B.A. PROGRAMME
DISCIPLINE COURSE

HISTORY

COURSE CONTENTS
(Effective from the Academic Year 2011-2012 onwards)

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DELHI
B.A. PROGRAMME (DISCIPLINE COURSE)  
HISTORY

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1. Students opting for History as part of the B.A. Programme are expected to do Six papers out of a total of Twelve.

2. In each year they can choose among Four papers. However each students must take up at least Two Non Indian History papers over the three years, i.e. *Cultural Transformations in Early Modern Europe- I (c. 1500-1800)* and *Cultural Transformations in Early Modern Europe –II (c.1500-1800)* Or *Issues in World History: The Twentieth Century – I and Issues in World History: The Twentieth Century – II.*
B.A. PROGRAMME

SEMESTER I

HISTORY OF INDIA UP TO C. 300 B.C.E.

1. Survey of sources and Historiographical Trends; Regions, Environment and People and their significance for understanding early India.
2. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Cultures: Sequence and Geographical distribution rock-art.
3. Advent of food-production; Neolithic Cultures.
4. Harappan Civilization: Origin and extent, political and economic organization art and religion. Decline and Late Harappan Cultures; Chalcolithic cultures outside and Harappan distribution zone.
5. Society, polity, economy and Religion as reflected in Vedic Literature. The Arya Problem; Iron Age Cultures with special reference to PGW and Megaliths.
6. Development from sixth to fourth centuries B.C. : rise of territorial states emergence of cities, social and material life, new religious movements.

Suggested Readings:

Agrawal, D.P.  
The Archaeology of India
Alichin, F.R. and B  
Origins of a Civilization: The Prehistory and  
Early Archaeology of South Asia
Basham, A.L.  
The Wonder That was India
Chakrabarti, D.K.  
Archaeology of Ancient Indian Cities
Jaiswal, Suvira  
Caste: Origin, Function and Dimensions
Sharma, R.S.  
Perspective in Social and Economic History of Early India
Subramanian, N.  
Sangam Polity
Thapar, Romila  
History of Early India
SEMESTER 1

CULTURES IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT - I

Definitions of Culture and its various aspects.

(i) Perspective on Cultures: Indian Cultural tradition: An overview.
(ii) Plurality of Cultures: Social Content of Culture

1. Language and Literature


2. Performing Arts

a) Hindustani, (b) Carnatic classical Music, (c) Devotional music: bhakti and sufi:
   - Classical and Folk Dance
   - Theatre: Classical, Folk, Colonial and Modern

3. Architecture: Meanings, form and Function

(a) Rock-cut-Mamallapuram (b) structural – temple architecture- Khajuraho complex and Tanjavur temple; (c) fort – Dalulatabad or Chittor forts; (d) palace-dargah at Fatehpur Sikri; (e) colonial – Lutyen’s Delhi.

SUGGESTED READINGS :

Asher Catherine, (ed.): Perceptions of India's Visual Past, AIIS, Delhi, 1994
Asher Catherine, Architecture of Mughal India
Basham A.L., The Wonder that was India. Volume I, New Delhi
Chandra Prainod, ed, Studies in Indian Temple Architecture; Chapter 1. AIIS, 1975.
Maxwell, T.S., Image: Text and Meaning: Gods of South Asia, OUP, Delhi
Tillotson G, Havelis of Rajasthan.
Cohn. Bernard, India: The Social Anthropology of a Civilization in Bernard Cohn Omnibus, OUP, 2004
Vatasayana Kapila; Indian Classical Dance, Publications Divisions, New Delhi, 1974 (in Hindi Translation also)
SEMESTER II

HISTORY OF INDIA C. 300 B.C. TO EIGHTH CENTURY A.D.

2. The Mauryan Patterns: state, administration and economy, Ashoka’s 
   Dhamma, art and architecture.
3. Post-Mauryan Patterns: Social, economic, political and cultural (literature: 
   religion, art and architecture) developments with special reference to 
   India’s external trade and cultural interactions; Sangam Age – literature, 
   society and culture.
4. The Guptas and their contemporaries: state and administrative institutions, 
   social and economic changes, religion, art and architecture, literature.
5. Towards the Early Medieval: Changes in society, polity, economy and 
   culture with special reference to the Pallavas, Chalukyas and Vardhanas.

* Rubrics 2 to 5 should taught with reference to recent studies on gender, 
  caste and property relations.

