-Anand Publication, New Delhi, 2019. (also available in **Hindi**).
- Chandra, Satish, *Medieval India: From Sultanate to the Mughals (Delhi Sultanat, 1206-1526) PART TWO*, Har-Anand Publication, New Delhi, 2019.
- Chaudhary, Tapan Ray, and Habib, Irfan, *The Cambridge Economic History of India c. 1200- c. 1750*, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi, 1982.
- Jackson, Peter, *Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization, Delhi Sultanate: A Political and Military History*, Cambridge University Press, New Delhi, 1999.

Habib, M. and Nizami, K. A., *A Comprehensive History of India*, vol. 5 **Part One: The Delhi Sultanat AD 1206-1526**, Delhi, 1970, reprint 1992.

Habib, M. and Nizami, K. A., *A Comprehensive History of India*, vol. 5 **Part Two: The Delhi Sultanat AD 1206-1526**, Delhi, 1970, reprint 1992.

Hindi Books

डा. द्विजेन्द्र नारायण एवं श्रीमाली, कृष्णमोहन. *प्राचीन भारत का इतिहास*, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली, 2021।

थापर, रोमिला, *पूर्वकालीन भारत (प्रारम्भ से 1300 ई० तक)*, हिन्दी माध्यम कार्यान्वयन निदेशालय, दिल्ली, 2016।

नागोरी, एस. एल., *मध्यकालीन भारत 1000 AD से 1761 AD तक*, श्री सरस्वती सदन पब्लिकेशन, नई दिल्ली, 2017।

पांडे, अवध बिहारी, *प्रारंभिक मध्यकालीन भारत*, बनारस हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय, वाराणसी, 1960।

पाठक, विशुद्वानन्द, *उत्तर भारत का राजनीतिक इतिहास*, उत्तर प्रदेश हिन्दी संस्थान, लखनऊ, 2018।

प्रसाद, ओम प्रकाश, *मध्यकालीन इतिहास में विज्ञान*, राजकमल प्रकाशन, 2018.

महाजन, वी. डी., *मध्यकालीन भारत*, एस. चंद पब्लिशिंग, नॉएडा, 1991.

मुखर्जी, राधाकुमुद, *प्राचीन भारत*, राजकमल प्रकाशन, नई दिल्ली, 2020।

शर्मा, राम शरण, *पूर्वमध्यकालीन भारत का सामंती समाज और संस्कृति*, राजकमल प्रकाशन, दिल्ली, 2009।

शास्त्री के. ए. एन., *दक्षिण भारत का इतिहास*, पटना, 2014.

सिंह, ओकारनाथ, *गुप्तारंत्तर कालीन उत्तर भारतीय मुद्रायें (600-1200 ई०)*, विश्वविद्यालय प्रकाशन, वाराणसी, 1997।

सिंह, मोहन, *पृथ्वीराज रासो - महाकवि चंद बरदाई कृत (चार खंडों में)*, राजस्थानी ग्रंथागार, जोधपुर, 2018।

मेनारिया, मोतीलाल, *पृथ्वीराज रासो की विवेचना*, साहित्य संस्थान, राजस्थान विद्यापीठ, उदयपुर, 2015।

सोनकर, अशोक कुमार, *गाहड़वालों का राजनीतिक और सामाजिक इतिहास*, आस्था, दिल्ली, 2015।

