REVISED COURSES
MEDIEVAL INDIA
M.A. (III & IV SEMESTERS)

(A) Core Courses: The core courses are divided into two groups. Group-A has chronologically oriented courses, whereas Group-B has courses that are thematic. Students would have to take four core courses, two from each group, over two semesters.

List of Core Courses:

Group-A
HSM - 351 Political Processes and Socio-Cultural Formations in India, c. 1000-1400
HSM –352 History of North India, c. 1400-1550
HSM – 353 Political Processes and Socio-Cultural Formations in India, c. 1550-1707
HSM – 354 Society, Polity and Cultures in India, c. 1707-1830

Group-B
HSM – 355 Socio-Religious thought and movements in Medieval India
HSM – 356 Social and Economic History of India, c. 1200-1750
HSM – 357 History of Science and Technology in Pre-Colonial India
HSM - 358. Forms of Popular Resistance in Northern India, c. 1560-1740

(B) Elective Courses: Students would take three elective courses, two in the third semester, and one in the fourth semester.

List of Elective Courses:
HSM – 359 Women and Gender in Mughal India
HSM – 360 History of Rajasthan, c. 1300-1800
HSM – 361 History of Awadh and North India, c. 1550-1860
HSM – 362 Political Culture: War, Society and Governance, c. 1550-1700
HSM – 363 War, Society and Politics, c. 1700-1840
HSM – 364 History of Eastern India, 13th-18th centuries
HSM – 365 History of the Marathas
HSM – 366 Cities of Empire: Istanbul, Isfahan, Agra and Delhi
HSM - 367 Sultanate and Mughal Delhi, c. 1200-1850
HSM - 368 South India under Vijayanagar Empire
HSM – 369 History of Medieval Malwa and Gujarat
HSM – 370 Forms of Historical Writing in Medieval India
HSM - 371 Economy, Community Formation and Cultural Interaction in Pre-Modern South India.
HSM - 372 Medieval Deccan, 1300 – 1700
(C) Seminar Courses: Students would be required to take one seminar course in the fourth semester

List of Seminar Courses:
HSM - 373 Sources of the Sultanate Period, c.1000-1400
HSM – 374 Intellectual Traditions, c. 1400-1550
HSM – 375 Sources of the Mughal Period: Reading and Interpreting Texts, c. 1550-1740
HSM – 376 Sources of the Eighteenth Century
HSM - 377 Archival and Epigraphic Records for the Study of Medieval Indian History
CORE COURSE (GROUP-A)
HSM-351

POLITICAL PROCESSES AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FORMATIONS, c. 1000-1400
The course focuses upon local and trans-regional experiences in social and political formations in north India and Afghanistan and the ways in which these textured the making of Sultanate regimes based in Delhi. The course also unravels the early histories of the Muslim communities in the subcontinent, their backgrounds, gradual expansion and modes of socialisation.

Themes:
1) Historiographical debates regarding ‘transitions’ to the Sultanate period.
2) Overview: geopolitical contexts; continuities and changes in the 13th and 14th centuries
3) The ahl-i qalam (people of the pen), their social-intellectual backgrounds; their narratives of the Muslim community and the Sultanate.
4) The military elites, their social and political backgrounds, cultures of political service, aristocratic aspirations and new identities
5) Sufis, Sufism and their structures of authority
6) Political geography of the Sultanate, regional solidarities, endogenous histories of Islam and the Muslim community
7) Problematising the study of the ‘Hindu-Muslim encounter’

Select Readings:
10. Kumar, Sunil, Emergence of the Delhi Sultanate, (Delhi: Permanent Black, 2007)

This survey course shall broadly study some of the key themes in the political and cultural history of North India during the period between the disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate and the emergence of the Mughal Empire.

**Topics**
Decline of the Delhi Sultanate and Regional Reconfiguration.
Monarchy and governance under the Lodi and Sur Afghans.
Political and cultural roles of Sufi orders.
Conversion and Islamicisation.
Religious diversities and social stratification.
Vernacular and Persian literary traditions.

