

History UG

Semester: 1				
Programme: History				
Course : Early India During the Age of Empires (c 300 BCE - 500 CE)				
Paper code: B1HS230111T				Credits: 4
Hours/week : 4				
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC: Minor				
Theory / Practical / Composite: Theory				
No of Modules : 2				
<p>Course Overview: This course explores the transformative journey of India from the formation of the 16 Mahajanapadas to the consolidation of the Delhi Sultanate. Students will analyze the mechanics of statecraft, the complexities of the feudalism debate, and the transition from Varna to Jati. The curriculum balances political history with socio-economic evolution, covering the flourishing Indo-Roman trade, the impact of the Bhakti and Sufi movements, and the scientific advancements of the era. By examining historiographical traditions, students will gain a nuanced understanding of how diverse regional identities coalesced into the rich tapestry of Indian heritage.</p>				
Course Outcome:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the key dynasties, administrative terms (like <i>Iqta</i> and <i>Guilds</i>), and major historical figures from the Mahajanapadas through the Delhi Sultanate. 2. Explain the evolution of social structures, specifically the transition from the Varna system to the Jati system and the shifting status of women across different eras. 3. Illustrate how geographical factors and trade routes influenced the expansion of empires like the Mauryas, Guptas, and the Sultanate polity. 4. Differentiate between various theories of kingship and economic models, such as the feudalism debate versus the monetization and market regulations of the Sultanate. 5. Assess the impact of Islamic traditions on Indian society, critiquing the role of Sufi syncretism and the Bhakti movement in shaping regional identities. 6. Construct a comprehensive historical argument using diverse sources (epigraphy, vernacular histories, and Al-Biruni's accounts) to interpret the cultural synthesis of medieval India. 				
Prerequisites: Basic knowledge about any prior course				
SYLLABUS				
UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I.	Statecraft in Ancient India: 16 Mahajanapadas, the Magadhan Empire, ;Satavahanas, Kushanas	24	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4	K1,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6

	and the Mauryas, Southern Powers: 4 Lectures		CO5 CO6	
	II. The Age of the Imperial Guptas & Contemporaries - Post Gupta Polities: Pallavas, Chalukyas, Cholas and Vardhanas -The Age of Harsha-4 Lectures			
	III. Society and Religion of Ancient and Early Medieval India, (A Broad Overview) With Special Reference to the Position of Women, -4 Lectures			
	Economic Life: Trade and Commerce, Crafts and Guilds Transition to Indo-Roman Trade; Feudalism Debate -4 Lectures			
	Social Life: Social Structure from Varna to Jati -Family Life and Status of Women. - 4 lectures			
	Art, Architecture, Science, Literature and Culture of Ancient and Early Medieval India. - 4 Lectures			
II.	7. Interpreting the Delhi Sultanate: Sources, Traditions: Intellectuals like Al-Biruni & Al Hujwiri, Vernacular Histories and Epigraphy; History Writing in the Sultanate Era: - 4 lectures	24	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1,K2,K3,K4,K5,K6
	8. A Brief Overview of the Sultanate Polity and Administration. (Foundation, Expansion and			

	Consolidation , Theories of Kingship; Ruling Elites , Saints , Ulamas (Muslim Jurist and Clergymen) , Imperial Monuments and Coins. 6 lectures			
	Emergence of Provincial Dynasties and Consolidation of Regional Identities: 4 Lectures			
	Central and Regional Art, Architecture, Literature and Culture - 4 Lectures			
	Society and Economy: Iqtas, Technologies, Monetization, Market - Regulations. 3 lectures			
	The Nature and Impact of Islam on Indian Society -Sufi Syncretism and the Bhakti Movement (A Broad Overview); - New Developments in Medicine: 3 Lectures			

Text Books

- R.S. Sharma, India's Ancient Past, New Delhi, OUP, 2007
- ✓ Upinder Singh, A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India, 2008.
- ✓ R. S. Sharma, Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India, 1983.
- ✓ L. Basham, The Wonder that Was India, 1971.
- ✓ H. C. Raychaudhuri, Political History of Ancient India, Rev. ed. with Commentary by B. N. Mukherjee, 1996
- ✓ Romila Thapar, Early India from the Beginnings to 1300, London, 2002.
- ✓ R. Champakalakshmi, Trade, Ideology and urbanization: South India 300 BC- AD 1300, 1996.
- ✓ D. D. Kosambi, An Introduction to the Study of Indian History, 1975.
- ✓ D. Chattopadhyaya, The Making of Early Medieval India, 1994.
- ✓ D. P. Chattopadhyaya, History of Science and Technology in Ancient India, 1986.

Suggested readings

- 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, Indian Feudalism, 1980.
- ✓ R.S.Sharma, Urban Decay in India,c.300-
- C1000,Delhi,Munshiram Manohar Lal,1987
- ✓ Romila Thapar, Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas, 1997.
- ✓ Susan Huntington, The Art of Ancient India: Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain, New York,1985.
- ✓ Hermann Kulke, ed., The State in India (AD 1000 - AD 1700)
- Romila Thapar, Somanatha: The Many Voices of a History.
- ✓ John S. Deyell, Living Without Silver: The Monetary History of Early Medieval North India.
- ✓ Vijaya Ramaswamy, Walking Naked: Women, Society, and Spirituality in South India.
- ✓ Burton Stein, Peasant State and Society in Medieval South India.
- ✓ Mohammad Habib and K.A. Nizami, eds, Comprehensive History of India, Vol. V, The Delhi Sultanate.
- ✓ Satish Chandra, Medieval India I.
- ✓ Peter Jackson, The Delhi Sultanate.
- ✓ Catherine Asher and Cynthia Talbot, India Before Europe.
- ✓ Tapan Raychaudhuri and Irfan Habib, eds, Cambridge Economic History of India, Vol. I.
- ✓ K.A. Nizami, Religion and Politics in the Thirteenth Century.
- ✓ W.H. McLeod, Karine Schomer, et al, Eds, The Sants.
- ✓ S.A.A. Rizvi, A History of Sufism in India, Vol. I.
- ✓ Mohibul Hasan, Historians of Medieval India.
- ✓ Burton Stein, New Cambridge History of India: Vijayanagara.
- ✓ Richard M. Eaton, ed., India's Islamic Traditions

Web Resources

1.

2.

3.
4.
Evaluation: Theory CIA: 5(CIA)+20(Mid Sem)+5 (Attendance)=30 Semester Exam: 70
Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Module: Total Marks: 70 Two modules of 35 marks each. (5 questions of 2 marks from 7 options: $2 \times 5 = 10$ 3 questions of 5 marks from 5 options: $5 \times 3 = 15$ 1 question of 10 marks from 2 options: $10 \times 1 = 10$)

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	Identify the key dynasties, administrative terms (like <i>Iqta</i> and <i>Guilds</i>), and major historical figures from the Mahajanapadas through the Delhi Sultanate.	K1
CO2	Explain the evolution of social structures, specifically the transition from the Varna system to the Jati system and the shifting status of women across different eras.	K2
CO3	Illustrate how geographical factors and trade routes influenced the expansion of empires like the Mauryas, Guptas, and the Sultanate polity.	K3
CO4	Differentiate between various theories of kingship and economic models, such as the feudalism debate versus the monetization and market regulations of the Sultanate.	K4
CO5	Assess the impact of Islamic traditions on Indian society, critiquing the role of Sufi syncretism and the Bhakti movement in shaping regional identities.	K5
CO6	Construct a comprehensive historical argument using diverse sources (epigraphy, vernacular histories, and Al-Biruni's accounts) to interpret the cultural synthesis of medieval India.	K6