

History UG

Semester: 5				
Programme : History				
Course: Empire and Society in Early Modern India (1526-1707)				
Paper code: C3HS230511T		Credits: 4		
Hours/week : 4				
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC : Core (Major)				
Theory / Practical / Composite : Theory				
No of Modules : 2				
<p>Course Overview: This course examines the transformation of South Asia from the 16th to the early 18th century, focusing on the rise and stabilization of the Mughal Empire alongside regional powers like the Marathas and Rajputs. Students will analyze the mechanics of imperial sovereignty, court politics, and the shifting military-agrarian landscapes that defined the era. Beyond high politics, the curriculum explores the "Mughal World" through its visual culture, the role of women in the harem, and the influence of Sufi and Sikh traditions. It also investigates the commercial vitality of Indian Ocean trade and the "karkhanas" against a backdrop of ecological history and agrarian shifts. By the end of the term, learners will understand how the interplay of religion, economy, and environmental factors led to both the zenith and the subsequent fragmentation of the imperial order.</p>				
Course Outcome:				
1. Remember (Knowledge): Identify the primary Persian and vernacular sources, memoirs, and travelogues that define 16th and 17th-century South Asian historiography				
2. Understand (Comprehension): Explain the evolution of Mughal sovereignty and the military-agrarian order, from Babur's conquests through Akbar's consolidation.				
3. Apply (Application): Use the concepts of the <i>Mansabdari</i> and <i>Jagirdari</i> systems to interpret the causes of the agrarian crisis and subsequent rural resistance				
4. Analyze (Analysis): Differentiate between the political cultures of the Mughal heartland, the Maratha administration under Shivaji, and the Deccan Sultanates				
5. Evaluate (Evaluation): Assess the impact of Aurangzeb's religious and expansionist policies on the eventual decline of the Mughal imperial structure				
6. Create (Synthesis): Construct a multi-dimensional narrative that links Mughal visual culture and "floral imaginations" to the broader political economy and maritime trade of the 17th century				
Prerequisites: <i>Basic knowledge about any prior course</i>				
SYLLABUS				
UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I.	I. Writing the Sixteenth Century World a) Sources: Persian and	18	CO1 CO2	K1,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6

	vernacular literary cultures, b) Histories, memoirs and travelogues; Categories of Writing		CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	
	II. Political Culture and Empire in Sixteenth Century South Asia (a) Imperial Culture and concepts of Sovereignty – Understanding the Nature of the Mughal State - Babur’s conquest -The Sur Interregnum (b) Akbar’s consolidation - Akbar and the making of the Mughal political order (alliances, wars, and political theocracy and remaking of the military-agrarian order) (c) Court, Politics and the evolving ideas of imperialism In the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century -the Nur Jahan Junta, Mughal successions.			
	III. Mughal Politics from 1650 to 1707 (a) State and religion under Aurangzeb; the war of succession; Religious Policies (b) Conquests and limits of expansion and the beginning of the Imperial decline.			
	IV. Patterns of Regional Politics: (a) The Marathas: Shivaji and the Rise of the Marathas, Maratha Administration (b) Rajput political culture and state formation; Deccan kingdoms			
II.		18	CO1	K1,K2,K3,K4.K5,K

	<p>V. Religion and Society: The Sufis, The Sikhs and the Naqshbandi's Gender and Power: Women in Mughal Empire; The Mughal Harem; Women in the Rajputana</p>		<p>CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6</p>	<p>6</p>
	<p>VI. Visual Culture: Paintings and Architecture: Mughal Paintings, Mughal Architecture; Rajput Paintings; The Architecture of the Deccan Sultanates</p>			
	<p>VII. The Commercial Sphere: (a) Crafts and technologies: The Mughal Karkhanas; Market Economy; Political Economy and Commercial Networks and Urban Centres. (b) The Maritime World in the 17th Century and Early 18th Century: The Indian Ocean in History</p>			
	<p>VIII: Empire, Rural and the Ecological Life in South Asia (a) Rural Gentry in Mughal India- Agrarian Re-organization and Agrarian Crisis (16th to 18th C)- Jagirdari and Mansabdari reimagined- The 'Rural' resistance in late Mughal India- The Famines (b) Ecology and Empire- Floral imaginations (Gardens etc.) and Faunal Histories (Hunting, elephant and horse keeping etc.</p>			

Text Books

- 1) M. Athar Ali, The Mughal Nobility under Aurangzeb.
- 2) Muzaffar Alam and Sanjay Subramanian, eds, The Mughal State, 1526 - 1750.
- 3) J.F. Richards, The Mughal Empire.