**Select Readings:**
CORE COURSE (GROUP-A)
HSM-353

POLITICAL PROCESSES AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FORMATIONS IN INDIA,
c.1550-1707

The course is concerned with state formation, and encourages the students to examine the establishment and expansion of the Mughal empire within a socio-cultural and political frame of reference. The imperial rule structure is studied as a redistributive system, dynamic and ever-changing, sustained by political relations that went deep into the localities. The other concern of the course is to examine the inter-connections between the norms of civility and imperial sovereignty, or more broadly, between culture and power.

Topics:
1. Mughal imperial expansion: military technology; ecology and inner frontiers; ‘war animals’;
2. Political alliances, gift-exchanges and the rule structure: alliances with the local aristocracy; relations with merchants and gentry; state in localities
3. Theories of state-formation
4. Political Formations in the early Eighteenth Century: Mughal ‘decline’; agrarian revolts; lower caste movements; the Sikh revolt; the rise of the Marathas
5. Mughal court culture: civility and comportment; norms of masculinity; harem and sovereignty; imperial discipleship.
6. State and Religion: mystical and intellectual currents; inter-faith dialogues; sulh-i-kul; revivalist Islam; Sufis and the state; ulema in the Mughal empire
7. Persianate civility in decline: socio-cultural changes in the 18th century.

Sources
(Selections from the following sources)
Abul Fazl, Akbarnama, H. Beveridge (trans.), The Akbarnama of Abul Fazl (reprint., Delhi: 1993)
Abdul Qadir Badaoni, Muntkhab-ul-Tawarikh, trans. G.S.A. Ranking (reprint 1990)
Francois Bernier, Travels in the Mughal Empire, 1658-68, Irving Brock, trans., revised and updated by Archibold Constable (New Delhi: 1971)

Select Readings:
4. Irfan Habib, Agrarian System of Mughal India (New Delhi, 1999)
8. J.F Richards, Mughal Administration in Golkunda (New Delhi, 1975)
This course will span from the later half of Aurangzeb’s period (end of 17th century) to the age of reforms (1820-30s). It will look at changes in economy, society and culture that shaped regions, social groups and individual careers in the period of transition to English Company rule. An important part of this course will be to move the gaze away from the state and the meta-narrative of its oppression to in-house debates and discussions in the military, legal, medical and commercial cultures. Reading the English translations of some of the Persian, early Urdu, Bengali and Marathi translations of texts of this period will be a compulsory part of assignment writing.

Topics
1. The late 17th century transition: economy, society and politics.
2. The early 18th century and the turn to Arabic learning: discussion of some texts on religion and medicine.
4. The English Company as the agency of transition?

Select readings:
1. Irfan Habib, Class, Caste and Colony: India from Mughal Period to British Raj, Delhi, 2009.
7. C.A. Bayly, Empire and Information. Intelligence gathering and Social Communication in India 1780-1870, Delhi, 1996.
CORE COURSE (GROUP-B)
HSM-355

SOCIO-RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND MOVEMENTS IN MEDIEVAL INDIA
This course looks at the intellectual trends, sectarian debates, theological disputations, Sufi thought and moral and political treatises in the Islamic East, till the mid-thirteenth century. The debates between the Ulema and the Sufis, the patronage extended to them by individuals and the state from time to time in order to reach to the civic society would also be studied. The monotheistic thought, Bhakti tradition and the devotional literature in the Indian subcontinent will be a part of the study.

Topics:
1. Muslim sects, socio-religious thought and movements in the Islamic East: theories of governance; Al-Mawardi on caliphate; Nizamul Tusi on wizarat; the orthodox religious tradition – the Asharites; Al-Ghazali’s ethical thought; the Mutazalites and the rationalists.
2. Development of Tassawuf in the Islamic East: development and disputations; Bayazid Bostami and Mansu Hallaj; Awariful Ma’arif, and other sufi texts; Ibnul Arabi’s wahdatul wujud; organization of the khanqah; Jalaluddin Rumi’s masnavis; Shaikh Ali Hujwiri’s Kashful Mahjub.
3. Early Sufi traditions in India: Ghazi Mian- the tradition and legends; Chishti and Suhrawardi silsilas in India; Sufi literature; Sufi thought and literature; qalandars and darveshes.
5. Messianic Movements: The Mahdavi movement; the Roshaniya movement.
6. Patronage to religious institutions: futuh, suyurghal, aimma, madad-i-mu’ash; waqf and endowments.
7. Bhakti movement in North and South India
8. Monotheistic thought: Kabir, Dadu and Satnamis
9. Educations and Transmission of knowledge in Medieval India
10. Sikhism: Guru Nanak and the formation of panth; Guru Arjun and the compilation of Guru Granth Sahib; later gurus and misls.

