University of Delhi

Department of History

STRUCTURE AND THE SYLLABI OF M.A. HISTORY
FOR THE THIRD AND FOURTH SEMESTERS

DELHI

April 2010
The M.A. programme shall be spread over four semesters, with four courses/papers of four credits each in every semester. The structure and details of the third and fourth semesters of the programme for those students who choose to be in the Ancient Indian History Stream shall be as follows:

A student shall do four core courses/papers and four optional/elective courses/papers in the third and fourth semesters put together.

I. **Core Courses:**
The four core courses/papers shall be from out of two clusters, a student being required to do at least two core courses/papers from each cluster. In case a student wants to do more than two from any of these clusters, he/she shall have the freedom to do so, in which case the additional ones will be deemed as in lieu of the optional/elective courses he/she is required to do. Not all courses will be available every year; but at least a minimum of three from each cluster shall be offered in a year, the details of which will be decided by the Department. The details of the distribution of the core courses in the different semesters and the courses on offer in a particular year, etc. will be worked out later. The following are the clusters of core courses/papers:

A. **Source-based courses/papers.** The purpose of these courses/papers is to introduce the students to the use of the different varieties of sources in historical study. A candidate will be permitted to do only one of the options under A1 (a or b) and A 4 (a or b).

- HSM - 301 Theories and Methods of Archaeology
- or
- HSM - 302 Archaeological Practice in India
- HSM – 303 Elements of Epigraphy and Numismatics
- HSM – 304 Historicising Ancient Indian Texts
- HSM - 305 Imaging India’s Past: Visual Sources
- or
- HSM - 306 Social History of Early Indian Art and Architecture: Milieu, Manifestations and Patronage.

B. **Chronology-oriented courses/papers.** The purpose of these courses/papers is to introduce students to major themes/debates in Indian historiography. Once so initiated, it is expected that students will be equipped to analyse similar themes/debates in these and other periods:

- HSM - 307 Prehistory and Protohistory of India
- HSM - 308 History of India from c. 1500 BCE to 200 BCE
- HSM - 309 History of India from c. 200 BCE to 600 CE
- HSM - 310 History of India from c. 600 CE to 1300 CE

II. **Optional/Elective Courses:**

There shall be several optional/elective courses/papers, each of four credits. A student shall be required to do four of these in addition to the core courses/papers he/she is required to do. All of them
may not be on offer every year, those available being decided and notified by the Department sufficiently in advance. These courses shall be spread over the third and fourth semesters, the distribution to be decided later at the level of the Department.

Apart from the optional/elective courses/papers listed below, a student can opt for a maximum of two courses from other streams, namely, Medieval India or Modern India.

The optional courses will be offered in two modes: Lecture courses and Seminar courses. The details of the instruction and evaluation in each will be as decided by the appropriate bodies.

A student shall also have the option to do the courses in Sanskrit listed below in lieu of the optional/elective courses/papers. In such cases, he/she will not have the option to do courses from other streams as it will cut down on the number of optional/elective courses/papers in the Ancient Indian History stream.

The following are the optional/elective courses/papers (Courses marked with asterisk indicate that they are seminar courses):

HSM – 311 Art and Architecture in Early Medieval India (c. 600-1300 CE)*
HSM – 312 Developments of Early Indian Religions and Philosophies (up to circa 500 CE)
HSM – 313 Early Indian Art and Architecture (beginnings to c. 600 CE)
HSM – 314 Early Indian Social Orders: Structures And Processes
HSM – 315 Gender and Literature*
HSM – 316 Gender and Women in Early India
HSM – 317 Historical Archaeology of India*
HSM – 318 Historiographical Traditions in Ancient India
HSM – 319 Ideas and Emotions in Ancient India*
HSM – 320 Knowledge Systems in Early India*
HSM – 321 Land and People: The Formation of Cultural and Regional Identities
HSM – 322 Literary Cultures of Early India
HSM – 323 Monetary History of Early India
HSM – 324 Orientalism and India
HSM – 325 Perspectives on Nature in Ancient India*
HSM – 326 Political Processes in Ancient India: Theories and Practices*
HSM – 327 Producers of Wealth in Early India
HSM – 328 Religions in Early Medieval India (c. 500 – c.1300 CE)
HSM – 329 Religions, Arts and Society (Circa 200 BCE to Circa 300 CE)
HSM – 330 Tamilakam in Early Historical Period*
HSM – 331 The Deep South: c.700-1300 CE*

Language Courses:

HSM – 332. Sanskrit 1
HSM – 333. Sanskrit 2
I. Core Courses:

A. Source-based courses/papers.

A1 a) Theories and Methods of Archaeology  
or
A1 b) Archaeological Practice in India
A2 Elements of Epigraphy and Numismatics
A3 Historicising Ancient Indian Texts
A4 a) Imaging India’s Past: Visual Sources  
or
A4 b) Social History of Early Indian Art and Architecture:  
Milieu, Manifestations and Patronage.

B. Chronology-oriented courses/papers.

B1. Prehistory and Protohistory of India
B2. History of India from c. 1500 BCE to 200 BCE
B3. History of India from c. 200 BCE to 600 CE
B4. History of India from c. 600 CE to 1300 CE
Core Course A1 a)

HSM-301

THEORIES AND METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

1. History of ideas, methods and discoveries in archaeology. The development of field techniques. Breakthroughs in archaeological science


3. Field methods: survey of published data, identification of problems and issues, modes of sample, extensive and intensive site exploration; definition, nature and conditions of sites and features and site catchment analysis. Landscape, its constituents and implications. Excavation techniques. Underwater archaeology, remote sensing and aerial photography. Stratigraphy, recording, photography, videography and sieving

4. Examination, classification and analysis of evidence. Techniques of study for environment, cropping patterns, subsistence practices, production and consumption patterns, technology, exchange/trade, society, religion and cognition

5. Relative dating and absolute dating methods


7. Understanding the complementarity of theory and practice. Changing trends, issues and prospects

SELECT READING LIST

HSM-302

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE IN INDIA

The aim of the paper is to familiarize students with a range of analytical approaches and their application in reconstructions, interpretations and explanations of the Indian past with case studies and examples drawn from a wide range of temporal periods

1. Introducing Archaeological Practice in India. History of Archaeological Research with special reference to finding sites, field methods, and artifact analysis

2. Investigating Environments from the perspective of tectonics, climate, and water resources. Environment and human impact (this module will be studied with special reference to the Pleistocene and Holocene environments of northwest India and the Gangetic Plains)

3. Landscape as habitat with special emphasis on settlement patterns and site catchment analysis (This module will be studied with specific reference to Harappan India and chalcolithic Maharashtra)

4. Consumption, production and exchange of food, artefacts and other elements of material culture. The distinction between 'domestic economy' and 'political economy' ('Food' will be studied with special reference to subsistence patterns of Mesolithic and Neolithic India. ‘Production and Exchange’ will be explained with special reference to the artisanal production of the Harappan Civilization and the evolution of the trade routes of historical India)

5. Reconstructing ways of thought from material remains. Archaeological Indicators of Ritual (This will be studied with special reference to the religious practices of the Harappan Civilization and those pertaining to Hinduism and Buddhism). Archaeology of Death (This will be studied with special reference to mesolithic burials of north and central India and megalithic practices of the Deccan and Peninsular India)

Select Readings


5
Elements of Epigraphy

1. The decipherment of ancient scripts and the evolution of epigraphic research in India

2. Classifying inscriptions on the basis of language, script and purport. Analysing inscriptions: the role and potential of epigraphic evidence in historical reconstruction; modes of analysis -- quantitative methods; mapping; issues of intent, purpose, audience, context; the relationship between inscriptions and literature

3. The Harappan script: basic features; claims to decipherment; the role of writing in the Harappan civilization.


5. Reading and interpreting inscriptions: A close reading and analysis of at least 6 different types of inscriptions (e.g. edicts, prasastis, votive inscriptions, land grants and records of the proceedings of local bodies) belonging to different periods and regions.