Suggested Readings:

Chatopadhyay, B. Kushan State and Indian Society
Gonda, J. Vishnuism and Shivaism: A Comparison
Huntington, S.L. The Art of Ancient India
Jha, D.N. Ancient India in Historical Outline (1998 edn.)
Kosambi, D.D. Culture and Civilization of Ancient India in Historical Outline
Kulke H. and Rothemund, D. A History of India
Ray, H.P. Monastery and Guild
Ray, Niharranjan Maurya and Post Maurya Art
Sastri, K.A.N. A History of South India
Sharma, R.S. Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in 
   Ancient India (1991 edn.)
Thapar, Romila Ashoka and the Decline of the Mauryas (1997 edn)
Yazdani, G. Early History of Deccan
SEMESTER II

CULTURES IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT – II

1. *Perceptions of visual Past and Present*

2. *Sculpture and Painting*
   (a) Silpashastric normative tradition: (b) Classicism – Narrative and Sculptural, Mural fresco paintings: (c) post Classicism – Pallava – Cola; (d) medieval idiom – Mughal paintings, painters and illustrated texts: (e) Modern – company school, Ravi Varma, Bengal School, Amrita Shregil and Progressive Artists.

3. *Popular Culture*
   - Folk Lore and Oral tradition of *Kathas*, narratives, legends and proverbs, Linkages of bardic and literary traditions.
   - Festivals, fairs and fasts; Links with *tirtha*, pilgrimage and localities.
   - Textile and Crafts; the Culture of Food.

4. *Communication, Patronage and Audiences*
   - Court Merchant groups and communities.
   - Culture as Communication.
   - Nationalism and the issue of Culture; Institutions of Cultural Practices Colonial and Post Colonial.

SUGGESTED READING:

K. T. Achaya, A Historical Dictionary of Indian Food, OUP.
Banerjea J.N.: The Development of Hindu Iconography, Calcutta, 1956
Bussagli M and Srivaramamurthy C.: 5000 Years of Indian Art, New York, n.d.
*History and Culture of the Indian People*, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Series.
Mitter Partha: Art and Nationalism in Colonial India, OUP, Delhi.
Mukherji: Folk Art of India
Ramanujan, A.K., Collected Papers OUP.
Richman, Paula, Many Ramayanas OUP.
SEMESTER III

HISTORY OF INDIA III (8th to 18th CENTURY)

1. Characterizing Early Medieval India.

2. Social and economic conditions in India 8th-12th Centuries; Evolution of Political structures of Rashtrakutas, Palas, Pratihars, Cholas and Rajput.

3. Indian Merchants in Overseas Trade (8th – 15th Centuries)


5. A Survey of religious and cultural developments including Tantricism and Nathpanhis.

6. Evolution of regional styles in art and architecture.

7. Foundation, Expansion and Consolidation of the Delhi Sultanate; North West Frontier and the Mongols.

8. Military, administrative and economic reforms under the Khaljis and the Tughlaqs.

9. Sultanate Nobility and the working of iqta system.

10. Bhakti and Sufi Movements,
SUGGESTED READINGS:

R. S. Sharma : Indian Feudalism
B. D. Chattopadhyaya : Making of Early Medieval India
Derryl N. Maclean : Religion and Society in Arab Sindh
K. M. Ashraf : Life and Conditions of the People of Hindustan
M. Habib and K.A. Nizami : A Comprehensive History of India, Vol.V
Peter Jackson : Delhi Sultanate: A Political and Military History
Tara Chand : Influence of Islam on Indian Culture
Satish Chandra : A History of Medieval India, 2 Volumes
Percy Brown, : Islamic Architecture
SEMESTER III

CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE I (c. 1500 – 1800)

Key Concepts and Historical Background

(a) The Idea of Early Modern; Perspectives on Culture in History
(b) An overview of the Classical and Medieval Legacy

1. The Renaissance
(a) Society and Politics in Italian City States
(b) Humanism in Art and Literature
(c) Developments in Science and Philosophy
(d) Renaissance beyond Italy

2. Upheaval in Religion
(a) Papacy and its critics
(b) The spread of Protestant sects in Northern Europe
(c) Counter Reformation and religious strife
(d) The economic and cultural impact of the Reformations

3. The Conquest of the New World: Material, Social and Cultural Aspects
BASIC READING:

3. Peter Burke, *Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe*
4. John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*
5. Relevant Chapters in Norman Davis Europe
6. Tzevatan Todorov, *Conquest of America*

BESIDES TEXTS:

1. Critical appreciation of contemporary novels like *Pride and Prejudice* and Gulliver’s Travels and of dramatic productions of the era (The Marriage of Figaro, The Three-penny Opera).
2. Documentary films from the BBC, The Learning Channel and The History Channel etc on European artists, monarchs, museums and developments like the Renaissance.
SUGGESTED FURTHER READINGS:

Werner Rosener, *The Peasantry of Europe. Basil Blackwell*, 1994 (from German)
1. Fragmentation of the Sultanate; Rise of provincial kingdoms of (a) Gujarat (b) Mewar (c) Bengal (d) Vijayanagara (e) Bahamanis.