Select Readings:
1. Encyclopedia Of Islam (relevant articles from the new edition)
6. J.S. Grewal & Irfan. Habib : Sikh History through Persian Sources (New Delhi, 2001)
7. K.A. Nizami : Religion and Politics in India during the thirteenth century (Aligarh, 1961)
8. S.A.A. Rizvi : Muslim Revivalist Movements in Northern India in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries (reprint. New Delhi: 1993)
9. C. Vaudeville : A Weaver named Kabir (New Delhi, 1991)
11. Y.Friedman : Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi: An outline of his thoughts and a study of his image in the eyes of Posterity (Mc. Gill, Canada: 1971)
CORE COURSE (GROUP-B)
HSM-356
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY OF INDIA c. 1200- 1750 A.D.

1. Economy of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. Fiscal measures of Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad Tughluq.
3. Agrarian relations and taxation during the Sultanate period.
5. Population estimates of Mughal India.
7. The peasant, Village Community and property rights.
8. The origin and nature of the zamandiri right, political role of the chieftains and zamindars in the Mughal Empire.
10. Revenue Assignments and Revenue Grants.
11. Trade: Inland and Foreign, organization and composition of commodity production.
12. Advent of European Companies and their impact on Indian Economy.
13. The monetary system.
14. The growth of cities and towns, urban life and regional shifts in urbanization.
15. The debate on the nature of Mughal economy.
16. The debate on the economy of 18th century.

SELECT READINGS:

CORE COURSE (GROUP-B)
HSM-357

HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PRE-COLONIAL INDIA
The course studies the perception of natural world and its management in pre-colonial India. It explores the relations of science and technology to changes in society, polity and culture.

Topics:
1. Introduction to the History of Sciences and Technology-Historiography-Objectives- Basic concepts in the History of Science- Tradition and Continuity- Changing Pattern.
4. Craft and Communities in Medieval India-Specialization- Regions of Importance- Commerce and Market-Exclusion-Inclusion-changing hierarchies-Caste Disturbances- Upward Mobility- 

Select Readings:
5) I A Khan, *Gunpowder and Firearms: Warfare in Medieval India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2004
6) S. Subramaniam (ed).*Merchants, Markets and State in Early Modern India*, New Delhi, 1990
8) Ashoke K Bagchi, *Medicine in Medieval India: 11th to 18th Centuries*, Konark Publishers, Delhi, 1997
10) Beni Gupta, *Medical Beliefs and Superstitions*, Sundeepr Prakashan, Delhi, 1979
CORE COURSE (GROUP-B)
HSM-358
FORMS OF POPULAR RESISTANCE IN NORTHERN INDIA, c. 1560-1740
The course discusses forms of popular resistance in Medieval India, and explores their memory in oral traditions and folklores. It also studies the divergent patterns of protest in Mughal India, ranging from ‘everyday forms of resistance’ to armed revolts.

Topics:
1. Historiography of popular resistance.
2. The Revolts of the nobility: Changing complexion of the ruling class, c. 1560-1740;
   Peasant Revolts: Nature of peasant revolts in Mughal India; Modes of protest; Response of the State.
4. Religious forms of resistance: Raushani Movement (1585, 1611-16, 1628 A. D.); Satnami revolt (1672), Sikh revolts.
5. Merchant forms of resistance.
6. Everyday/routine forms of resistance.

Select Readings:
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-359
WOMEN AND GENDER IN MUGHAL INDIA

The course considers the Mughal court within a gendered framework, and studies the norms of masculinity and manliness that were cultivated in, and through, aristocratic civility and comportment. It encourages the student to explore the agency of imperial women, and their participation in Mughal sovereignty. Mughal women are studied as authentic political agents, whose involvement was crucial to the rule structure. The course also makes an effort to examine the lives of ordinary women, and their relations with the state and the society.