Select readings:

Bühler, G. *Indian Palaeography* ([1904], 2004). New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.


Core Course A 2  
HSM-303: Part II

ELEMENTS OF NUMISMATICS

1. Survey of Numismatic Studies (early 18th century to the present)
2. Methods for using coins for reconstruction of different kinds of histories of early India: economic, social, political, religious, and cultural.
3. Numismatic Terminology
4. Origin and Evolution of Coins – Techniques of Manufacturing
5. Metrology of Coins: Weight Standards
6. Survey of Early Coins (up to circa 1300 CE)

General Readings:

Note: JNSI stands for The Journal of the Numismatic Society of India


Joe Cribb, ed.  : Money: From Cowrie Shells to Credit Cards (1986)


S.K. Chakrabortty  : Study of Ancient Indian Numismatics (1931)

A.H. Dani  : Indian Palaeography (1963)

Olivier Guillaume : Analysis of Reasonings in Archaeology: The Case of Graeco-Bactrian and Indo-Greek Numismatics (1990)


Parmeshwari Lal Gupta  : Coins: The Source of Indian History (1981)


S.K. Maity  : Early Indian Coins and Currency System


B.N. Mukherjee  : The Techniques of Minting Coins in Ancient and Medieval India (1997)

Walter C. Neale  : Monies in Societies (1976)

Satya Prakash & Rajendra Singh  : Coinage in Ancient India (1968)

Birbal Sahni  : Technique of Casting Coins in Ancient India (1945)


R.F. Tylecote  : Metallurgy in Archaeology (1962)
**Readings for various Coin Series:**


A.S.Altekar : *Coinage of the Gupta Empire* (1957)

Bhaskar Chattopadhyay : *The Age of the Kushanas : A Numismatic Study* (1967)


Amiteshwar Jha and Dilip Rajgor : *Studies in the Coinage of the Western Kshatrapas* (1994)

D.D.Kosambi : *Indian Numismatics*, ed. B.D.Chattopadhyaya

Michael Mitchiner : *The Origins of Indian Coinage* (1973)


Core Course A 3  
HSM-304  
HISTORICIZING ANCIENT INDIAN TEXTS

This course introduces students to certain important ancient Indian texts with an emphasis on their formal features, historical potential, and issues of interpretation, through an overview and as well as analysis of selected translated excerpts from original sources. Emphasizing the need to be attentive to the genre, content and historical context of texts, it discusses the relationship between different textual traditions; their growth, transmission and impact; and the issues that arise when correlating the testimony of texts with that of other kinds of sources.

Note: Every year, a total of least 6 texts ranging across the themes mentioned below, will be taken up for detailed analysis.

1. Introduction: Orality and literacy; literary languages (Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali, Tamil, Apabhramsa, the regional languages); textual genres; language, literature, and culture; methodologies of interpreting and historicizing texts.

2. Understanding religious ideas and practice, material culture, political, social and economic processes on the basis of ‘religious’ texts.

3. ‘Epics’, myth and traditional history; the various tellings and forms of the Indian epics -- textual, oral, performative, sculptural; the transmission and transformation of the epic traditions.

4. Kavya: translating the literary imagination into history; the emergence and evolution of kavya; the kavis; poetics and dramaturgy; the relationship between kavya and inscriptive prasastis.

5. Sastra (technical treatises, eg. those on dharma, artha, kama); the relationship between precept and practice.


7. Locating the ‘popular’ element in ancient literature: stories, folk tales, gnomic works.

Select Readings

The course looks at ways in which India’s past has been imaged in visual arts and the archive. It investigates how visual language was structured in ancient and early medieval India and how it has been communicated since. The objective of the paper is to familiarize the student with the manner in which interpretations of visual culture impact the discipline of history.

1. Visualizing the ancient and early medieval in colonial and independent India: ‘Picturesque’ views - their intent and reception; early surveys and surveyors of sites and antiquities - institutional and individual efforts; shared beginnings of archaeology and architectural history; European reactions to Indian art and architecture; the Nationalist response; building, extending, and re-interpreting the visual archive in independent India.

2. Issues and debates in interpreting art objects and architecture:
   a. Style and its relationship to chronology;
   b. Debates on origins, antiquity, and cross-cultural transactions in art;
   c. Basis of classifications - racial, religious, dynastic, regional;
   d. Terminological concerns in art historical studies;

3. Word as ‘image’ and image as ‘text’: correlating visual and textual discourse, interrogating divergences and ‘absences’:
   a. History of Indian aesthetic thought: the creation and reception of art
   b. The treatise (shastra) versus art practice (prayoga);
   c. Visualizing narratives: religious and historical;
   d. Introduction to the iconography of images;

4. Reading socio-economic and political histories through art:
   a. Authorship and agency in art: the role of the artist;
   b. Politics and the rituals of power and patronage in art;
   c. Representations of caste, class and gender in art;
   d. Categories of classical, folk and popular; craft and art: desi-margi; shilpa-kala.

Select Readings:

Relevant excerpts from primary textual sources to be separately circulated.

SOCIAL HISTORY OF EARLY INDIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE:
MILIEU, MANIFESTATIONS AND PATRONAGE (Circa 300 BCE to Circa 1300 CE)

1. Historiography of Indian Art and Architecture.
2. *Shilpa* and *Kala* in Indian societies with special focus on artists and their activities.
3. From Circa 300 BCE to Circa First Century CE:
   [a] Issues and Debates about ‘Mauryan’ art; New Sculptural Tradition; Rock-cut Architecture; Terracottas.
   [b] (i) Integration of Sculpture and Architecture in the stupas: Narrative Art at Bharhut and Sanchi, with special emphasis on its gendered nature; (ii) Terracottas and their social context; (iii) ‘Buddhist’, ‘Jaina’, ‘Brahmanical’ and Popular Cultic Art Remains. Reconstruction of the so-called ‘Forgotten Pantheon’.
4. Development of Art and Architecture: Circa 100 to Circa 300 CE
5. Devalayas, chaityas, pratimas/murtis and bhitti-chitras, Circa 300 to Circa 600 CE
6. Development of Regional Styles in Arts: 6th-13th Centuries CE
   [a] Formation of regional cultural identities; Relationship of Art Forms with Socio-economic-Political Order and Sectarian Systems.
   [b] Temple Architecture: Canonical Literature: *shilpa* and *vastushastras* – their linguistic, social and geographical spread; Temples of different regions.
   [c] Sculptures and metal icons: Regional and iconographic specificities.
   [d] Paintings: special reference to ‘eastern’ and ‘western’ India.
7. Changing patterns of patronage

Select Readings


Brown, Percy: *Indian Architecture (Buddhist and Hindu)*, D.B.Taraporewala Sons and Co., Mumbai, 1956 (Reprint)


Dehejia, Vidya: *Representing the Body*, Kali for Women, Delhi, 1997.


Dhaky, M.A., Meister, Michael et al.: *Encyclopaedia of Indian Temple Architecture*, Vol. I (South India) in four parts; Vol. II (North India) in 3 parts so far, American Institute of Indian Studies, New Delhi, 1983 continuing.


Majumdar, et al, eds.: *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, Vols. I-V (Relevant Chapters)


Miller, Barbara Stoler, ed.: *Exploring India’s Sacred Art: Selected Writings of Stella Kramrisch*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1983.


Settar, S.: *The Hoysala Temples* (in two volumes), jointly published by Karnataka University (Dharwar) and Kala Yatra Publications, Bangalore, 1992.


