

# **B.A. (HONOURS) HISTORY**

**(Three Year Full Time Programme)**



## **COURSE CONTENTS** **(1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTERS ONLY)** **(Effective from the Academic Year 2011-2012 onwards)**

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**  
**DELHI - 110007**

**Course: B.A. (Hons.) History**

<b>Semester I</b>	Paper 1: Ancient India-I
	Paper 2: Social Formations and Cultural Patterns of the Ancient World
	Paper 3: Concurrent – Qualifying Language
<b>Semester II</b>	Paper 4: Ancient India-II
	Paper 5: Social Formations and Cultural Patterns of the Ancient and Medieval World
	Paper 6: Concurrent – Credit Language

**SEMESTER BASED UNDER-GRADUATE HONOURS**  
**COURSES**

**Distribution of Marks & Teaching Hours**

The Semester-wise distribution of papers for the B.A. (Honours), B.Com. (Honours), B. Com., B.Sc. (Honours) Statistics and B.Sc. (Honours) Computer Science will be as follows:

Type of Paper	Max. Marks	Theory Exam.	I.A.	Teaching per week
Main Papers	100	75	25	5 Lectures 1 Tutorial
Concurrent Courses	100	75	25	4 Lectures 1 Tutorial
Credit Courses for B.Sc.(Hons.) Mathematics	100	75	25	4 Lectures 1 Tutorial

- ❖ Size of the Tutorial Group will be in accordance with the existing norms.
- ❖ The existing syllabi of all Concurrent/Credit Courses shall remain unchanged.
- ❖ The existing criteria for opting for the Concurrent /Credit Courses shall also remain unchanged.

## COURSE I : SEMESTER I

### ANCIENT INDIA I

- I. Reconstructing Ancient Indian History**
  - [a] Early Indian notions of History
  - [b] Sources and tools of historical reconstruction.
  - [c] Historical interpretations (with special reference to gender, environment, technology, and regions).
  
- II. Pre-historic hunter-gatherers**
  - [a] Palaeolithic cultures- sequence and distribution; stone industries and other technological developments.
  - [b] Mesolithic cultures- regional and chronological distribution; new developments in technology and economy; rock art.
  
- III. The advent of food production**

Understanding the regional and chronological distribution of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures : subsistence, and patterns of exchange.
  
- IV. The Harappan civilization :**

Origins; settlement patterns and town planning; agrarian base; craft productions and trade; social and political organisation; religious beliefs and practices; art; the problem of urban decline and the late/post-Harappan traditions.
  
- V. Cultures in transition-settlement patterns, technological and economic developments; social stratification; political relations; religion and philosophy; the Aryan Problem.**
  - [a] North India (circa 1500 BCE-300 BCE)
  - [b] Central India and the Deccan (circa 1000 BCE – circa 300 BCE)
  - [c] Tamilakam (circa 300 BCE to circa CE 300)

### ESSENTIAL READINGS

- D. P. Agrawal, The Archaeology of India, 1985  
Bridget & F. Raymond Allchin, The Rise of Civilisation in India and Pakistan, 1983.  
A. L. Basham, The Wonder that Was India, 1971.

D. K. Chakrabarti, *The Archaeology of Ancient Indian Cities* 1997 (Paperback).  
D. K. Chakrabarti, *The Oxford Companion to Indian Archaeology* New Delhi, 2006.  
H. C. Raychaudhuri, *Political History of Ancient India*, Rev. Ed. with Commentary by B. N. Mukherjee, 1996.  
K. A. N. Sastri (ed), *History of South India* (OUP, 1966)  
R. S. Sharma, *Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India*, 1983.  
Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*, 2008.  
Romila Thapar, *Early India from the Beginnings to 1300* (London, 2002).

### **SUGGESTED READINGS**

Uma Chakravarti. *The Social Dimensions of Early Buddhism*. 1997.  
Rajan Gurukul, *Social Formations of Early South India*, 2010.  
R. Champakalakshmi, *Trade. Ideology and urbanisation : South India 300 BC- AD 1300*. 1996.

## **COURSE II : SEMESTER I**

### **SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD**

- I.** Evolution of humankind; Palaeolithic and Mesolithic cultures.
- II.** Food production : beginnings of agriculture and animal husbandry.
- III.** Bronze Age Civilisations, with reference to any one of the following: i) Egypt (Old Kingdom); ii) Mesopotamia (up to the Akkadian Empire); iii) China (Shang); iv) Eastern Mediterranean (Minoan)—Economy, social stratification, state structure, religion.
- IV.** Nomadic groups in Central and West Asia; ‘Debate’ on the advent of iron and its implications
- V.** Slave society in ancient Greece : agrarian economy, urbanisation, trade.
- VI.** *Polis* in ancient Greece: Athens and Sparta; Greek Culture.