- 4) Satish Chandra, Essays on Medieval Indian History.
- 5) Satish Chandra, Medieval India part II
- 6) Satish Chandra, Parties and Politics at the Mughal Court
- 7) Satish Chandra, **মধ্যযুগের ভারত II**
- 8) Irfan Habib, Agrarian System of Mughal India, 1526 - 1707.
- 9) Irfan Habib, Essays in Indian History
- 10) Irfan Habib (**সমাদিত**), **মধ্যকালীন ভারত, ১-৪**
- 11) Irfan Habib, Medieval India I, Researches 1200-1750
- 12) Aniruddha Ray, **মুঘল ভারতের অর্থনৈতিক ইতিহাস**
- 13) Aniruddha Ray, **মুঘল সাম্রাজ্যের উত্থান পতনের ইতিহাস**
- 14) Stewart Gordon, The Marathas 1600 - 1818.
- 15) Ebba Koch, Mughal Art and Imperial Ideology
- 16) Richard M Eaton, India in the Persianate Age

Suggested readings

1. V Dalmia and M Faruqi, Religious Interactions in Mughal India
2. Ashin Dasgupta, Indian Merchants and the Decline of Surat, 1700 - 1750.
3. Nandini Sinha Kapur, State Formation in Rajasthan
4. Nandini Sinha Kapur, Reconstructing Identities
5. G D Sharma, Rajput Polity
6. Shireen Moosvi, People Taxation and Trade in Mughal India
7. S Arasaratnam, Merchants Companies and Commerce on the Coromandel
8. Nandita Prasad Sahay, Politics of Patronage and Protest
9. Dirk H A Kolff, Naukar Rajput and Sepoy
10. Pratyay Nath, Climate of Conquest
11. Meena Bhargava, Frontiers of Environment
12. Meena Bhargava, Exploring Medieval India, 2 Vols
13. Jadunath Sarkar, Shivaji and His Times
14. Andre Wink, Al Hind
15. Andre Wink, Land and Sovereignty in India
16. Richard M Eaton, India's Islamic Traditions
17. S.A.A. Rizvi, Muslim Revivalist Movements in Northern India.
18. Supriya Gandhi, The Emperor Who Never Was
19. Ruby Lal, Domesticity and Power in Early Mughal World
20. Richard M Eaton, A Social History of the Deccan
21. Richard M Eaton, Mughals and Sufis
22. Richard M Eaton et al (ed), Expanding Frontiers of South Asian and World History.
23. Catherine B Asher and Cynthia Talbot, India before Europe
24. Richard M Eaton, Sufis of Bijapur

Web Resources
1.
2.
3.
4.
Evaluation : Theory CIA: 5 + Mid Sem: 20 + Attendance: 5 =30 Semester Exam: 70
Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam: Total Marks: 70 Two modules of 35 marks each. (3 questions of 5 marks from 5 options: 3X5=15 2 questions of 10 marks from 3 options: 2X10=20

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	Remember (Knowledge): Identify the primary Persian and vernacular sources, memoirs, and travelogues that define 16th and 17th-century South Asian historiography	K1
CO2	Understand (Comprehension): Explain the evolution of Mughal sovereignty and the military-agrarian order, from Babur's conquests through Akbar's consolidation.	K2
CO3	Apply (Application): Use the concepts of the <i>Mansabdari</i> and <i>Jagirdari</i> systems to interpret the causes of the agrarian crisis and subsequent rural resistance	K3
CO4	Analyze (Analysis): Differentiate between the political cultures of the Mughal heartland, the Maratha administration under Shivaji, and the Deccan Sultanates	K4
CO5	Evaluate (Evaluation): Assess the impact of Aurangzeb's religious and expansionist policies on the eventual decline of the Mughal imperial structure	K5
CO6	Create (Synthesis): Construct a multi-dimensional narrative that links Mughal visual culture and "floral imaginations" to the broader political economy and maritime trade of the 17th century	K6