Core Course B 1

HSM-307

PREHISTORY AND PROTOHISTORY OF INDIA

1. Introducing Prehistory and Protohistory: terminology and scope; Pleistocene and Early Holocene environments; History of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Research in India

2. Hominid Fossils and earliest stone tools. Palaeolithic sites, sequences and materials in the northwest, Punjab and Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat, Central India, Eastern India, and Peninsular India


4. Beginning of food production. Multilineal character of early agriculture; issues connected with early domestication; Mehrgarh and its significance; beginning of rice cultivation in the Ganga Plain

5. Growth of villages (upto c. 2600 BC): Baluchistan and the Northwest; Indus-Hakra Plain, Punjab and Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat; Peninsular India

6. Harappan Civilization: terminology and chronology; understanding the transition from Early Harappan to the Mature form of the Harappan Civilization; distribution and extent; town planning and architecture. Economic and social features: agriculture, animal husbandry, trade, arts and crafts, technology; social organization, writing, seals and sealings; funerary customs. decline and collapse; nature of contemporary and successor cultures; character of Harappan legacy

7. Neolithic and chalcolithic cultures in non-Harappan India; regional patterns and multiple traditions from Kashmir to Tamil Nadu; interactions with Harappan sites

8. Beginning and development of iron technology; early appearance of iron as a smelted metal. ‘Iron Age’ cultures and their chronological spectrum; major production centres

Select Readings


Sahu, B.P. 2006. Iron and Social Change in Early India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
This course seeks to familiarize the student with the major themes and debates in Indian History during the period covered in it. The intention, therefore, is not to survey the period. By making an in-depth study of the problems and the different answers proposed, it is hoped that the student will be equipped to attack similar problems in this and other period(s) of Indian history.

I. The “Aryan Problem”: Sir William Jones to F. Max Muller – the language=race equation – “Madras Orientalism” and the “Dravidians” – Somatography: craniometry, nasal index and the Peoples of India project – Race and Caste – Use for (a) colonial administrators, (b) Indian Middle Class (b) Indian nationalism (c) regionalism (d) social reforms – recent appropriations. The evidence in archaeology, linguistics and physical anthropology – the “Aryan” and the Harappan – the present showing.

II. Early Vedic Economy and Society: Vedic texts and their internal chronology – the archaeological record of the Saptasindhu region – forms of property and forces of production – cattle and its importance – hoof-capture and redistribution – issues of the “lineage” and “householding” systems – religious practices and ideologies – forces of change.


V. Dissent and Protest: the context of heterodox religions – Materialism, Jainism and Buddhism – their philosophy and its implications – the social base of heterodox religions – patronage and spread.

VI. The Arrival of the State: NBP economy and society – the context of second urbanization – the mahajanapadas – the structural details of the “republics and kingdoms – the rise of Magadha – the Arthasastra problem – the historian and the Indica – the importance of Asokan edicts – dhamma – debates on the nature of the Mauryan state – decline.

Readings:

Bhattacharji, Sukumari, The Indian Theogony, 1970.
Bhattacharyya, N. N., Jain Philosophy : Historical Outline, 1976.
Bongard-Levin, G.M., Mauryan India, Delhi, 1983.
Chakravarti, Ranabir, Trade and Traders in Early India, Manohar, Delhi, 2002.
Chattopadhyaya, Debiprasad, Indian Atheism, 1969.


Mukherji, R.K. *Chandragupta Maurya and His Times*, Madras, 1946.

Munshiram Manoharlal, Delhi, 1983.


Piggott, Stuart, *The Earliest Wheeled Transport: From the Atlantic Coast to the Caspian Sea*, Thames and Hudson, 1983.


Sharma, R.S., *Perspectives in social and Economic History of Early India*, Munshiram Manoharlal, Delhi, 1983.


Thapar, Romila, *From Lineage to State: Social Formations in the Mid-First Millennium BC in the Ganga Valley*, OUP, Delhi, 1984.
Thapar, Romila, Kenoyer, J.M.; Deshpande, Madhav M.; Ratnagar, Shereen: *India: Historical Beginnings and the Concept of the Aryan*, NBT, New Delhi, 2006.
HISTORY OF INDIA, C. 200 BCE – 600 CE

This course will give an overview of important aspects of the history of the subcontinent between the period c. 200 BCE—600 CE focusing on the themes listed below. The period under review will be divided into two chronological phases – c. 200 BCE –300 CE and c. 300 —600 CE. In addition to the broad overview of various aspects (social, economic, political, religious, cultural) of these two phases, a few selected primary sources will also be taken up for detailed discussion.

1. Historiography and sources. Assessing the Mauryan legacy; going beyond the stereotypes of ‘Dark Ages’ and ‘Golden Ages’
2. Changing polities: the proliferation of state society; political and administrative structures
3. Economic processes: agrarian structure; urban developments; money; crafts and guilds; trade within the subcontinent; long-distance trade interactions between the subcontinent, Asia, and Europe
4. Social structure: varna, jati, gender; the idea of varna-samkara
5. Religious doctrine and practice: the emergence and intensification of theistic trends; Puranic Hinduism – Visnuism, Sivaism and Saktism; the Mahayana schools; the Svetambara-Digambara tradition; yaksa and naga cults; the emergence of Tantra
6. Art and architecture: religious architecture and sculpture -- form and patronage; early Hindu temples; Buddhist stupas; Buddhist and Jaina and cave shrines; Gandhara and Mathura schools of sculpture; terracotta art; painting
7. Literary and technical works in Prakrit, Sanskrit and Tamil
8. Cultural interactions between India and Asia, with special reference to East Asia and Southeast Asia

Select Bibliography


HISTORY OF INDIA – c. 600-1300 CE

1. Representations of Early Medieval India: Debate surrounding the movement towards the early medieval; its constituents.

2. Economy: Agrarian Expansion and spread of settlements with reference to perspective from regions; problems of land-ownership and the ‘Village Community’; Urbanization, Trade, Money and Markets; guilds in North and South India.

3. Society: Issues related to social stratification, emergence of regional societies, rise of new groups, gender relations, inheritance; history of untouchability.

4. Political Systems: Conceptions of kingship; evolution of the structure of polities across the regions; changing forms of legitimation.

5. Cultural Processes and Transactional Networks: Puranic Hinduism, Tantricism, Temples, mathas and tirthas; Spread of sastric-epic-puranic ideas; Developments in arts and literature; Weaving of the local/autochthonous, regional and transregional.

Select Readings:

Chakrabarti, Ranabir, *Trade and Traders in Early India* Manohar,2002
Chattopadhyaya, B.D., *Aspects of Rural Settlements and Rural Society in Early Medieval India*,OUP,2005
Deyell, J., *Living without Silver*,CUP,1982
Kane, P.V., *History of Dharmasastra* (relevant volumes).
Nandi, R.N., *State Formation, Agrarian Growth and Social Change in Feudal South India.*
Sahu, B.P., ed., *Land System and Rural Society in Early medieval India.*
Sharma, R.S., *Urban Decay in India AD 300-1000*, Munshiram Manoharlal,1987
Thapar, Romila, *Cultural Past*,OUP,2003
II. Optional/Elective Courses

(Items marked with asterisk indicate that they are to be taught in the Seminar mode)

1. Art and Architecture in Early Medieval India (c. 600-1300 CE)*
2. Development of Early Indian Religions and Philosophies (up to circa 500 CE)
3. Early Indian Art and Architecture (beginnings to c. 600 CE)
4. Early Indian Social Orders: Structures And Processes
5. Gender and Literature*
6. Gender and Women in Early India
7. Historical Archaeology of India*
8. Historiographical Traditions in Ancient India
9. Ideas and Emotions in Ancient India*
10. Knowledge Systems in Early India*
11. Land and People: The Formation of Cultural and Regional Identities
12. Literary Cultures of Early India
13. Monetary History of Early India
14. Orientalism and India
15. Perspectives on Nature in Ancient India*
16. Political Processes in Ancient India: Theories and Practices*
17. Producers of Wealth in Early India
18. Religions in Early Medieval India (c. 500 – c.1300 CE)
19. Religions, Arts and Society (Circa 200 BCE to Circa 300 CE)
20. Tamilakam in Early Historical Period*
21. The Deep South: c.700-1300 CE*

Language Courses:

L 1. Sanskrit 1
L 2. Sanskrit 2
Optional/Elective Course/Paper 1
HSM-311

ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA (c. 600-1300 CE)

The paper focuses on the developments in architecture, sculpture, and painting in early medieval India, while situating these within the larger historical milieu. Alongside a broad overview, representative material from northern and southern India will be treated in detail to convey the variety, complexity and diversity that characterized the art forms of this period.