2. The Mughal-Afghan conflict and the Second Afghan empire

3. Emergence and Consolidation of Mughal State c. 16th c.- mid 17th Century.

4. Akbar to Aurangzeb: administrative structure- mansab and Jagir; State and Religion- socio religious movements.

5. Agriculture Production, Land Revenue, Village Community, zamindars and peasantry.


7. Architecture and Paintings under the Mughals.

8. Mughal decline; interpreting the 18th Century.
SUGGESTED READINGS:

Irfan Habib : *The Agrarian System of Mughal India 1556-1707*, Irfan Habib (ed.) : *Madhya Kaleen Bharat*, (in Hindi), 8 Volumes,
M. Athar Ali : *Mughal Nobility under Aurangzeb*,
Shireen Moosvi : *The Economy of the Mughal Empire*
S.A.A.Rizvi : *Muslim Revivalist Movements in Northern India during 16th and 17th Centuries*
R.P. Tripathi : *The Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire*, 2 vol.
I. H. Siddiqi : *Some Aspects of Afghan Despotism*
Kesvan Veluthat : *Political Structure of Early Medieval South India*
P.J. Marshall : *The Eighteenth Century in Indian History.*
Stewart Gordon, : *The Marathas 1600-1818*
Percy Brown, : *Islamic Architecture*
SEMESTER IV

CULTURE TRANSFORMATION IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE II (c. 1500 –1800)

1. The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment
   (a) A New View of Universe and Matter
   (b) Reflections on the scientific method
   (c) Hobbes Locke and the Philosophes
   (d) Despotism and the Limits of Enlightenment

2. Literacy and Artistic Developments
   (a) Literacy Trends from Dante to Shakespeare
   (b) Art from Baroque to Rococco and Neo Classicism
   (c) Novels as an Art form
   (d) Women and the new Public Sphere

3. Transitions in popular culture and everyday life c. 1550 – 1750
   (a) Family and Marriage Patterns
   (b) The decline of magic and witchtrials
   (c) Popular Protests Jacqueries and Food Riots
   (d) Absolutism and the Peasantry in Eastern Europe
BASIC READINGS:

1. Illustrated Histories of Europe and / or the World such as Margaret King Western. *Civilisation : A Social and Cultural History*, Ralph and Lerner, W.W. Norton & Co. New York / London; Zaller and Greaves, Harper & Row Publications, New York: W. Burns, *History of Civilisations*, (Indian Reprint); Marvin Perry, Houghton MIffin Co., Boston etc.
3. Peter Burke, *Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe*
4. John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*
5. Relevant Chapters in Norman Davis Europe
6. Tzevatan Todorov, *Conquest of America*

BESIDES TEXTS:

2. Documentary films from the BBC, The Learning Channel and The History Channel etc on European artists, monarchs, museums and developments like the Renaissance.

SUGGESTED FURTHER READINGS:

Werner Rosener, *The Peasantry of Europe*, Basic Blackwell, 1994 (from German)
SEMESTER V

HISTORY OF INDIA V (c. 1750s – 1970s)

(Apart from the Text Books, use of selected historical and literary texts / films should be encouraged as pedagogical tools. Project work / Assignments could be based on some of the listed literary historical texts / films, field visits, interviews and oral history)

1. The First Century of Colonial Rule:
   Expansion and Consolidation of British Power
   Institutions and Policies
   Making of a Colonial Economy
   Cultural Responses – Tradition and Reform

2. The Revolt of 1857: Social and regional spread, consequences.

   Idioms of Rule:
   (i) Knowing India – Race Caste, Religion, Custom
   (ii) Representative Politics – Constitutional Developments.

4. Colonial Economy and Society:
   (a) Features of Colonial economy
       Patterns of Trade
       Decline of traditional industry
       Commercialization and Agrarian stagnation
       Growth of Modern industry 1914 – 1947
   (b) Features of Colonial Society
       English Education and Middle Class
       Indian capitalist class and growth of working class
READING LIST:


Sekhar Bandyopadhyay: *From Plassey to Partition*


Mushirul Hasan: *John Company to the Republic: A story of Modern India.*

R.P. Dutt: *India Today.*

Thomas Metcalf: *Ideologies of the Raj.*

R. Jeffery, J Masseloss, P Reeves (ed): *From Rebellion to the Republic.*

Bipan Chandra: *Nationalism and Colonialism.*

Urvashi Butalia: *The Other side of Silence.*


Parul Brass: *The Politics of India since Independence.*


Gail Omvedt: *Dalits and Democratic Revolution.*

Ramachandra Guha: *The Fissured Land.*

K.G. Subrahmanyam: *The Living Tradition: Perspectives on Modern Indian Art.*

Radha Kumar: *A History of Doing.*

SELECTED HISTORICAL LITERARY TEXTS:

