

Revised History BA Pass and BA Honours Papers

Introduction:

At the meeting of the Board of Under-Graduate Studies in History held on 24.9.2012, the members discussed the letter from the Director, College Development Council, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong [letter No.CDC/B.3/ 2011/ - 1968 dated 17th September, 2012] regarding the structure for the Under Graduate Courses and Calendar for the Under Graduate Programme. In the light of the recommendations as mentioned above (letter quoted), the members discussed the existing the Under Graduate Courses and finalised the syllabus for the semester system. The re-structured courses are as follows:

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| HIS-UG-101: History of Ancient India | 1/sem | |
| HIS-UG-202: History of Medieval India | 2/sem | |
| HIS-UG-303: History of Modern India | 3/sem | |
| HIS-UG-404: Historiography | 1/sem | |
| HIS-UG-505: History of Modern Europe | 5/sem | |
| HIS-UG-506: Contemporary World | 5/sem | |
| HIS-UG-607(1): History of China and Japan | 6/sem | optional |
| HIS-UG-607(2): History of Modern South East Asia | | |
| HIS-UG-607(3): History of USA | | |
| HIS-UG-608(1) : History of North East India (From earliest times to the 13 th Century) | | |
| HIS-UG-608(2): History of North East India (1228-1824) | | |
| HIS-UG-608(3): History of North East India (1822-1972) | | |

The matter is now placed before the Academic Council for approval.

Paper I

HIS-UG-101: HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA

Objective: Catering to the need of both Pass and Honours students, this Course is designed to familiarize students with the social, economic, political and cultural developments in India from the Chalcolithic period to the beginning of the Delhi Sultanate. The focus is on the material roots of the developments, not on dynastic history. The purpose is to introduce students to elements of change and continuity in Indian history.

Course Content:

A. Survey of sources to Ancient Indian History (literary works and archaeological Sources), Geographical background of Indian culture (physical features and impact on the culture and history of different regions). Brief introduction to important concepts (culture, urbanization, and civilization. Neolithic cultures in India (meaning, distribution and spread). The Harrappan

Civilization (origins, distribution and salient features {economy, religion, art and craft and decline reflected through the material evidence).

B. The emergence of Vedic culture (society, economy, polity and religion as reflected in the *Rig Veda* and the later Vedas) the material and ideological background of Upanishads (conflicts with Vedic ideology). The rise of post-Vedic civilization (iron technology in production; expansion of settlements, use of coined money, trade, markets and urbanization. The rise of heterodox sects (particularly Buddhism and Jainism). Territorial states I (monarchies and oligarchies) and the rise of Magadha as paramount political power.

C. Prelude to the Mauryan Empire (Political and economic integration under the Nandas, Alexander's invasion and its impact) the Maurya Empire (polity, economy, religion and society particularly the relevant portions of the Arthashastra and Megasthenes's accounts). Inscriptional and archaeological sources, Ashoka Dhamma, the decline of the Mauryas. Rise and growth of new kingdoms in northwestern India the Deccan {foreign and indigenous origins respectively}: case study of the Kushanas and the Satavahanas. The Shungam age.

D. The Gupta Empire (economy, society and polity [as reflected in the literary, numismatic, epigraphically and other sources). Cultural developments {arts, architecture, sculpture, painting, literature, religion, with special emphasis on the significance of the Puranic tradition; Relevance of Jati-dharma; the social context of women's lowly position and the rise of Untouchability; the decline of the Guptas). Post-Gupta polity, economy and society with special reference to : a) Northern India under Harshavardhana (political organization and growing importance of samanta system; religious developments); (b) South India under the Pallavas and Cholas (stages in administrative organization under their rule; the agrarian structure; trade, markets and urban centres; art and religion and the role of temples in socio-economic and political life); (c) Other contemporary ruling families, with the focus on Gujara-Pratiharas, Pasas, Rastrakutas, Varmans (socio-economic and political institutions-similarities and variations; administrative organization; the implications of the theory of mixed castes varnasamkara)

E. Impact of India's contact with the Mediterranean world, central Asia and South East Asia.

Essential Reading:

Allchin, F.R. & Bridget, *The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan*, Cambridge University Press, London, 1988.

Habib, Irfan, *People's History of India, Parts 1-2, & Volumes 3-4*, Aligarh Historians' Society & Tulika Books, Delhi, 2001 / 2002 / 2003 / 2004.

Kulke, H. & D. Rothermund, *A History of India*, OUP, Delhi, 2004 edition.

Malik, S.C., *Indian Civilization: The Formative Period*, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies,

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Shimla, 1999 reprint.

Thapar, Romila, *A History of India, Vol. I*, Penguin Books, Delhi, 1996 reprint.

Nilkanta Shastri, K.A., *History of South India*, OUP, Delhi, 1966.

Additional Readings:

Basham, A.L., *The Wonder that was India*, Rupa & Co., New Delhi, 2002 reprint.

Jha, D.N., *Ancient India in Historical Outline*, Manohar, New Delhi, 2002 edition.

Majumdar, R.C. *et al.* (ed.), *The History and Culture of the Indian People, Vols. I-V* (Bharatiya

Vidya Bhavan Series, Delhi, 1945-1960, latest editions).