1. The early medieval temple: regional and sectarian variations
   a) Rock-cut or monolithic “carved” temples at Mamallapuram, Ellora, Kalugumalai, and Masrur;
   b) Temple forms in inscriptions, agamas, and shastras: Nagara, Dravida, Vesara, Bhumija;
   c) Select representatives of the various architectural styles;
   d) The early medieval Jaina temple: distinctive characteristics;
   e) Buddhist monuments, with special reference to Eastern India;
   f) Architectural elements: form and transformation.

2. Early medieval sculpture:
   a) Iconic sculptures: considerations of style and iconography;
   b) Narrative sculptures as visual texts;
   c) Metal sculptures: Buddhist, Jaina and Hindu;
   d) Terracottas.

3. Early medieval painting:
   a) Mural paintings: South Indian and Himalayan: Materials and techniques; narrative content and aesthetics;
   b) The art of the book: manuscript paintings: Buddhist palm leaf manuscripts from Eastern India; Western Indian manuscript paintings.

4. Socio-economic aspects of the early medieval temple:
   a) Temple-towns;
   b) Temple rituals; relationship between ritual, art and architecture; rangabhoga and devadasis;
   c) Inscriptions: donations, grants, patrons and artists;
   d) Erotics on temple walls.

Select Readings:

DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY INDIAN RELIGIONS AND PHILOSOPHIES
(UP TO CIRCA 500 CE)

1. Understanding Dynamics of Religions
2. Religions of hunters, gatherers and food producers: Palaeolithic to Chalcolithic Times.
3. Religious Beliefs and Social Stratification: A Study of Vedism
5. Religions in Complex Societies (circa 200 BCE to circa 500 CE): Mutations within Vishnuism and Shivaism; Emergence of Mahayana; Jinism; Popular Cults.

Note: Gender concerns in Indian religions will receive special attention under all topics.

Select General Readings


TOPIC : 1 : UNDERSTANDING DYNAMICS OF RELIGIONS

Select Readings :

Kumar, Penumala Pratap : Methods and Theories in the Study of Religions: Perspectives from the Study of Hinduism and other Indian Religions (2005).
Thapar, Romila : ‘Durkheim and Weber on Theories of Society and Race Relating to Pre-Colonial India’ in author’s Interpreting Early India, 1992, (chapter 2).

TOPIC : 2 : RELIGIONS OF HUNTERS, GATHERERS AND FOOD PRODUCERS: PALAEOLITHIC TO CHALCOLITHIC TIMES
Select Readings:

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<th>Authors</th>
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**TOPIC**: 3 RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION: A STUDY OF VEDISM

Select Readings:

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<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chitgopekar, Nilima (ed.)</td>
<td><em>Invoking Goddesses</em>, 2002 (chapters 1-3 only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln, Bruce</td>
<td><em>Priests, Warriors and Cattle</em>, 1981.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharma, R.S.</td>
<td><em>Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India</em>, 1983.</td>
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**TOPIC 4**: RELIGIOUS IDEAS AND PRACTICES IN THE GANGA VALLEY (C.700 TO C.200 BCE): EARLY BUDDHISM, JINISM, MATERIALISM

Select Readings:

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<th>Authors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bhattacharya, H.</td>
<td><em>Anekantavada</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chattopadhyaya, Debiprasad</td>
<td><em>Indian Atheism</em>, 1969.</td>
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</table>
Harvey, Peter, ed. : *Buddhism*, 2001.

**TOPIC 5: RELIGIONS IN COMPLEX SOCIETIES (CIRCA 200 BCE TO CIRCA 500 CE) : MUTATIONS WITHIN VISHNUISM AND SHIVAISM; EMERGENCE OF MAHAYANA; JAINISM; POPULAR CULTS.**

**Select Readings :**

Chitgopekak, Nilima : *Encountering Shivaism : The Deity, the Milieu, the Entourage*, 1998.
Gonda, Jan : *Aspects of Early Vishnuism*, 1954.
Misra, R.N. : *Yaksha Cult*

*Select thematic articles (other than biographical) from Encyclopaedia of Religion (2nd edition)*

Ajivikas, Anism, Anthropomorphism, Asceticism, Belief, Brahmanism, Buddhism, Carvakas, Charisma, Comparative Religion, Cults and Sects, Deification, Deity, Divinity, Doctrine, Doubt, Ecology and Religion, Esotericism, Faith, Feminine Sacrality, Feminism, Gender and Religion, God, Goddess Worship, Heresy, Hinduism, History of Religions (pp.10041-10047), History of Religions Approach (pp.4060-4064), Holy, Indian Religions, Indo-European Religions, Indus Valley Religion, Jainism, Krishnais (pp.5251-5255), Logs, Magic, Masculine Sacrality, Materialism, Myth, Offerings, Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy, Pilgrimage, Popular Religion, Priesthood, Rationalism, Reason, relics, Religion, Religious Experience, Ritual(s), Sacred, Sacrifice, Sanctuaries, Saura Hinduism, Secularization, Shaivism (pp. 8038-8050), Shines, Study of Religion (pp.8760-8796), Taboo, Tamil Religions, Tantrism, Tapas, Temples, Texts, Theism, Totemism, Transcendence and Immanence, Transculturation, Vaishnavism (pp.9498-9509; 10087-10089), Vedism, Zoroastrianism.
EARLY INDIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE (up to c. 600 CE)

1. Pre-historic Rock-art: paintings: purpose, content and form.


3. Early forms of architecture (up to 400 CE):
   a) Architectural types as evidenced in art and archaeological remains, texts and inscriptions: vernacular architecture, city gates and fortifications, free-standing pillars, palace remains, bodhigahas, shrines, etc.
   b) Stupas, chaityas and viharas: architectural features, relief sculptures and modes of narration (select case studies from Bharhut, Sanchi, Amaravati, Nagarjunakonda, Sannati, Barabar and Nagarjuni hills, Udaygiri-Khadagiri, Bhaja, Bedsa, Karle, Piltalkhora, Nasik, etc.);
   c) Patterns of patronage;
   d) Materials and methods: relationship of wood and other perishable materials to stone architecture; tools and techniques of artists; signatures of artists.

4. Early temples in stone: Form, Iconography and Ritual, c.400-600 CE
   a) Structural temples in stone: select case studies;
   b) Cave temples: eg. Ajanta, Elephanta, Badami: architecture and iconographic programme;
   c) Temple rituals and politics.

5. Modes of representation in early Indian sculpture, c. 320 BCE-600 CE
   a) Images of gods and humans: yaksha-yakshi, shalabhanjika, and mithuna images, Bodhisattvas and Buddhas; Jaina images, mukhalingas, anthropomorphic Brahmanical deities; personification of nature and attributes of gods; early attempts at royal portraiture;
   b) Flora, fauna, and hybrid or ‘grotesque’ forms;
   c) Motifs, symbols and their meanings;
   d) Early Indian terracottas.