1. Jyotiba Phule - Ghulomgiri
2. Bipan Chandra Pal – My Life
3. Mahatma Gandhi – Hind Swaraj / My Experiments with Truth
4. Jawaharlal Nehru - Discovery of India, Shyam Benegal (Relevant Sections of the Serial Bharat Ek Khoj)
5. Tagore Satyajit Ray-Ghare Baire
6. M.M. Srinivas- Remembered Village
8. Profulla Mohanty- My Village
9. James Freeman – Untouchable a Life History
10. Rahi Massom Raza- Aadha Gaon
11. Gopinath Mohanty- Poraia
SEMESTER V

ISSUES IN WORLD HISTORY I (The 20th CENTURY)


   Impact on Russia and the World.

4. Economic recovery and instability in Europe to 1929.
   Global Depression, its impact on industrialized and semi- colonial worlds.
   The Soviet experience to 1941.

BASIC READING MATERIALS:

- Excerpts from writings of Virginia Woolf, George Orwell, Promoedya Ananta Toer, *Chinua Achebe, others*. [There are Hindi translations of texts of some of these writers]

SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL READINGS:

SEMESTER VI

HISTORY OF INDIA VI (c. 1750s – 1970s)

(Apart from the text Books, use of selected historical and literary texts / films should be encouraged as pedagogical tools. Project work / Assignments could be based on some of the listed literary historical texts / films, field visits, interviews and oral history)

1. Social Movements:
   Issues of Social Reform: The ‘Womens’ Question
   Phule, Ambedkar and the Caste question
   Dalit. Peasant. Tribal Movements

2. Nationalist Politics, 1858 – 1947
   Phases of National Movement
   Economic Nationalism and Cultural Nationalism
   Mahatma Gandhi and Mass Nationalism: Gandhian thought, techniques and movements
   Growth of Communal Politics
   Partition of India

3. Independent India: Economy and Polity
   Constituent Assembly and Establishment of the Republic
   Economic and Social Change 1950 – 1970s
   Planned Economy
   Industrialization. Models of Growth
   Land Reform and the Structures of Dominations in Rural India
   Foreign Policy: Non-Alignment Panchsheel
   Federalism and the Linguistic States

3. Independent India:
   Culture and Society
   Modern Indian Literature, Art and Films
   Scientific and Technological Developments
   Dalit and Backward Caste Self Assertion
   Origins of environmentalism
   Peasant and Labour Movements
READING LIST:


Sekhar Bandyopadhyay: *From Plassey to Partition*


Mushirul Hasan: *John Company to the Republic: A story of Modern India*

R.P. Dutt: *India Today*

Thomas Metcalf: *Ideologies of the Raj*

R. Jeffery, J Masseloss, P Reeves (ed): *From Rebellion to the Republic*

P Reeves (ed): *Nationalism and Colonialism*

Bipan Chandra: *The Other side of Silence*

Urvashi Butalia: *India’s Political Economy 1947-1977*

Francine Frankel: *The Politics of India since Independence*


Gail Omvedt: *Dalits and Democratic Revolution*

Ramachandra Guha: *The Fissured Land*

K.G. Subrahmanyam: *The Living Tradition: Perspectives on Modern Indian Art*

Radha Kumar: *A History of Doing*

Wimal Dissanayake and K. Moti Gokulsingh: *Indian Popular Cinema: A Narrative of Change*
SELECTED HISTORICAL LITERARY TEXTS:

1. Jyotiba Phule - *Ghulomgiri*
2. Bipan Chandra Pal – *My Life*
3. Mahatma Gandhi – *Hind Swaraj / My Experiments with Truth*
4. Jawaharlal Nehru - *Discovery of India*, Shyam Benegal (Relevant Sections of *Serial Bharat Ek Khoj*)
5. Tagore Satyajit Ray- *Ghare Baire*
6. M.M. Srinivas- *Remembered Village*
8. Profulla Mohanty- *My Village*
9. James Freeman – *Untouchable a Life History*
10. Rahi Massom Raza- *Aadha Gaon*
11. Gopinath Mohanty- *Poraia*
SEMESTER VI

ISSUES IN WORLD HISTORY II (THE 20TH CENTURY)

**BASIC READING MATERIALS:**

- Excerpts from writings of Virginia Woolf, George Orwell, Promoeeya Ananta Toer, Chinua Achebe, others. [There are Hindi translations of texts of some of these writers]

**SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

- Jeffrey Weeks, *Sex, Politics and Society: the Regulation of Sexuality in Britain Since 1800*, 2d edn. [Chapter, 13-14], London: Longman, 1989