#### **ESSENTIAL READINGS**

Burns and Ralph. World Civilisations.  
Cambridge History of Africa, Vol. I.  
V. Gordon Childe, What Happened in History.  
G. Clark World Prehistory : A New Perspective.  
B. Fagan, People of the Earth.  
Amar Farooqui, Early Social Formations.  
M. I. Finley, The Ancient Economy.  
Jacquetta Hawkes, First Civilisations.  
G. Roux, Ancient Iraq.  
Bai Shaoyi, An Outline History of China.  
H. W. F. Saggs, The Greatness that was Babylon.  
B. Trigger, Ancient Egypt : A Social History.  
UNESCO Series : History of Mankind, Vols. I – III./ or New ed. History of Humanity.  
R. J. Wenke, Patterns in Prehistory.

#### **SUGGESTED READINGS**

G. E. M. Ste Croix, Class Struggles in the Ancient Greek World.  
J. D. Bernal, Science in History, Vol. I.  
V. Gordon Childe, Social Evolution.  
Glyn Daniel, First Civilisations.  
A. Hauser, A Social History of Art, Vol. I.

**COURSE III : SEMESTER II**  
**ANCIENT INDIA II**

**I. Economy and Society (circa 300 BCE to circa CE 300):**

- [a] Expansion of agrarian economy: production relations.
- [b] Urban growth: north India, central India and the Deccan; craft production: trade and trade routes; coinage.
- [c] Social stratification: class, *varna*, *jati*, untouchability; gender; marriage and property relations.

**II. Changing political formations (circa 300 BCE to circa CE 300):**

- [a] The Mauryan Empire
- [b] Post-Mauryan Polities with special reference to the Kushanas and the Satavahanas; Gana-Sanghas.

**III. Towards early medieval India [circa CE fourth century to CE 750]:**

- [a] Agrarian expansion: land grants, changing production relations; graded land rights and peasantry.
- [b] The problem of urban decline: patterns of trade, currency, and urban settlements.
- [c] *Varna*, proliferation of *jatis*: changing norms of marriage and property.
- [d] The nature of polities: the Gupta empire and its contemporaries: post-Gupta polities – Pallavas, Chalukyas, and Vardhanas.

**IV. Religion, philosophy and society (circa 300 BCE- CE 750):**

- (a) Consolidation of the brahmanical tradition: *dharma*, *Varnashram*, *purusharthas*, *samskaras*.
- (b) Theistic cults (from circa second century BC): Mahayana; the Puranic tradition.
- (c) The beginnings of Tantricism

**V. Cultural developments (circa 300 BCE – CE 750):**

- [a] A brief survey of Sanskrit, Pali Prakrit and Tamil literature. Scientific and technical treatises.
- [b] Art and architecture – forms and patronage; Mauryan, post-Mauryan, Gupta, post-Gupta

## **ESSENTIAL READINGS**

- B. D. Chattopadhyaya, *The Making of Early Medieval India*, 1994.  
D. P. Chattopadhyaya, *History of Science and Technology in Ancient India* 1986.  
D. D. Kosambi, *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*, 1975.  
S. K. Maity, *Economic Life in Northern India in the Gupta Period*, 1970.  
B. P. Sahu (ed), *Land System and Rural Society in Early India* 1997.  
K. A. N. Sastri, *A History of South India*.  
R. S. Sharma, *India Feudalism*, 1980.  
Romila Thapar, *Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*, 1997.  
Susan Huntington, *The Art of Ancient India: Buddhist, Hindu, Jain* (New York, 1985)

## **SUGGESTED READINGS**

- N. N. Bhattacharya. *Ancient Indian Rituals and Their Social Contents*, 2nd ed. , 1996.  
J. C. Harle, *The Art and Architecture of the Indian Subcontinent*, 1987.  
P. L. Gupta, *Coins* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.) 1996.  
Kesavan Veluthat, *The Early Medieval in South India* (New Delhi, 2009)  
H. P. Ray, *Winds of Change*, 1994.  
Romila Thapar, *Early India : From the Origins to 1300*, 2002.

## COURSE IV : SEMESTER II

### SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL WORLD

- I. Roman Republic, Principate and Empire—slave society in ancient Rome: agrarian economy, urbanisation , trade.
- II. Religion and culture in ancient Rome.
- III. Crises of the Roman Empire.
- IV. Economic developments in Europe from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries: organisation of production, towns and trade, technological developments. Crisis of feudalism.
- V. Religion and culture in medieval Europe:
- VI. Societies in Central Islamic Lands:
  - [a] The tribal background, *ummah*, Caliphal state; rise of Sultanates
  - [b] Religious developments : the origins of *shariah* , *Mihna* ,Sufism
  - [c] Urbanisation and trade

### ESSENTIAL READINGS

Perry Anderson, Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism.  
Mare Bloch, Feudal Society, 2 Vols.  
Cambridge History of Islam, 2 Vols.  
Georges Duby, The Early Growth of the European Economy.  
Fontana Economic History of Europe, Vol. I (relevant chapters).  
P. K. Hitti, History of the Arabs.  
P. Garnsey and Saller, The Roman Empire.

### SUGGESTED READINGS

S. Ameer Ali, The Spirit of Islam.  
J. Barraclough, The Medieval Papacy.  
Encyclopaedia of Islam, (1st ed.) 4 vols.  
M. G. S. Hodgson, The Venture of Islam.