6. Paintings: Ajanta and Bagh: context, content, technique, and form; development of the aesthetic canon: relationship of text to practice.

Select Readings:


Dehejia, Vidya, Unseen Presence: The Buddha at Sanchi, Marg Publications.


EARLY INDIAN SOCIAL ORDERS: STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

1. Historiography of early Indian social orders.
2. From pre-class to class societies -- origins of social differentiations -- the material and textual manifestations; problem of terminologies -- jana, vish, vrata, gana, varna, jati, jnati, gotra, mula, pravara, anvaya, vamsha, etc.
3. Forces of production, forms of property and social formations; Regional variations.
4. Vana, kshetra and social formations.
5. Varnas, jatis and marriages; Kama and Reproduction.
6. The ashrama dharma, with special reference to renunciation.
7. Elements of ‘radicalism’ in social philosophies of ‘non-Brahmanical’ systems; renouncers, householders and centres of power.
8. The ‘foreigner’ and mutations in social orders.
9. Stages in the history of the Untouchables.
10. Social stratification and legal systems, with special reference to inheritance rights.
11. Religious rites and constructions of gender relations.

Select Readings:
Chanana, Devraj: Slavery in Ancient India, 1960.
Choudhary, Radhakrishna: Vratyas in Ancient India, 1964.
Ghurye, G.S.: Caste and Class in India, 1957.
Jha, D.N. ed.: Society and Ideology in India, Essays in Honour of Professor R.S.Sharma, 1996.
Kane, P.V.: History of Dharmastraha, 5 volumes, 2nd ed. 1968-77.
Kashyap, Shashi: Concept of Untouchability in Dharmastraha, 2008.
Mukerjee, Radhakamal: The Horizon of Marriage, 1957.
Sharma, Ram Sharan: Social Changes in Early Medieval India (c.AD 500-1200), 1969.
GENDER AND LITERATURE

This course involves an intensive gendered reading of a variety of texts from early India: epics, classical plays, poems, normative treatises, sectarian texts, and devotional songs of women saints. It discusses the nature and structure of each textual genre as well as its discursive content with regard to power generally (class, caste, monarchy) and gender specifically. Students are exposed to diverse literary and historical treatments of gender and encouraged to explore firsthand a relevant text, or group of texts, of their choice, or even a comparative analysis of genres. At least four genres will be studied in a semester, and texts within genres may vary from year to year.

1. Introduction: Gender as a category of historical analysis; the Indian context; intersections with class, caste, monarchy; gender and the production and transmission of knowledge.
2. Models and counter-models of masculine and feminine behaviour, affirmation and subversion of Brahmanical patriarchy, monarchy, and caste -- Indian 'Epics'.
3. Voices from the nunnery and the hermitage, sexual-spiritual interface in a heterodox tradition -- Therigatha.
4. Private and public realms of sexuality including marriage, family, courtesanship, the king’s harem; voices from the kitchen, the bedroom, and the brothel; the affirmation and subversion of control -- Kavya.
5. Sex and sexuality in orthodox traditions -- Dharmasastra and Kamasutra.
6. The Krishna myth cycle, sublimation of love and sexuality, eroticisation of divinity and worship - sectarian Purana and Love lyric.
7. Negation and redundancy of patriarchy? lover as god and husband, spiritual interface in esoteric traditions, transcending the sexual -- Devotional Songs and Sayings of Women Saints (Lal Ded/Meera/Akka Mahadevi).

Suggested Readings

Sally Sutherland, ‘Seduction, Counter-seduction and Sexual Role Models: Bedroom Politics and the Indian Epics’, Journal of Indian Philosophy, 19, 1992, pp.53-61
P.V. Kane, History of Dharmasastra, vol.2, part 1, chapter 9, vol.3.
This course covers a chronological span up to circa 1300 and seeks to introduce students to the diverse issues and perspectives in women’s history, drawing upon textual, epigraphic, and where possible, archaeological evidence. The course is also intended to convey to what extent the concept of gender has enriched our understanding of history.

(1) Historiography—women’s issue as analysed in different historiographical discourses, viz. colonial, Nationalist, Marxist and recent trends. The intersection of gender with class, caste, generation, as also its spatial and cultural context.

(2) The structures of patriarchy and the spaces within. The concept and working of matriline – Anthropological and Sociological perspectives in historical reconstructions


(4) The socio-sexual constructions of womanhood – in different forms of marriage, family and households.

(5) Women and property—the concept of stridhana. Extent to which women are themselves perceived as property.

(6) Is there a ‘female voice’? This question will be examined in the contexts of both literary and inscriptive sources.

(7) Women in the Public sphere—rulers, patrons and livelihood earners.

Suggested readings:


Aparna Basu and A .Tanuja [eds] Breaking out of Invisibility; Women in Indian History,2002


Barai, Kumudini, Role of women in the History of Orissa: From the earliest times to1568 A.D.,1994

Bhattacharji, Sukumari, Women and Society in Ancient India, 1994

Bhattacharyya,N.N. The Indian Mother Goddess. 3Revised edition.1999


Centuries, Manohar, 2009.


Chakravarty, Uma, “Beyond the Altekan paradigm: Towards the new understanding of gender relations in early Indian history”, Social Scientist, 16(8), August 1988.

Chakravarty, Uma, Everyday Lives, Everyday Histories; Beyond the Kings and Brahmanas of Ancient India, 2006

Chakravarty,U ‘Whatever happened to the Vedic Dasi?: Orientalism,Nationalism and Script from the Past’ in Sangari and Vaid [eds] Recasting Women,1989

Chitgopekar Nilima (ed), Invoking Goddesses: Gender Politics in Indian Religion, 2002
Dehejia, Vidya [ed], *Representing The Body: Gender Issues in Indian Art*


Joan Wallach Scott, *Gender and Politics of History*, 1986, Ch.1.2


Orr, Leslie, *Donors Devotees and Daughters of the God*, 2000


Rangachari, Devika, *Invisible Women, Visible Histories: Society, Gender And Polity in North India,* 2009


Roy, Kunnuk, ‘The King’s household: Structures and Spaces in the Shastric Tradition’ *EPW* 17(43)1992

Roy, K. *The emergence of Monarchy in north India 8-4 centuries B.C*, 1994


Tharu, Susie and K. Lalita (eds), *Women Writing in India: 600 B.C. to the present*, Delhi, 1993.


Wright Rita (ed), *Gender and Archaeology*, 1996.
HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF INDIA

1. Evolution of Historical Archaeology; ideas and discoveries; development of field techniques
2. Correlating textual sources with material culture
3. Advent of urbanism in the 1st millennium BC, and its archaeological foundations
4. Survey and excavation of sites and landscapes. Historical city sites with special emphasis on Taxila, Pataliputra, Mahasthangarh and Kaveripattinam
5. Environmental settings, settlement patterns, and subsistence strategies in early India
6. Monuments and structural features associated with the early religions

Select Readings

HISTORIOGRAPHICAL TRADITIONS IN ANCIENT INDIA

1. Indian sense of the Past – the colonial construction of an ahistorical society and its explanations – the use of such construction – the meaning of historical consciousness – Eurocentrism – the Indian perceptions – the word and the thing – the concept of time in ancient India.

2. The expressions of historical consciousness in the Vedic texts – the social context of a lineage-based society – the genres – the gatha, narasamsi, akhyaana and danastuti – concern with origins, genealogies and hero-lauds – their contexts and function – legitimation of power – sanctioning social positions.

3. The Buddhist and Jain texts – the new socio-political milieu – changing expressions of historical consciousness – origin myths of groups and chiefly houses – emerging centres of power and their legitimacy – the functions of the new expressions – legitimation of the new order of incipient state systems.