Topics:

1. Sovereignty and the ‘domestic’ domain: women’s agency in Turko-Mongol tradition; imperial women and the establishment of Mughal rule; harem and sovereignty.
2. Imperial women: Mughal marriages with Rajput women; Nur Jahan’s involvement in court politics; Jahanara’s participation in trade and politics.
3. Manliness in Mughal court culture: body and emotions; norms of masculinity; love, eros and devotion in mystical thought.
4. Women and gender in everyday life: gender relations in the household; women and the laws; women in economic activities; crimes against women; marginalized women: prostitutes and entertainers.
5. Gender relations in the 18th century: family and gender in biographical writings; sexuality in medical treatises; women’s desires in rekhti and riiti texts; gender relations in Quli Khan’s work.

Select Readings:

3. Farhat Hasan, State and Locality in Mughal India: Power Relations in Western India, c. 1572-1730 (Cambridge, 2005), chapter V.
4. Leila Ahmed, Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate (Yale University Press, 1992)
8. Afsaneh Najmabadi, Women with Moustaches and Men without Beards: Gender and Sexual Anxieties of Iranian Modernity (Berkeley, 2005)
9. Rosalind O’Hanlon, ‘Manliness and Imperial Service in Mughal North India’, JESHO, 42 (February 1999), 47-93
ELECTIVE COURSE

HSM-360

HISTORY OF RAJASTHAN, C. 1300-1800

1. Sources: Archival, Bardic and Oral Traditions.
2. The Idea of Rajasthan.
3. State Formation with special focus on Mewar, Jodhpur and Jaipur.
4. Advent of Turks and their impact in Rajasthan.
5. Relations of Rajput Kingdoms with the Sultanates of Malwa and Gujrat.
6. Mughal – Rajput relations from Akbar to Aurangzeb.
7. Evolution of Rajput Polity: King – Clan relations and the system of Bhaibant, Pattadari and Chakri.
8. Territorial administration, fiscal organization and the system of agriculture production.
9. Structure of village society and the working of caste Panchayats.
10. Society: Bhomias, peasants, professional classes, artisan and menial castes.
11. Peasant unrest and Bhomia revolts.
12. Emergence of the Bharatpur and Alwar States.
15. Rise of militant ascetics in the politics of Rajput States.

Select Readings:

2. Shyamal Das Kaviraj: Vir Vinod, 4 volumes, Udaipur, 1886.
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-361
HISTORY OF AWADH AND NORTH INDIA c. 1550-1860

The course looks at the socio-cultural and economic changes in the region of Awadh, from the mid-16th to mid-18th centuries. During this period, it came under Mughal control, transited to an autonomous kingdom, and then came under the control of the British. These changes in the political fortunes were crucial in influencing the sociocultural and economic developments in the region.

Topics:
1. Awadh and the Upper Gangetic valley, c. 1550-1722: physical and historical geography; state formation; Mughal jagirdars and officials; agrarian relations; zamindari clans.
2. Awadh as an autonomous state: Awadh under Nawab Saadat Ali Khan and Burhanul Mulk; administration under the Nawabs; local chieftains and the Nawabs; wizarat and the struggle with Bangash Pathans; relations with the Mughals, Marathas and Rohilla Pathans.
3. Awadh under ‘Subsidiary Alliance’: Asaf-ud-daulah and the growth of provincial court, 1775-1799; Bahu Begum and her jagirs; Treaty of 1801; Saadat Ali Khan as a ruler and an administrator
4. Cultural and Intellectual developments: changes in educational curriculum – dars-e-nizamiai and the house of Firangi Mahal; formation of sectarian identities and khandan-i-ijtehad; Sufi institutions of Salon, Kakori and Dewa; Saiyad Ahmad Barelwi and the Wahabi movement.

Sources:
1. Donald Butler, *Topography Statistics of Southern District of Awadh*
2. P.D. Reeves: *Sleeman’s Oudh*
3. Safi Ahmad (ed.): *British Aggression in Awadh*
4. C.A. Elliot, *Chronicles of Onao*

Select Readings:
1. A.L Srivastava, *First Two Nawabs of Awadh*
2. R.B. Barnett- *North India between Empires: Awadh, the Mughals and the British (1720-1801)*, CUP, 1992
5. Madhu Trivedi- *Making of Awadh Culture* (New Delhi, 2010)
7. Rudranshu Mukherji *Awadh in Revolt*, Permanent Black, 2001
11. S.A.A. Rizvi, *Shah Abdul Aziz: Puritanism, Sectarian, Polemics and Jihad*
13. F.Robinson, *The Ulema of Firangi Mahal*
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-362

POLITICAL CULTURE: WAR, SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE, c. 1550-1700

The course looks at the imbrications of the political system with the social forces. It examines the inter-connections between the individual body, the social body and the state. In doing so, it suggests ways of correlating the social with the political in early modern South Asia.

Topics:
1. Identity formation and the military labour market.
2. Norms of manliness and the ethos of the warrior-aristocrat
3. Martial bodies and the imperial body: linkages and connections
4. Rituals, civility and comportment in the articulation of imperial identities
5. Honor, rituals and bodily discipline in the formulation of martial identities.
6. Violence and Warfare among the sacral classes
7. Modes of legitimation in the political system
8. Gift-giving and co-sharing of sovereignty in the system of rule
9. Popular revolts and the rule structure
10. Dominance and resistance in normative spaces

Select Reading:
6. Douglas Streusand, The Formation of the Mughal Empire
9. Rosalind O’Hanlon, ‘Manliness and Imperial Service in Mughal North India’, JESHO, 42 (February 1999), 47-93
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-363

WAR, SOCIETY AND POLITICS, c. 1700-1840
The course considers the early modern ‘military revolution’ in world history, and India as the major testing ground of that revolution between 1700 and 1840. It discusses the social and political meanings of war and engages with the “new military history”. It seeks to situate features of war-craft in a social, cultural, and political context. Discussions on violence, criminality and its linkages with economy, state building and identity formations will be a key component of this course. The themes for this course are as follows:

Topics:
1. The Mughal military culture: War, society and economy; Warfare and military manuals - the making of a gentleman.
2. The Mughal military legacy: War, society and the portfolio warrior of the 18th century.
3. War, economy and the emergence of regional states: Awadh, Rohilkhand and Mysore.
4. The European and the English Company entanglements: The new style warfare and the re-oriented north Indian military culture; Gentleman warriors to peasant Sepoys.
5. The 1830s Age of Reforms: Peasant Sepoys to disgruntled rebels.

Select Readings:
1. Sitaram Pandey, From Sepoy to Subedar, Hong Kong, 1970
3. C. A. Bayly, Empire and Information, Cambridge, 1995
4. Seema Alavi, The Sepoys and the Company, Delhi, 1995
5. Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Awadh in Revolt, Delhi, 1984
8. Gautam Bhadra, ‘Four Rebels’
16. Irfan Habib, State and Diplomacy under Tipu Sultan, Delhi, 2007
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-364

HISTORY OF EASTERN INDIA, 13TH-18TH CENTURY

This lecture course will discuss the political, economic and social history of medieval and early modern eastern India, surveying Jaunpur, Bihar, Bengal and parts of the North-East.

Topics:
1. Politics and State: political trajectories under the Sultans, Mughals, Nawabs and the local chieftains; terrains and technologies of warfare; idioms of governance; administrative structures; formation of regional identity; European conquest.
2. State and Economy: composition of rural society; agriculture; trade and commerce; industry; urban economy; taxation; markets and consumption patterns.
3. Society and Culture: social and religious change; customs and rituals; language and literature; visual art.

Select Readings:
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-365

HISTORY OF THE MARATHAS

Topics:
2. Geography and People
3. Maratha in Mughal Empire
4. Maratha after Shivaji
5. Polity and Administration
6. Symbols and Legitimacy
7. Popular Culture in Maharashtra

Select Readings:

12. Satish Chandra, Parties and Politics at the Mughal Court 1707-1740, Aligarh, 1959
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-366
CITIES OF EMPIRES: ISTANBUL, ISFAHAN, AGRA-DELHI

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the magnificent capitals of the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Empires at Istanbul, Isfahan, Agra and Delhi were feted – if not always positively – as representative of the wealth of their regimes and their despotic, wasteful, intolerant and traditional character. This course challenges these interpretations and intersects with a more recent historiography to understand the complex relationships of these cities with their respective regimes. How does the structure and ideologies of the respective regimes help in comprehending the morphologies, monumental architecture, the economic and cultural lives of the city and its residents, the organisation of the courts and elites in their capitals and the larger geopolitics of the age?

Topics:
1) The political contexts: Samarqand and Herat; the Uzbegs; the Turkoman states and the Anatolian Seljuqs
2) The social and economic contexts: Pastoral resurgence; Agrarian consolidation; Ghazi aspirations; Sufi tariqas and ithna ashari shi‘ism
3) Imperial Capitals (and camps) and the discourse of political dominance
4) The politics of the Palace -- dynastic tensions, the harem.
5) The politics of the city and its quarters.
6) The emporia of the world – traders and artisans, bazaars and workshops,
7) Protecting Islam and reproducing Muslims -- madrasahs, mosques, sufi lodges and shrines
8) The discourse and practice of justice – and the spaces available to non-believers
9) The self-image of the city -- litterateurs, poets and their patrons.
10) European diplomatic and trading missions -- their response to the capitals and their elites.
11) Late seventeenth-eighteenth century public spaces and their relationship to the imperial city

Select Readings:
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-367
SULTANATE AND MUGHAL DELHI 1200-1850
This course tracks the complex and surprisingly discontinuous pasts of the urban agglomerations constructed in the riverine plain of Delhi. The course studies the monumental cities of the Delhi Sultans and Mughal Padshahs and the ways in which successive ruling elites used the geography of the riverine plain, architecture and epigraphy to inscribe their dominance over land and its people in extremely innovative ways. The course will also pay equal attention to more ‘organic’ settlements of Sufi masters and their shrines, the cluster of sarais that dotted the riverine plain. It is also interested in studying changes in the texture of urbanity and civility in the city from the Sultanate into the Mughal periods.

Topics:
1) The City and Empire – studying space, power, monumentality...and multiple disciplinary formations
2) The subject of study: Delhi, the riverine plain and its neighbourhood
3) The many Sultanate capitals in the Delhi plain
4) The spiritual territory of the pir
5) Life in the Delhi Settlements – Ghiyaspur and Kilokhri compared
6) Worship and communitarian scaffolding – the Qubbat al-Islam masjid and Bakhtiyar Kaki’s dargah compared
7) Early Mughal capitals and representations of authority – Din Panah and Shahjahanabad
8) The city and Shah Jahani political order
9) 17th and 18th century demographic shifts and new elites
10) Literary and cultural efflorescence, shahrashub, rekhta and rekhti

Select Readings:
2. Blake, Stephen Shahjahanabad, the Sovereign City in Mughal India, (Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1991)
11. Petievich, Carla, Assembly of Rivals: Delhi, Lucknow and the Urdu Ghazal, (Delhi: Manohar, 1992)
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-368

SOUTH INDIA UNDER VIJAYANAGAR

1. Historiography
2. Sources
3. South India in Transition: Changes in the agrarian order; craft production, growth of trade and urbanization; the Turko-Afghan elements; changes in military technology and strategies of war
4. Consolidation of the Empire: The Sangama dynasty; the engagements with the sultans; the Saluvas and Tuluvas; Krishnadevaraya; the nayaka or nayankara “system”; military organization and the role of warlords
5. Decline and Transformation: The maturing of the nayankara; protests in the localities; regional nayakdoms of Tanjavur, Madurai, Keladi, Srirangapatna and Gingee; the “successor states”.
6. Conceptual Considerations: Nature of state and society; nayankara system as feudal; proto-capitalist features; “segmentary state”; warlordism.

Select Readings:

7. Mahalingam, T.V., Administration and Social Life under Vijayanagar, Madras, 1940.
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-369

HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL MALWA AND GUJARAT

Topics:
1. Historical Geography- strategic, political and economic importance;
2. Sources, Historiography; and Recent Debates.
4. Rivalries between Malwa and Gujarat; reign of Mahmud Khalji; Malwa’s relations with neighbouring kingdoms; relations with the Portuguese.
5. Administration, government and politics; composition of ruling class; Relations with rural chieftains.
6. Relations with the Mughals and the decline of Malwa and Gujarat as independent kingdom.
7. Rural Economy and Society: Agrarian structure and the nature of agrarian economy; handicrafts and industries, village community, zamindars and peasantry.
8. Trade, exchange and urban society: markets; trade routes; internal & external trade; merchant communities: family, diaspora and network; merchant relations with the state; Gujarat in world trade.
10. Religion, Society, Culture: Sufis and local societies; consolidation of regional identities: regional art and architectural forms.

Select Readings:
14. Nadri, Ghulam A. ‘Mughal Administration and the Zamindars of Gujarat during the Late 16th and 17th Centuries, PIHC (Kolkata, 2001).
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-370

FORMS OF HISTORICAL WRITING IN MEDIEVAL INDIA

This lecture course shall focus on recent discussions on the vibrant traditions of history writing in Medieval India, linking it especially to the vast historical literature in Indo-Persian from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

Topics:
1. Sources of tradition, narratives, anecdotes and prescriptions.
3. Main features of pre-modern historiography: Presence of God, the Prophet, rulers and other sources of authority
4. Social and political functions of historical writings
5. Tradition of history-writing in medieval India and the modern discipline of History

Select Readings:
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-371
ECONOMY, COMMUNITY FORMATION AND CULTURAL INTERACTION IN PRE-MODERN SOUTH INDIA
India Topics:
1. South India in Historical Narratives-Changing Political Culture-Regional Exclusivity-Emperor-King and Gentry.
2. Pre-Modern History: Different World System; Indian Ocean in History-Trade in Triangular; Piracy-Trade-Mobility; East Meets West; Patronage-Privilege and Competition-Age of Discovery and Encounters.
5. Accommodation and Assimilation- Community and Competition- Conflicts and Violence; Community Consciousness.
Select Readings
7. Mansel Longworth Dames, (ed), and trans., *The Book of Duarte Barbosa*, London: Hakluyt Society, 1918-21
ELECTIVE COURSE
HSM-372

MEDIEVAL DECCAN, 1300-1700

This lecture course will focus on the political and cultural history of medieval Deccan from the early fourteenth century when the Bahmani Sultanate emerged to the end of the seventeenth century when the region was virtually incorporated into the Mughal empire.

Topics

1. Political trajectories: rise and fall of the Bahmani Sultanate; emergence of the splinter Sultanates of Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Berar, Golconda, and Bidar; relation with Vijaynagar; presence of the Portuguese; Maratha raids; Mughal campaigns.
2. Religious and Ethnic dimensions: The Question of religion in politics; Sufi orders; Islam and non-Muslims; Shias and Sunnis; Deccanis and foreigners; European aggression
3. Cultural contours: Miniature paintings and architecture; language and literature in the Deccani, Urdu, Telegu, Kannad, and Marathi; patronage to Persian poetry.

Select Readings

SEMINAR COURSE
HSM-373

SOURCES OF THE SULTANATE PERIOD, c. 1000-1400
The course introduces students to Persian literary materials that become increasingly important to historians studying the period 1000-1400. It studies a range of genres, singularly and dialogically – different types of histories that reported on the fortunes of the Sultanates and its political participants, normative literatures, a range of Sufi instructional texts and the first biographical encyclopaedia of sufis. The intention of the course is to introduce students to the different historiographies present in these texts and unravel the challenge present in excavating their rhetorical intent while remaining sensitive to the literary craft deployed by various authors. The course also studies other sources – epigraphic, numismatic and architectural – and evaluates the special skills required to interpret these materials and consider the ways in which they complicate and texture the literary narratives of the age.

Topics:
1) Overview of Arabic historical narratives
2) The Persephone traditions under the Samanids and Ghaznavids.
3) Early Sultanate chroniclers
4) Khusrau and the turn of the thirteenth century
5) The efflorescence of Sultanate historiography – Barani and ‘Isami
6) Retrospective accounts of Nizam al-Din, Badauni and Firishta
6) Early Sufi isharat traditions
7) Conversations in the court of saints -- malfuzat
8) The biography of Chishti saints and followers – the Siyar al-Awliya
9) Studying epigraphs, architecture and landscapes – using the Qubbat al-Islam mosque and Tughluqabad as case studies.

Select Readings:
5. Lawrence, Bruce, Notes from a Distant Flute, (Tehran : Imperial Iranian Academy of Philosophy, 1978)
SEMINAR COURSE
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INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS 1400-1550

This course will focus on the vibrant intellectual traditions in a variety of languages across the subcontinent in the period covering the 15th and first half of the 16th centuries. In view of the vast literature that is available from the period, the discussions will revolve around some of the key texts, genres and registers.

Topics:
1. Literary cultures (Persian and the Indic vernaculars).
2. Political histories and chronicles.
3. Religious literature.
4. Biographies and autobiographies.

Select Readings:
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SOURCES OF THE MUGHAL PERIOD: READING AND INTERPRETING
TEXTS, C. 1550-1740

The course focuses on selected texts, and through their critical reading encourages the student to probe issues of interpretation, contextualization, subjectivity and location of contemporary sources. It poses questions of style, language and meaning in the different genres of writing in the period.

**Topics:**
1. Persian chronicles: imperial histories; non-state chronicles.
2. Regional histories: Gujarat, Malwa and Bengal
3. Pedagogic texts: akhlaq literature; works on ethics and morality
5. Hindawi sources: Awadhi, braj and khari boli
6. Travelers’ accounts: state and society in travelogues by European and Asian travelers.
7. Religious writings: malfuzat, maktubat, tazkiras, works of theological and metaphysical nature.
8. Literary works
9. Newsreports and court dispatches: shifts in the content and form of akhbarat; vakil reports.

**Select Readings:**
This course discusses a range of archives that can be used to study the transition to Company rule in mid 18th century India. It discusses some Persian texts, the early Urdu literature and the European and Company records to frame the transition within multiple archives. While training students to straddle the varied archival texts, it also questions the idea that the British conquest is the only frame to understand the social and cultural developments in 18th century India.

**Topics:**
1. Reading the text: issues of authoriality, production and circulation
2. Comparative study of diverse textual genres
3. Putting together a narrative: creating an analytical frame.

**Select Readings:**
5. Kumkum Chatterjee, ‘The Persianisation of Itihas’.,MAS,

Some samples of the transition period texts that may be discussed:
1. Late 18th century medical text: *Mizan-i-Tibb*
2. Early 19th century Urdu literature: *Al-Balagh al-mubin*.
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EPICRAPHIC AND ARCHIVAL RECORDS FOR THE STUDY OF MEDIEVAL
INDIAN HISTORY

The aim of the course is to acquaint the students (having some familiarity with
the script/language) with the latest researches in the field of archival and epigraphical
records and the way they have altered (added) to our understanding of the history of the
period, which was often based on the literary sources. It will offer them an opportunity to
undertake/understand the state in activity and the functioning of the religious institutions.

Topics:
1. Persian and Arabic inscriptions of the Sultanate period
2. Sanskrit inscriptions
3. Imperial orders and edicts by princes and nobles – farmans, nishans and parwanas
4. Edicts from the imperial harem
5. Local documents and papers in the qazis’ establishments
6. Documents in the khanqahs and sufi hospices
7. Documents in the temples and maths

Select Readings
1. Selected Volumes of Epigraphica Indo-Moslemica now Epigraphica
   Indica Arabic and Persian supplement
2. Selected Volumes of the Memoirs of Archaeological Survey of India
3. Pushpa Prasad: Sanskrit Inscriptions of Delhi Sultanate, OUP, Delhi, 1996
4. S.A.A.I Tirmizi, Ajmer Through Inscriptions
6. B.N. Goswami & J.S. Grewal, Mughals and the Jogis of Jhakbar
7. S.H. Hodivala, Studies in Parsi History, Bombay, 1929
8. Yusuf Husain Khan, Selected Documents of Shahjahan’s Reign
9. G.H. Khare, Persian Sources of Indian History, vol. 4, Puna, 1973
    the Mughals, Calcutta, 1971.