4. The itihasa-purana tradition – the epics – one age looking at its past – historicity or historical consciousness? – the continuity of the tradition from Vedic times – the suta-magadha tradition – the akhyanas and apakhyanas – their function – origins, genealogies and achievements of individuals – the Puranic vamsanucaritas – Pargiter’s argument – the crystallisation of the tradition – its features.

5. The early medieval expressions – the changing socio-political context and its new demands – the prasastis – from Allahabad to the medieval prasastis – nature and function – the historical biographies – Harsacarita and other works – dynastic chronicle – Mushikavamsa and Rajatarangini – the expressions in regional languages – the Tamil ulas and paranis.

Readings:


Bulcke, Kamil, *Ramakatha*.


"", *The Puranic Accounts of the Dynasties of the Kali Age*, Delhi, 1927.


A.K. Warder, *An Introduction to Indian Historiography*, Popular Prakashan, 1973


Smith, Morton, R., *Dates, Dynasties in Earliest India*, Delhi, 1973

Thapar, Romila, *The Past and Prejudice*.

"", *Exile and the Kingdom*, Bangalore, 1978.

"", *Ancient Indian Social History: Some Interpretations*, Delhi, 1975.

"", *Time as a Metaphor in History*.


"", *Interpreting Early India*, New Delhi, 1992.

Optional/Elective Course/Paper 8
HSM-319

IDEAS AND EMOTIONS IN ANCIENT INDIA

This course will investigate the intersection of experience, ideas and emotions in ancient India on the basis of secondary literature as well as primary sources. The latter will include texts such as the epics, Dharmasastra, kāvya, political treatises, Buddhist and Jaina texts, as well as inscriptions, art remains, and archaeological evidence. The aim is to focus on certain key themes and to see how they were expressed, represented and transformed over time in different chronological, cultural, philosophical and historical contexts. As the range of possible themes and sub-themes is considerable, a few important ones are listed below; new ones may be added to this list. Every year, aspects of at least 5 themes will be taught.

1. **Introduction.** The importance of investigating ideas and emotions. The potential of various types of sources. Historiography and approaches.
2. **Dharma.** The individual and society. Puruṣārthas, varūṇa and āśrama. The Buddhist and Jaina traditions. Aśoka’s dhamma.

Select readings:


HSM-320
KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS IN EARLY INDIA

1. Archaeology and Ancient Knowledge Systems of the Indian Subcontinent:


5. Circulation of Knowledge: Other civilizations and their give-and-take – Egyptian and Mesopotamian traditions – the Greco-Roman world – Turko-Persian and Arabic systems – Chinese and other far-eastern societies.

Readings:
Shereen Ratnagar, Makers and Shapers: Early Indian Technology in the Home, Village and the Urban Workshop (Delhi, 2007) Tulika.
D. P. Agrawal, The Copper Bronze Age in India, New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1969
D. K. Chakrabarti and Nayanjot Lahiri, Copper and Its Alloy in Ancient India, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1996.
G Kuppuram and K Kumudamani, History of Science and Technology in India (12 Vols), Sundeep Prakashan (Delhi, 1996).
D.M. Bose, Sen & Subbarappa, A Concise History of Sciences in India, National Commission for the Compilation of History of Sciences in India by] Indian National Science Academy (New Delhi, 1971)
LAND AND PEOPLE:
THE FORMATION OF CULTURAL AND REGIONAL IDENTITIES

This course would be concerned with issues involved in historical geography, ethnic settlements and cultural and regional identities. It would primarily be based on literary and epigraphic texts. The chronological spectrum would range from circa 1500 BCE to circa 1300 CE. The specific texts mentioned here are simply illustrative and do not preclude the inclusion of other texts.

1. Sapta Sindhavah to Aryavarta and Madhyadesha: Cosmographic conceptions, topographical features, tribes, settlements in Vedic literature.


5. Cultural and regional identities in the subcontinent: Narratives from some early medieval texts such as Varahamihira’s Brihatsamhita; Rajashekhara’s Kavyamimamsa, Kalhana’s Rajatarangini and the Shaktisangama Tantra.

6. India in the accounts of the people from outside the subcontinent: The Periplus; Ptolemy’s Geography; Hsuan-tsang’s Si-yu-ki and Alberuni’s Kitabul Hind.

7. Regional divisions in early Indian inscriptions.

Select Readings

Bhattacharya, P.K. : Historical Geography of Madhya Pradesh from Early Records, Delhi, 1977.
Chattopadhyaya, Sudhakar : Racial Affinities of Early North Indian Tribes, Munshiram Manoharlal, Nedw Delhi, 1971.
Cunningham, Alexander : The Ancient Geography of India (1871), Low Price Publications, Delhi, 1990 reprint.
Gurukkal, Rajan : Social Formations of Early South India, OUP, Delhi, 2010.
Majumdar, M.R. : A Study in the Cultural Geography of the Narmada, Baroda, 1968.
Pandey, M.S. : The Historical Geography and Topography of Bihar, New Delhi, 1963.
Pollock, Sheldon, ed., Literary Cultures in History: Reconstruction from South Asia, New Delhi, 2003.
Sachau, Edward C., tr. and notes: Alberuni’s India... (first published 1910) reprint, Delhi, 1989.
Upadhyaya, Bharatsingh : Buddhakalin Bharatiya Bhoogol (in Hindi), Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Prayag, VS 2018 = 1961 CE.
Watters, Thomas : On Yuan Chwang’s Travels in India (first published in 1904-05), Munshiram Manoharlal, Delhi, reprint 1961.
LITERARY CULTURES OF EARLY INDIA

This course introduces students to India’s early creative literatures, which, together with their peculiar characteristics, conventions, and geographical and chronological zones, constitute distinct, interactive literary cultures. A study of literary texts (poems, plays, tales, biographies), as opposed to ‘scriptures’ or treatises, unveils unique resources for understanding expressive language and imagination in early India in relation to larger orders of culture and society. This course surveys the content, formation and trajectories of early Sanskrit and Tamil literatures, and a host of issues related to their internal and external context. It also briefly surveys the literary scene in other languages, such as Prakrit, Apabhramsha and Kannada, and their relationship with the major literary cultures.

1. Introduction: The importance of studying literature in history; Approaches to interpreting literature: materialist, historicist, aesthetic, others.
2. (i) Defining and distinguishing between literacy, literature and literary culture; the phenomenon of orality and of ‘performing’ texts in early India (ii) Exploring interactions between literature, language, ethnicity, and geography: the ‘cosmopolitan’ and the ‘vernacular’.
3. Survey of early Sanskrit literature: (i) kavya, main features of kavya: rasa, alamkara; types of kavyas, some sample texts (ii) literary criticism and rhetoric: Bharata, Bhamaha, Dandin and later rhetoricians (iii) the kavya’s vision, the representation of urban culture, the question of ‘court literature’, changes within the kavya tradition and diversity of narrative traditions.
4. Survey of early Tamil literature: (i) ‘Sangam literature’ as oral compositions - akam and puram poetry, Silappadikaram, Manimekhalai; the tradition of literary criticism in the Tolkappiyam (ii) the representation of kingship, space (tinai), emotion, geography, values.
5. Factors in the formation of literary cultures: (i) patronage: role of the state, non-royal social groups, etc. (ii) literary and linguistic developments: structure of the language, conventions (iii) emerging regional and social identities; ‘Great’ and ‘Little’ traditions.

Readings
Sheldon Pollock, ed., Literary Cultures in History: Reconstructions from South Asia, OUP, 2003. (Introduction, Chapter 1, 5, 6, 11)

Shonaleeka Kaul, Imagining the Urban: Sanskrit and the City in Early India, Permanent Black: Delhi, 2010 (Introduction).
Ronald Inden, Jonathan Walters and Daud Ali, Querying the Medieval: Texts and the History of Practices in South Asia, OUP: Delhi, 2000, (Introduction: From Philological to Dialogical Texts)


MONETARY HISTORY OF EARLY INDIA

1. Media of exchange before the advent of metal money.

2. Agricultural growth, taxation and metal money (circa 600 to circa 200 BCE).

3. Trade network and penetration of monetary economy (circa 200 BCE to circa 300 CE).

4. Changing land rights, mutations in trade and their impact on patterns of metal money (circa 300 to circa 1300 CE).

General Readings:

Note: JNSI stands for The Journal of the Numismatic Society of India


Joe Cribb, ed. : Money : From Cowrie Shells to Credit Cards (1986)


Olivier Guillaume : Analysis of Reasonings in Archaeology : The Case of Graeco-Bactrian and Indo-Greek Numismatics (1990)


S.K. Maity : Early Indian Coins and Currency System

Walter C. Neale : Monies in Societies (1976)

Punch-marked Coins:


Parmeshwari Lal Gupta : A Bibliography of the Hoards of Punch-marked Coins of Ancient India, JNSI, XVII (1955)


D.D. Kosambi : Indian Numismatics, ed. B.D. Chattopadhyaya

Michael Mitchiner : The Origins of Indian Coinage (1973)


Uninscribed Cast and Janapada Coins:

John Allan : Catalogue of the Coins of Ancient India in the British Museum (1936, Indian Reprint 1975)


J.P. Singh and Nisar Ahmad: *Seminar Papers on the Tribal Coins of Ancient India*, 200 BC – AD 400 (1977)

**Indo-Greeks, Shakas:**
K.W. Dobbins: *Shaka-Pahlava Coinage* (1973)
Amiteshwar Jha and Dilip Rajgor: *Studies in the Coinage of the Western Kshatrapas* (1994)
E.J. Rapson: *Catalogue of the Coins of the Andhra Dynasty, the Western Kshatrapas, the Traikutaka Dynasty and the “Bodhi” Dynasty* (1908, Indian ed. 1975)

**Coins of the Kushanas, Satavahanas and the Romans:**
Bhaskar Chattopadhyay: *The Age of the Kushanas: A Numismatic Study* (1967)
Ajay Mitra Shastri, ed.: *Coinage of the Satavahanas and Coins from Excavations* (1972)

**Coins of the Guptas:**
A.S. Altekar: *Coinage of the Gupta Empire* (1957)

**Post-Gupta Coins**
ORIENTALISM AND INDIA

I. **The Beginnings:** The knowledge about the Orient before colonial conquest – The need for knowledge about the colony – the Portuguese and Dutch attempts – Production of knowledge and strategies of control under the English East India Company – the greater extent of British control and their bigger needs – the work before Jones – Warren Hastings.

II. **Early Orientalism:** William Jones and the Asiatic Society – Jones’ life and work – the Asiatic Society and *Asiatick Researches* – Wilkins, Colebrooke, Wilson and textual studies – Prinsep and epigraphy – Cunningham and Archaeology – Fergusson and art – Max Müller and the high noon of Orientalism – orientalism in imperial ideology – the role of “native” scholars – Orientalism without empire: German and French “Indology”.

III. **The Orientalist Constructions:** The “discovery” of India – Historiography, ethnology and study of languages – construction of images and stereotypes: (a) the theory of the Aryan race (b) the Indian village community (c) unchanging East (d) Indian spirituality vs. Western materialism (e) Oriental Despotism and Asiatic Mode of Production.

IV. **Orientalism in Action:** The use in colonial control and domination – boosting middle class morale – Orientalism and Indian “renaissance” – Orientalism and revivalism – Orientalism and Indian nationalism – communal ideology – the expansion of database about India’s past.

V. **Critique of Orientalism:** Early reactions – the implicit acceptance in early nationalist writings – the modern historians’ perspective – Edward Said and the Foucauldian understanding – Critique of Said – recent Japanese work – an assessment of Orientalism – Orientalism today

Readings:

Dodson, Michael S., *Orientalism, empire and National Culture: India, 1770-1880* Delhi, 2010 *Foundation Books*.


HSM-325

PERSPECTIVES ON NATURE IN ANCIENT INDIA

1. Humans, nature, and the cosmos: cosmogonic ideas in Brahmanical, Buddhist and Jaina traditions; the panca-mahabhutas; the cosmic order – rta and the rhythms of nature; understandings of nature and matter in philosophical systems.

2. Situating human activity in the context of nature: ‘informal geography’ in ancient texts; descriptions of journeys; the concept of tinai in early Tamil literature; emblematic plants and animals.

3. The forest and forest dwellers: textual representations; interactions between agrarian and state societies; grama and aranya; the king and the forest.

4. Nature in religion and ritual: the naturalistic polytheism of the Vedas; deities in animal form (Jataka stories, avatara doctrine); animals as vahanas; the Hindu gods and goddesses; nature and fertility; worship and symbolism of trees; naga worship; vasantotsava rituals.

5. Representations of nature in art: empathy between humans and nature, entwining and hybrid creatures; plants and animals in the iconography and narrative of divine forms; personification and stylization of nature in art; sadrishya, anukriti, and alamkara.

6. Nature in poetry and poetics: descriptions of nature’s beauty; nature as friend, healer, benefactor, adversary; relationship of the seasons to human emotions; poetic figures relating to nature in literary criticism.


Select Readings


II. The Vedic scene and the transition to state: Political Processes in the Rigveda – Pre-state situation in the Middle Ganga Valley – Lineage Society – Processes of transition from Lineage to State – booty capture and redistribution – contending definitions of power and the centrality of the raja – rituals and legitimation.

III. The “Republics” and “Kingdoms”: Geographical Distribution and its importance – trade and urbanisation – stratification of society and the consolidation of jati- The incipient state and the Varna System – Political Structure of the Mahajanapadas – Emergence of Monarchy in the Gangetic North India.


V. Post-Mauryan polities – the continuation of the gana-samGhas – the varying structures in the “successor states” – the experience in the Deccan under Satavahanas – the Tamil South.

VI. The Guptas and after: Political processes under the Guptas – the “samanta system” and Indian feudalism – the concept of dharma – brahmana-kshatriya relations – kingship and the structure of polity in early medieval India – the regional states.

Readings:

Gonda,Jan, Ancient Indian Kingship from the Religious Point of View, Brill, Leiden, 1966.
Kosambi, D.D., An Introduction to the Study of Indian History (Bombay, 1956).
Roy, Kumkum, Emergence of Monarchy in North India, Oxford University Press,New Delhi, 1994.
Sharma, R.S., Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Mac Millan, New Delhi, 1983
Sharma, R.S., Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India, Mac Millan, New Delhi, rpt. 1990
Sharma, R.S., The State and Varna Formation in the Mid-Ganga Plains, Manohar Publications, New Delhi, 1996
Smith, Bardwell, Essays in Gupta Culture, Delhi, 1986.
Thapar, Romila Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas, Oxford University Press.
Thapar, Romila, From Lineage to State, Oxfon University Press, 1984
Thapar, Romila, The Mauryas Re-visited, K.P. Bagchi & Company, New Delhi, 1984
Veluthat, Kesavan, The Early Medieval in South India, New Delhi, 2009
Veluthat, Kesavan, The Political Structure of Early Medieval South India, Delhi, 1993.

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Optional/Elective Course/Paper 15

HSM-327

PRODUCERS OF WEALTH IN EARLY INDIA

This course would be concerned with primary producers of wealth, viz., agriculturists, peasants, traders, merchants, artisans and craftspeople; their tools, techniques technologies and modes of production; their organisational structures and their social placements. Under each category of producers, attempt shall be made to take cognisance of various types rather than seeing it as homogenous category. These themes shall be discussed in two chronological phases: (A) from circa 1000 BCE to circa 100 BCE, and (B) from circa 100 BCE to circa 1300 CE. Literary texts, material remains, epigraphic evidences and representations in art forms shall constitute the core data.

Select Readings:

Bagchi, Amiya Kumar, ed., : Money and Credit in Indian History : From Early Medieval Times, Tulika, Delhi, 2002.
Chakravarthi, Ranabir : Trade and Traders in Early India, Manohar, Delhi, 2002.
Champakalakshmi, R. : Trade, Ideology and Urbanisation: South India 300 BC to AD 1300, OUP, Delhi, 1996.
Goitein, S.D. and Friedman, Mordechai A. : Indian Traders of the Middle Ages: Documents from the Cairo Geniza ('India Book'), Brill, Leiden-Boston, 2008.
Gopal, Lallanji : The Economic Life of Northern India, c.AD 700-1200, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1965.
Jain, V.K. : Trade and Traders in Western India (AD 1000-1300), Munshiram Manoharlal, Delhi, 1990.
Sahu, B.P. ed.: *Land System and Rural Society in Early India*, Manohar, Delhi, 1997.
Sharma, R.S.: *Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India*, Macmillan India, Delhi, 1983.
Optional/Elective Course/Paper 16  
HSM-328

RELIGIONS IN EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA (c. 500 – c. 1300 CE)

1. The milieu: socio-economic and political order/s.

2. Texts: Literature; sculptures and monuments; inscriptions -- Religio-Philosophic Background of Land Grants.

3. Growth of bhakti with special reference to Vishnuism and Shivaism south of the Vindhyas: Two phases: (A) up to c.10th century, and (B) c.1000 to c.1300 CE.
   a. The Alvars, Nayamnars, Shrivaishnavas and Virashaivas.

4. Puranic religions and sectarian identities.


7. Shaktism and Tantricism.

8. The Kapalikas, the Kalamukhas, the Nathas and the Siddhas.

9. Popular beliefs and practices – utsavas, vratas, danas, etc.

10. Gender Issues in Indian Religions, with special reference to:
    [a] Jaina Debates on women’s salvation – participants, issues and major arguments.
    [d] The Dashamahavidyas.


12. Religious Institutions – samghas, mathas, gachchhas, basadis, temples, etc.

13. Religions from outside India and their transformations: Christianity, Zoroastrianism (Parsis), Judaism and Islam.

Note: In addition to the Topic No. 10, gender concerns in Indian religions will receive due attention under other topics as well.

Select Readings:

Benoytosh Bhattacharya: An Introduction to Buddhist Esoterism, 1932.
RELIGIONS, ARTS AND SOCIETY (circa 200 BCE to circa 300 CE)

1. Material milieu of the society.
2. Growth of theism: (a) yakshas, yakshis and other popular cults; (b) Vishnuism; (c) Shivaism; (d) Mahayana; (e) Jinism; (f) female divinities.
3. Modes of classification of arts and crafts – *kalas* and *shilpas*.
5. From symbolic to anthropomorphic delineations of deities: narrative friezes; free-standing sculptures and their iconographic specificities.
6. Terracottas, metal icons and popular beliefs.

Select Readings:
Select Readings (for topics 1-2):
Chitgopekhar, Nilima : *Encountering Shivaism: The Deity, the Milieu, the Entourage*, 1998.
Gafurov, B. et al, eds., *Central Asia in the Kushan Period*, 2 volumes, Committee on the Study of the Civilizations of Central Asia of the Commission of the USSR for UNESCO, Moscow, 1974-75.

Gonda, Jan : *Aspects of Early Vishnuism*, 1954.

Misra, R.N. : *Yaksha Cult*

Select Readings (for topics 3-6):
Benisti, Mireille : *Stylistics of Buddhist Art in India*, 2 Volumes, IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts) and Aryan Books International, New Delhi, 2003.


Dehejia, Vidya : *Representing the Body*, Kali for Women, Delhi, 1997.


Nagaraju, S. : *Buddhist Architecture of Western India (c.250 BC-c.AD 300)*, Agam Prakashan, Delhi, 1981.


TAMILAKAM IN EARLY HISTORICAL PERIOD

1. **Historiography and sources:** The nineteenth century concerns with Roman trade – discovery of “Sangam” literature and the Tamil pride – Early studies – the political implications – developments in archaeology and epigraphy – Sivathamby and the new insights – insights from other disciplines – recent work.


**Readings**


Chakravarti, Ranabir: *Trade and Traders in Early India*, Manohar, Delhi, 2002.


Minakshi, C., *Administration and Social Life under the Pallavas* (University of Madras, Madras, 1938).


Stein, Burton, ed. *Essays on South India*, Delhi, 1975, Vikas.


Optional/Elective Course/Paper 19
HSM-331
THE DEEP SOUTH: AD c.700-1300 CE


III. The emergence of the state: the Pallavas and Pandyas – struggles with powers of the Deccan – the Cera kingdom of Mahodayapuram – political process and the factors behind them – urbanism, literacy and monumental architecture – details of political organisation – the nature of these “early” states – their fortunes.

IV. The Cola experience – the beginnings – the capture of Kaveri delta and the development of Tanjore – the expansion under Aditya and Parantaka – Rashtrakuta wars and the setback – Rajaraja and Rajendra – agrarian expansion, growth of trade and economic transformation – social implications – the climacteric – cultural productions – decline of the Cola “empire”.


Readings:

Champakalakshmi, R., Trade, Ideology and Urbanisation OUP, 1996.
Gopalan, R., History of the Pallavas of Kanchi University of Madras, 1920.
Hall, Kenneth, Trade and Statecraft in the Age of the Colas Abhinav Prakashan, Delhi, 1983.
Heitzman, James, Gifts of Power OUP, 1997.
Karashima, Noboru, History and Society in South India. OUP 1984.
Mahalingam, T.V., South Indian Polity, University of Madras, 1955.
Mahalingam, T.V., Kanchipuram in Early South Indian History Asia Publicashing House, Bombay, 1966.
Minakshi, C., Administration and Social Life under the Pallavas University of Madras, 1955.
Narayanan, M.G.S. & Kesavan Veluthat, ‘Bhakti Movement in South India’ in D.N.Jha, ed. The Feudal Order, Delhi, 2001 Manohar.
Stein, Burton, ed., *Essays on South India*, Delhi, Vikas, 1974
Veluthat, Kesavan, *The Early Medieval in South India*. New Delhi, 2009, OUP.
This course will give students a compact, basic introduction to the Sanskrit language. The aim is to give History students a foundation in Sanskrit which they will be able to build on in order to eventually be able to handle primary sources. The course will include:

1. Explanation of the general features of the language
2. The basic elements of grammar, such as declension of nouns, conjugation of verbs, affixes, *sandhi*, and *samasa*
3. An exposure to basic vocabulary and syntax
4. Developing reading and comprehension skills
5. Translation exercises which include references to simple texts

**Readings:**


This course builds on the foundations of Sanskrit – 1. The prerequisite of this course is that the student should have done Sanskrit – 1 or should have a proven equivalent level of grasp of the language. The aim is to enhance History students’ understanding of Sanskrit in order to enable them to handle primary source material. This will include:

1. Strengthening the understanding of Sanskrit grammar, vocabulary, and syntax through instruction and exercises
2. Developing reading and comprehension skills
3. An emphasis on the translation of excerpts from historically important texts of different genres, including excerpts from kavyas, biographies, dynastic chronicles and shastras.
4. Translation and reading of inscriptions

Readings: