



दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय
University of Delhi

परिषद शाखा - II, कमरा नं: 211, नया प्रशासनिक खंड, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली-110007, दूरभाष: 011-27001156/54
Council Branch - II, Room No. 211, New Administrative Block, University of Delhi, Delhi - 110007, Ph: 27001156/54

CNC-II/093/1/AC-1027/26/16

Dated: 07.08.2026

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Amendment to Ordinance V

(AC dated 24.07.2026)

Following addition be made to Annexure-II-A to the Ordinance V (2-A) of the Ordinances of the University;

Add the following:

The following syllabi of the Department of History under the Faculty of Social Science based on Postgraduate Curriculum Framework-2024 are notified herewith for the information of all concerned:

Department	Syllabi	Annexure
History	Two-Year M.A. History (Semester III) and One-Year M.A. History (Semester-I)	1

Handwritten signature

REGISTRAR

Department of History PG Syllabus for Semester III of Two – year / semester I of one-year Degree programmes

Department of History, University of Delhi

MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) IN HISTORY

Syllabus of Semester III of Two-year / semester I of one-year post graduate degree programme in history

BASED ON PGCF 2024 Under NEP-2020

1. Structure 1 (Level 6.5): PG Curricular Structure with Only Coursework
2. Structure 2 (Level 6.5): PG Curricular Structure with Coursework +Research



**Department of History
Faculty of Social Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DELHI-110007**

W.E.F FROM JULY 2026 AS PER PGCF 2024 BASED ON NEP-2020

Contents

PGCF Semester III Syllabus	
Discipline Specific Core – DSCs	
DSC 7: Themes in Ancient Indian Culture and Society	
DSC 8: Socio-Cultural History of India C. 700–1700	
Discipline Specific Electives (DSEs)	
Ancient Indian History DSEs	
DSE 1: Prehistory of India	
DSE 2: History of Early Indian Art and Architecture (up to c. 600 CE).....	
DSE 4: Theories, Methods and Practices in Archaeology	
DSE 5: Historiography of Ancient India.....	
DSE 8: Historical Geography of Ancient India.....	
DSE 9: Perspectives on Nature in Ancient India.....	
DSE 15: History, Sources and Narratives in Medieval India.....	
DSE 18: History of an Idea: Rajasthan, c 1200-1800.....	
DSE 20: Socio-Economic History of India: 1200-1700	
DSE 21: Sovereignty and Court Culture in South Asia, 1400–1700.....	
Modern Indian History DSEs	
DSE 22: The Rise of British Imperial and Colonial Power in India, 1707-1857	
DSE 23: Some Aspects of the Cultural Histories of Colonial India: The Visual and the Aural	
DSE 24: Revolutionaries in India’s Struggle for Freedom	

DSE 26: The Colonial Economy in India: 1757-1857

DSE 27: Strategies of Imperial Control, 1857–1939

DSE 29: Artisans, Skill, and Knowledge in Modern Indian History (c.1857-1947) –.....

PGCF Semester III Syllabus

Discipline Specific Core – DSCs

DSC 7: Themes in Ancient Indian Culture and Society

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Themes in Ancient Indian Culture and Society	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

This course examines significant aspects of ancient Indian Culture and Society from a perspective enriched by a diversity of approaches. It analyses, *inter alia*, the various philosophical and literary traditions, technology and crafts which flourished in Ancient India. It comprises four thematic rubrics which represent important developments in the history of ancient Indian cultural and aesthetic thought and socio-cultural practices *viz.* philosophical traditions, technology and crafts, literary cultures, and visual cultures.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the course, the students are expected to:

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the plurality of socio-cultural processes at work in ancient India.
- Be able to draw linkages between different strands of socio-cultural expressions through an awareness of key ideas, concepts and historical processes that have shaped socio-cultural expressions in ancient India.
- Achieve an inclusive grasp of major trends in the development of ancient Indian systems of philosophical intellection, technological knowledge, crafts, and literary and artistic practices.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Philosophical Traditions: This Unit will survey discussions on the nature of reality and knowledge as given in the major ancient Indian philosophical systems or *darśanas*. It will explore Brahmanical, Buddhist, Jaina and Materialist philosophies as these developed in the history of Indian intellectual and religious thought. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: Technology and Crafts: This Unit will highlight developments in scientific and technological knowledge in ancient India, specifically in the fields of medicine, metallurgy, mathematics and astronomy. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Literary Cultures: This Unit will survey a representative cross-section of ancient Indian prose and poetry, including a history of Pali literature, Sanskrit dramaturgy (*nāṭya-*

śāstra), figures of speech (*alaṃkāra-śāstras*) in Sanskrit poetics (*prācīna* and *navīna* schools), epics, and Sangam literature, towards an understanding of the diversity and span of literary cultures in ancient India. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Visual Cultures: This Unit will address developments observed in the theory and practice of art and architectural expressions in different media and genres. It will investigate the nature of inter-relationships between artistic practice and the history of aesthetic thought, and will attempt to locate the place of art in the socio-cultural context of ancient India **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Philosophical Traditions:

- Balcerowicz, Piotr and Karl H. Potter (eds). *Encyclopaedia of Indian Philosophies* (Volume 17: *Jain Philosophy*, Part III), Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 2014.
- Campbell, Joseph, (ed.) *Philosophies of India by Heinrich Zimmer*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020.
- Chattopadhyaya, Debi Prasad, *Indian Philosophy: A Popular Introduction*. New Delhi: People's Publishing House, 1974.
- Ganeri, Jonardon (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Indian Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- Gombrich, Richard F. *What the Buddha Thought*. London: Equinox, 2009.
- Hiriyanna, M. *Outlines of Indian Philosophy*, Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 1993.
- Murty, K. Satchidananda. *Reason and Revelation in Advaita Vedānta*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1991.
- Radhakrishnan, Sarvepalli. *Indian Philosophy*. Vols. 1–2. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Unit 2: Technology and Crafts:

- Bag, A.K. *History of Technology in India, Vol. 1: From Antiquity to c. 1200 AD*. New Delhi: Indian National Science Academy (INSA), 1997.
- Chattopadhyaya, Debiprasad. *Science and Society in Ancient India*, Calcutta: Research India Publications, 1977.
- Dasgupta S.N. *Natural Sciences of the Ancient Hindus*. Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 1987.
- Dharampal. *Indian Science and Technology in the Eighteenth Century*. Mapusa: Other India Press, 2000.
- Kak, Subhash. *The Astronomical Code of the Rigveda*. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2000.
- Misra, R.N. *Śilpa in the Indian Tradition: Concept and Instrumentalities*. Simla and New Delhi: IAS and Aryan Books, 2009.
- Singh, Balram. *Science and Technology in Ancient Indian Texts*. New Delhi: D.K. Printworld, 2012.

- Singh, Balram. *Science and Technology in Ancient Indian Texts*. Delhi: D.K. Printworld, 2012.
- Wujastyk, Dominik. *The Roots of Ayurveda. Selections from Sanskrit Medical Writings*. New Delhi: Penguin Books, 1998.
- Zysk, Kenneth G. *Asceticism and Healing in Ancient India: Medicine in the Buddhist Monastery*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Unit 3: Literary Cultures:

- Hart, George L. *The Poems of Ancient Tamils*, Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Jain, J.C. *History and Development of Prakrit Literature*. New Delhi: Manohar, 2004.
- Kane, P. V. *History of Sanskrit Poetics*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1961.
- Keith A.B. *A History of Sanskrit Literature*. Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 1993.
- Law, B. C. *A History of Pali Literature*, 2 Vols, Gyan Publishing, 2022.
- Lienhard, Siegfried. *A History of Classical Poetry: Sanskrit—Pali—Prakrit*. Vol. 3, fasc.1 of *History of Indian Literature*, edited by Jan Gonda. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1984.
- Ollett, Andrew. *Prakrit and the Language Order of Premodern India*. New Delhi: Primus, 2018.
- Pollock, Sheldon (ed.) *Literary Cultures in History: Reconstructions from South Asia* (Introduction). Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.
- Pollock, Sheldon. *The Language of the Gods in the World of Men: Sanskrit, Culture and Power in Pre-modern India* (Introduction). Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.
- Raghavan, V. *The Great Integrators*. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 1964.
- Rajagopalachari, C. *Ramayana*. Mumbai: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1951.
- Warder, A.K. *The Indian Kavya Literature*, Vols 1-5, Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 1972-88.
- Winternitz, Maurice. *History of Indian Literature*, 3 volumes. Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 2015.
- Zvelebil, Kamil. *Tamil Literature*. Vol. 10, fasc. 1 of *History of Indian Literature*, edited by Jan Gonda. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1974.

Unit 4: Visual Cultures:

- Bawa, Seema. *Gods Men and Women: Gender and Sexuality in Early Indian Art*. D.K. Printworld, 2013.
- Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. *Figures of Speech or Figures of Thought? The Traditional View of Art* (revised edition with an Introduction by Roger Lipsey). Bloomington, Indiana: World Wisdom inc., 2007 [1946].
- Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. *The Transformation of Nature in Art*. New York: Dover Publications, 1956.
- Dallapiccola Anna L. (ed.) *Shastric Traditions in Indian Arts. Vol. I: Texts; Vol. 2: References and documentation* (in collaboration with C. Walter-Mendy and S. Zingel-

- Ave Lallemant), (Beiträge zur Südasienforschung, Südasien-Institut, Universitaet Heidelberg, Band 125). Stuttgart: Franz SteinerVerlag, 1989.
- Dehejia, Vidya. *The Body Adorned: Dissolving Boundaries Between Sacred and Profane in Indian Art*. New York: Columbia University Press and Ahmedabad: Mapin Publishing, 2009.
 - Desai, Devangana. "Social Dimensions of Art in Early India," *Social Scientist*, vol. 18, no. 3, 1990 (pp. 3-32).
 - Dhaky, M.A. "The Vāstuśāstras of Western India," *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bombay* Vol. 71, 1997, (NS) (reprinted in Gautam Patel (ed.), *Contribution of Gujarat to Sanskrit Literature, Dr. M. I. Prajapati Felicitation Volume*, Pāṭaṇa: Dr. M. I. Prajapati Śaṣṭipūrṭi Sanmāna Samiti, 1998, pp. 434-453).
 - Dhar, Parul Pandya, (ed.) *Indian Art History: Changing Perspectives*. New Delhi: D.K. Printworld, 2011.
 - Goswamy, B.N. (ed.) *Oxford Readings in Indian Art*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2018.
 - Kramrisch, Stella. *The Hindu Temple*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1946.
 - Misra, R.N. *Śilpa in Indian Tradition: Concepts and Instrumentalities*. New Delhi: Aryan Books International, 2009.
 - Nardi, Isabella. *The Theory of Citrasūtras in Indian Painting: A critical re-evaluation of their uses and interpretations*. London: Routledge, 2006.
 - Rao, T. A. Gopinatha. *Elements of Hindu Iconography*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1914–1916.
 - Ray, Niharranjan. *An Approach to Indian Art*. Chandigarh: Punjab University Publication Bureau, 1974.
 - Sivaramamurti, C. *Expressive Quality of Literary Flavour in Art*. Dharwar: Kannada Research Institute, Karnatak University, 1974.
 - Vatsyayan, Kapila. *The Square and the Circle of the Indian Arts*. New Delhi: Abhinav Publications, 1997.

Suggested Readings:

- Bag A.K, *Science and Civilization in India, Vol.1: Harappan Period*, New Delhi: Navrang, 1985.
- Bag A.K. *Mathematics in Ancient and Medieval India*, Chaukhamba Orientalia, 1979.
- Desai, Devangana. *Art and Icon: Essays on Early Indian Art*. New Delhi: Aryan Books International, 2013.
- Dhaky, M.A. "Prāsāda as Cosmos," *The Adyar Library Bulletin*, Madras, Vol. XXXV, 1971 (Parts 3-4).
- Dhar, Parul P. (ed.) *The Multivalence of an Epic: Retelling the Ramayana in South India and Southeast Asia*. Manipal: Manipal Universal Press, 2021. (2024 Routledge edn).
- Filliozat, Pierre-Sylvain. "Ancient Sanskrit Mathematics: An Oral Tradition and a Written Literature Source," in Karine Chemla (ed), *History of Science, History of Text*, Boston Studies in Philosophy of Science, Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer, 2005

(pp. 137-157).

- Gullapalli, Praveena. “Early Metal in South India: Copper and Iron in Megalithic Contexts,” *Journal of World Prehistory*, 22, 2009: 439–459.
- Joseph, George Gheverghese. *The Crest of the Peacock: Non-European Roots of Mathematics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (3rd edition), 2011.
- Kenoyer, J. Mark. “Measuring the Harappan world: Insights into the Indus order and cosmology,” in Ian Morley and Colin Renfrew (eds), *The Archaeology of Measurement: Comprehending Heaven, Earth and Time in Ancient Societies*, 106-122. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Matilal, Bimal Krishna. *The Central Philosophy of Jainism (anekānta-vāda)* (Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Series 79), Ahmedabad: L. D. Institute of Indology, 1981.
- Meulenbeld, Gerritt Jan. *A History of Indian Medical Literature, Vol. 1A*, Egbert Forsten, Groningen, 1999.
- Misra, R.N. *Ancient Artists and Art Activity*. Shimla: Indian Institute of Advanced Study, 1975.
- Radhakrishnan, S. *Indian Philosophy*, 2 vols, OUP, 1999.
- Rao, Velcheru Narayana. *Text and Tradition in South India*. New York: SUNY Press, 2016.
- Shulman, David D. *Tamil: A Biography*. Belknap Press: An Imprint of Harvard University Press, 2016.
- Siderits, Mark. *Buddhism As Philosophy*, 2nd edition, Indianapolis: Hackett, 2021.
- Smith, Douglass and Justin Whitaker. ‘Reading the Buddha as a Philosopher,’ *Philosophy East and West*, 66: 515–538, 2016.
- Wujastyk, Dominik. ‘The Evidence for Hospitals in Early India,’ *History of Science in South Asia*, vol. 10: 1-43. Edmonton, Canada, 2022.
- Zvelebil, Kamil. *The Smile of Murugan: On Tamil Literature of South India*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1973.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSC 8: Socio-Cultural History of India C. 700–1700

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Socio-Cultural History of India Circa 700–1700	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives

This course examines the socio-cultural history of the Indian subcontinent between circa 700 and 1700 CE through the study of literary traditions, architecture, devotional movements, and artistic cultures. The course emphasizes regional diversity across North India, Bengal, the Deccan, and South India. It analyses how courts, temples, monastic institutions, and urban centres shaped cultural production and intellectual life in this period. Students engage with a wide range of sources including literary texts, inscriptions, architecture, paintings, and material culture. Particular attention is paid to the interaction between Sanskrit, Persian, and vernacular traditions; the emergence of regional literary cultures; and the circulation of devotional practices across regions. The course also introduces major historiographical debates and recent scholarship that have reshaped the study of pre-modern Indian society and culture.

Learning Outcomes

- Analyse regional diversity in literary and cultural traditions across India between 700 and 1700.
- Analyse architectural heritage in relation to political authority, patronage, and religious institutions.
- Explain the development of Bhakti and Sufi traditions across different regions.
- Interpret art and visual culture as historical sources.
- Engage critically with recent historiography on pre-modern South Asian socio-cultural history.

Course Contents

Unit 1: Literary Cultures: This Unit examines literary cultures across the subcontinent including Sanskrit, Persian, and regional vernacular traditions. It explores literary production in courts, temples, and urban centres and highlights regional developments in North India, Bengal, and South India. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: Architectural Heritage: This Unit studies architectural traditions including temples, mosques, forts, and sacred landscapes. Special attention is given to regional styles in the Deccan and South India and the relationship between architecture, patronage, and political authority. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Popular Religious Traditions: This Unit examines devotional religious traditions including Bhakti and Sufi movements across North India, Bengal, Maharashtra, and South India. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Art and Visual Cultures: This Unit focuses on painting traditions, iconography, and visual cultures including Mughal, Rajput, Deccan, and South Indian artistic traditions. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings

Unit 1: Literary Cultures:

- Busch, Allison. *Poetry of Kings: The Classical Hindi Literature of Mughal India*. Oxford University Press, 2011 (chs. 1–3).
- Chakrabarti, Kunal. *Religious Process: The Purāṇas and the Making of a Regional Tradition in Bengal*. Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Orsini, Francesca, and Samira Sheikh (eds.) *After Timur Left: Culture and Circulation in Fifteenth-Century North India*. Oxford University Press, 2014 (Introduction and Chapter-1).
- Peterson, Indira Viswanathan. *Poems to Śiva: The Hymns of the Tamil Saints*. Princeton University Press, 1989 (Introduction).
- Pollock, Sheldon. *The Language of the Gods in the World of Men*. University of California Press, 2006 (Chs. 6–7).
- Radhakrishnan, Sarvepalli. *The Hindu View of Life*. New Delhi: HarperCollins, 1994.
- Rao, Velcheru Narayana, David Shulman, and Sanjay Subrahmanyam. *Textures of Time: Writing History in South India, 1600–1800*. New York: Other Press, 2003.
- Sastri, K. A. Nilakanta. *A History of South India*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1955.
- Shah, S. *Poetesses in Classical Sanskrit Literature: 7th to 13th Centuries c.e.: 7th to 13th Centuries c.e. Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 15(1), 2008 (pp. 1-27).
- Sharma, Sunil. *Mughal Arcadia: Persian Literature in an Indian Court*. Harvard University Press, 2017 (Chapter 1).
- Sheldon Pollock (ed.) *Forms of Knowledge in Early Modern Asia: Explorations in the Intellectual History of India and Tibet, 1500–1800*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2011, Chapter-3
- Shulman, David. *Tamil: A Biography*. Harvard University Press, 2016 (chs. 4–6).
- Truschke, Audrey. *Culture of Encounters: Sanskrit at the Mughal Court*. Columbia University Press, 2016 (Introduction and Chapters 1–2).

Unit 2: Architectural Heritage:

- Asher, Catherine B., and Cynthia Talbot. *India Before Europe*. Cambridge University Press, 2006 (ch. 6 and 7).
- Dehejia, Vidya. *Indian Art*. Phaidon Press, 1997 (chs. 5–6).
- Eaton, Richard, and Phillip Wagoner. *Power, Memory, Architecture: Contested Sites on India's Deccan Plateau, 1300–1600*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Flood, Finbarr Barry. *Objects of Translation: Material Culture and Medieval "Hindu-Muslim" Encounter*. Princeton University Press, 2009 (Introduction and Chapter 1).
- Gilmartin, David, and Bruce B. Lawrence, (eds.) *Beyond Turk and Hindu: Rethinking Religious Identities in Islamicate South Asia*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2000 (Chapter-5).
- Goel, Sita Ram. *Hindu Temples: What Happened to Them*. Delhi: Voice of India, 1990.
- Hardy, Adam. *Indian Temple Architecture*. Abhinav Publications, 1995 (Introduction and Chapters 1–2).
- Himanshu Prabha Ray, Salila Kulshreshtha, *The Routledge Handbook of Hindu Temples: Materiality, Social History and Practice*. India: Taylor & Francis, 2022.
- Inden, Ronald. "The Temple and the Hindu Chain of Being." In *Text and Practice: Essays on South Asian History*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006 (pp. 192-212).
- Jain, Meenakshi. *Flight of Deities and Rebirth of Temples*. Delhi: Aryan Books, 2019.
- Kulke, Hermann. "Royal Temple Policy and the Structure of Medieval Hindu Kingdoms." In *The Cult of Jagannatha and the Regional Tradition of Orissa*, edited by Anncharlott Eschmann, Hermann Kulke, and Gaya Charan Tripathi. New Delhi: Manohar, 1978 (pp. 125-37).
- Michell, George. *Late Temple Architecture in India, 15th to 19th Centuries: Continuities, Revivals, Appropriations, and Innovations*. 1st ed. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Michell, George. *The Hindu Temple: An Introduction to Its Meaning and Forms*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988 .pp.1-93
- Mitter, Partha. *Indian Art*. Oxford University Press. 2001 (Introduction and Chapter-4).

Unit 3: Popular Religious Traditions:

- Alam, Muzaffar, Françoise "Nalini" Delvoye, and Marc Gaborieau (eds.) *The Making of Indo-Persian Culture: Indian and French Perspectives*. New Delhi: Manohar Publishers, 2000 (Chapter-5).
- Alam, Muzaffar. *The Mughals and the Sufis: Islam and Political Imagination in India, 1500–1750*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001.
- Eaton, Richard M. *Essays on Islam and Indian History*. Oxford University Press, 2000 (Introduction).
- Ernst, Carl W. *Eternal Garden: Mysticism, History, and Politics at a South Asian Sufi Center*. SUNY Series in Muslim Spirituality in South Asia. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1992.

- Hawley, John Stratton. *A Storm of Songs: India and the Idea of the Bhakti Movement*. Harvard University Press, 2015 (Introduction and Chapter 1-2).
- Jain, Meenakshi. *Rama and Ayodhya*. Delhi: Aryan Books, 2013.
- Novetzke, Christian Lee. *Religion and Public Memory: A Cultural History of Saint Namdev in India*. Columbia University Press, 2008 (Introduction and Chapter 3).
- Novetzke, Christian Lee. *The Quotidian Revolution: Vernacularization, Religion, and the Premodern Public Sphere in India*. Columbia University Press, 2016.
- Schomer, Karine, and W. H. McLeod, eds. *The Saints*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1987.
- Stewart, Tony K. *The Final Word: The Caitanya Caritamrita and the Grammar of Religious Tradition*. Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Aitken, Molly Emma. *The Intelligence of Tradition in Rajput Court Painting*. Yale University Press, 2010 (Introduction and Chapter 1).
- Beach, Milo Cleveland. *Mughal and Rajput Painting*. Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- Desai, Devangana. *Art of the Imperial Cholas*. Marg Publications, 1990.
- Flood, Finbarr Barry. *Objects of Translation*. Princeton University Press, 2009.
- Goetz, Hermann. *India: Five Thousand Years of Indian Art*. New York: Crown, 1959.
- Gommans, Jos. 2020. "Cosmopolitanism and Imagination in Nayaka South India: Decoding the Brooklyn Kalamkari." *Archives of Asian Art* 70, no. 1, 2020 (pp. 1–21).
- Goswamy, B. N. *Essence of Indian Art*. New Delhi: Penguin, 2016.
- Guy, John, and Jorrit Britschgi. *Wonder of the Age: Master Painters of India, 1100–1900*. Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2011.
- Rice, Yael. *The Brush of Insight: Artists and Agency in the Mughal Court*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2023.
- S. *Chōla Murals: Documentation and Study of the Chōla Murals of Brihadīśvara Temple, Thanjavur*. New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India, 2011.
- Singh, Kavita. *Real Birds in Imagined Gardens*. Getty Publications, 2018.

Unit 4: Art and Visual Cultures:

- Appasamy, Jaya. *Tanjavur Painting of the Maratha Period*. New Delhi: Abhinav, 1980.
- Asher, Catherine B. *Architecture of Mughal India*. Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- Champakalakshmi, R. *Religion, Tradition and Ideology*. Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Cort, John E. *Framing the Jina : Narratives of Icons and Idols in Jain History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Fuller C. J. *Servants of the Goddess: The Priests of a South Indian Temple*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 1984. Karashima, Noboru, Y. Subbarayalu, and P. Shanmugan. "Maṭhas and Medieval Religious Movements in Tamil Nadu: An Epigraphical Study (Part 2)." *Indian Historical Review* 38, no. 2, 2011 (pp. 199-210).
- Karashima, Noboru. *A Concise History of South India*. Oxford University Press, 2014.

- Lyons, Tryna. *The Artists of Nathadwara: The Practice of Painting in Rajasthan*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004.
- Michell, George, and Mark Zebrowski. *Architecture and Art of the Deccan Sultanates*. Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Pollock, Sheldon. *A Rasa Reader*. Columbia University Press, 2019.
- Talbot, Cynthia. *Precolonial India in Practice*. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

Discipline Specific Electives (DSEs)

Ancient Indian History DSEs

DSE 1: Prehistory of India**Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course**

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Prehistory of India	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to develop an understanding of the study of prehistoric times in the Indian subcontinent. The course is intended to provide systematic knowledge on the main features of prehistoric archaeology, quaternary periods, and prehistoric cultures. The nature and scope of this course is to introduce the archaeological evidence of the Indian subcontinent, from the Lower Palaeolithic period up to the Neolithic period. The course also traces the origin, development and spread of agriculture during the Neolithic period. During this course, students will also study the characteristics of stone tool types, technologies, major sites, and human adaptation strategies of Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic cultures. In addition to this, students will also be made aware of the current trends in prehistoric research in the Indian subcontinent and its significance.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the students will:

- Explain the nature and scope, and division of Stone Age and acquire basic knowledge about the stone tool types and techniques.
- Analyse how Lower to Upper Palaeolithic cultures have contributed to the construction and interpretation of the human past.
- Critically analyse the Mesolithic and Neolithic cultures of Human History.
- Interpret the basic outline of the Prehistory of India and the changing environments of the Quaternary.
- Acquire knowledge about the important excavated prehistoric sites in India.
- Analyse the prehistoric art in India - typology, nature, techniques.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Introduction to Prehistory: Within this Unit, students will learn about the terminology, scope and chronological sequences in prehistory; Pleistocene and early Holocene environment; and historical research on prehistoric India. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: Hominid Fossils and Earliest Stone Tool: Students will learn about palaeolithic stone tool types and technologies, sites, sequences and materials in different parts of India. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Mesolithic Culture in India: This includes study of Specialized hunter-gatherers; Microliths associated with the evidence of animal domestication; growth in population and evidence of burials; and material culture and subsistence pattern; Rock Art. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Neolithic Age in India: Within this Unit, students will study about ground and polished stone tool types and technologies; beginning of food production; Mehrgarh and its significance; beginning of rice cultivation in the Gangetic plain; regional variations in Neolithic developments. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings

Unit 1: Introduction to Prehistory:

- Agrawal, D. P., and S. Kusumgar. *Prehistoric Chronology and Radiocarbon Dating in India*. Munshiram Manoharlal, 1974.
- Bhattacharya, D. K. *An Outline of Indian Prehistory*. Palaka Prakashan, 1991. 11–42, 95–116. (available in hindi also)
- Chakrabarti, D. K. *India: An Archaeological History*. Oxford University Press, 1999. 1–18.
- Daniel, G. E. *The Idea of Prehistory*. Penguin Books, 1964. 13–59.
- James, H. A. V., and M. D. Petraglia. "Modern Human Origins and the Evolution of Behavior in the Later Pleistocene Record of South Asia." *Current Anthropology* 46, no. S3 (2005): 3–27.
- Misra, V. N. "Prehistoric Human Colonization of India." *Journal of Biosciences* 26 (2001): 491–531.

Unit 2: Hominid Fossils and Earliest Stone Tool:

- Allchin, Bridget. "The Indian Stone Age Sequence." *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* 93, no. 2 (1963): 210–234.
- Gaillard, C., S. Mishra, M. Singh, S. G. Deo, and R. Abbas. "Lower and Early Middle Pleistocene Acheulian in the Indian Subcontinent." *Quaternary International* (2009): 234–241.
- Korisettar, Ravi. "The Archaeology of the South Asian Lower Palaeolithic: History and Current Status." In *Indian Archaeology in Retrospect: Prehistory Archaeology of South Asia*, edited by S. Settar and R. Korisettar, Vol. I, 1–65. India: Indian Council of Historical Research, 2001.
- Paddayya, K. "India: Palaeolithic Cultures." In *Encyclopaedia of Archaeology*, edited by D. M. Pearsall, 768–791. Elsevier, 2008.
- Pal, J. N. "The Middle Palaeolithic Culture of South Asia." In *Indian Archaeology in Retrospect: Prehistory Archaeology of South Asia*, edited by S. Settar and R. Korisettar, Vol. I, 67–83. Indian Council of Historical Research & Manohar, 2001.

- Sali, S. A. *The Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic Cultures of Maharashtra*. Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, 1989.

Unit 3: Mesolithic Culture in India:

- Mathpal, Yashodhar. *Prehistoric Rock Paintings of Bhimbetka*. Abhinav Publications, 1984.
- Mishra, V. N. "The Mesolithic Age in India." In *Indian Archaeology in Retrospect: Prehistory Archaeology of South Asia*, edited by S. Settar and R. Korisettar, Vol. I, 111–125. Indian Council of Historical Research & Manohar, 2001.
- Misra, V. D., and J. N. Pal, eds. *Mesolithic India*. Department of Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology, University of Allahabad, 2002.
- Neumayer, Erwin. *Rock Art of India*. Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Sankalia, H. D. "Middle Stone Age Culture in India and Pakistan." *Science* 146, no. 3642 (1964): 365–375.
- Sankalia, H. D. *Excavations at Langhnaj: 1944–63. Part I: Archaeology*. Poona: Deccan, 1965.

Unit 4: Neolithic age in India:

- Jarrige, C., Jarrige, J. F., Meadow, R. H., and G. Quivron, eds. *Mehrgarh Field Reports 1974–1985*. Department of Culture & Tourism, 1995.
- Saraswat, K. S. "Archaeological Background of the Early Farming Communities in the Middle Ganga Plain." *Pragdhara* 15 (2005): 145–177.
- Sharma, G. R., V. D. Misra, D. Mandal, B. B. Misra, and J. Pal. *Beginnings of Agriculture*. Abinash Prakashan, 1980.
- Singh, P. *Neolithic Origins*. Agam Kala Prakashan, 1991.
- Singh, Purushottam. "The Neolithic Culture of Northern and Eastern India." In *Indian Archaeology in Retrospect: Prehistory Archaeology of South Asia*, edited by S. Settar and R. Korisettar, Vol. I, 127–149. Indian Council of Historical Research & Manohar, 2001.
- Thapar, B. K. "Fresh Light on the Neolithic Cultures of India." In *Indian Archaeology in Retrospect: Prehistory Archaeology of South Asia*, edited by B. M. Pande and B. D. Chattopadhyaya, 247–254

Suggested Readings:

- Agrawal, D. P. *The Archaeology of India*. Curzon Press, 1982.
- Allchin, B., and R. Allchin. *The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan*. Cambridge University Press, 1982.
- Chakrabarti, D. K. *A History of Indian Archaeology from the Beginning to 1947*. Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd., 1988.
- Chakrabarti, D. K. *India: An Archaeological History*. Oxford University Press, 1999.
- D.D. Kosambi. *Prachin Bharat ki Sabhyata aur Sanskriti*, (in Hindi)
- D.N. Jha and K.M. Shrimali. *Prachin Bharat ka Itihas* (in Hindi)

- de Terra, H., T. T. Paterson, and H. de Terra. *Studies on the Ice Age in India and Associated Human Cultures*. Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1939.
- Gordon, D. H. *The Prehistoric Background of Indian Culture*. N. M. Tripathi Pvt., 1958.
- Jain, V.K. Bharat Ka Pragatihaas evam Adhya-Itihaas (in Hindi)
- Misra, V. N., and M. S. Mate. *Indian Prehistory: 1964*. Deccan College Postgraduate & Research Institute, 1965.
- Pandey, J. N. Puratatwa Vimarsh (in Hindi)
- Piggott, S. *Prehistoric India to 1000 B.C*. Penguin Books, 1950.
- Ram Sharan Sharma, Bharat ka Prachin Itihas (in Hindi)
- Sankalia, H. D. *Stone Age Tools: Their Techniques, Names and Probable Functions*. Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute, 1982.
- Sharma, M. J. *The Upper Palaeolithic Culture in India*. Agam Kala Prakashan, 1982.
- Singh, U. *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*. Pearson, 2009.
- Singh, Upinder. *Prachin Evam Purva Madhyakalin Bharat Ka Itihas*. 2nd ed. New Delhi: Pearson, 2024. (in Hindi)
- Thapar, B. K. "Problems of Neolithic Cultures in India: A Reconstruct." *Puratattava* 7 (1974): 61–65.
- Thomas, P. K. "Role of Animals in the Food Economy of Mesolithic Cultures of Western and Central India." In *Archaeozoological Studies*, edited by A. T. Calson, 322–328. 1975.
- Verma, R.K. Bhāratīya prāgaitihāsika saṃskṛtiyāṃ, (in Hindi)
- Wakankar, V. S., and R. R. Brooks. *Stone Age Paintings in India*. Tarang Publishers, 1976.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 2: History of Early Indian Art and Architecture (up to c. 600 CE)

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
History of Early Indian Art and Architecture (up to c. 600 CE)	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

The objective of this paper is to trace the evolution of art and architecture in ancient India. The paper will focus on the chronological and stylistic developments within specific historical contexts. The paper will also examine the interrelationship between architecture, sculpture and paintings in terms of their underlying essence, themes and styles. Given the nature of material and textual remains, the paper will further analyse these within the complex of religion, arts and society through a multi-disciplinary approach. The course looks at art and architecture from the prehistoric and proto-historic beginnings to a continuum from post Mauryan times to the 'classical' phase upto c. 600 CE.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will:

- Be familiar with the major developments in sculpture, painting and architecture during the early period of Indian history
- Examine the nomenclature- stylistic, dynastic and regional that is used to denote certain time periods and art production related to these.
- Be able to trace the intertwined nature of art, religion and society in the period.
- Be able to analyze art on basis of its materiality
- Recognise the patterns of patronage and related developments.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Introduction to the course: Students will learn analysing sources for studying art: Material, epigraphic and textual; Materiality and art; Provenance of styles; Tools and techniques of artists; Signatures of artists. Prehistoric and proto-historic art; Rock-art: Regional dispersal; purpose, content and form; art and architecture of the Harappan Civilization: urban

planning and architecture; seals, bronze, pottery, terracotta, beads, toys of Harappan period. (12 hours)

Unit 2: Origins and modes of representation in early Indian sculpture, c. 320 BCE-600 CE: Evolution of iconography; local cultic deities, *yaksha-yakshi*, *shalabhanjika*, and *mithuna* images; Motifs, symbols and their meanings; Images of gods and humans; Bodhisattvas and Buddhas; Jaina images, *mukhalingas*, anthropomorphic Brahmanical deities; personification of nature and attributes of Gods and early attempts at royal portraiture. (12 hours)

Unit 3: Early forms of architecture; Mauryan Art, Monumentality and Stupas, chaityas and viharas: Architectural features; relief sculptures and modes of narration (select case studies from Bharhut, Sanchi, Amaravati, Nagarjunakonda, Sannati, Barabar and Nagarjuni hills, Udaygiri-Khadagiri, Bhaja, Bedsa, Karle, Pitalkhora, Nasik, etc.) (12 hours)

Unit 4: Early temples in stone: Form, Iconography and Ritual, c.400-600 C: Evolution of structural temples through select case studies; Cave temples: e.g., Ajanta, Elephanta, Badami: architecture and iconographic programme; and paintings: Ajanta and Bagh: context, content, technique, and form. (12 hours)

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Introduction to the course:

- Asher, Frederick M., and Govind Swamirao Gai, eds. (1985). *Indian Epigraphy: Its Bearing on the History of Art*. India: Oxford & IBH.
- Barlingay, S. S. (2007). *A Modern Introduction to Indian Aesthetic Theory: The Development from Bharata to Jagannatha*. New Delhi: D.K. Printworld.
- Dallapiccola, Anna, et al., eds. (1986). *Shastric Traditions in Indian Arts: Texts/References and Documentation, 1-2*. Ergon Verlag.
- Elkin, James. (2008). "On Some Limits of Materiality in Art History." *31: Das Magazin des Instituts für Theorie* [Zürich], 12: 25–30. Special issue *Taktilität: Sinneserfahrung als Grenzerfahrung*, edited by Stefan Neuner and Julia Gelshorn.
- Shah, Priyabala, ed. (1958). *Citrasutra of the Visnudharmottara Purana, Third Khanda*. Baroda.
- Blinkhorn, James, Nicole Boivin, Paul S. C. Taçon, and Michael D. Petraglia. (2012). "Rock Art Research in India: Historical Approaches and Recent Theoretical Directions." In *A Companion to Rock Art*, edited by Jo McDonald and Peter Veth, Chapter 11. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.
- Neumayer, Erwin. (2010). *Rock Art of India*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Clark, Sharri. (2015). *The Social Lives of Figurines*. Cambridge, MA: American School of Prehistoric Research.
- Kenoyer, J. M. (1995a). "Interaction Systems, Specialized Crafts and Culture Change: The Indus Valley Tradition and the Indo-Gangetic Tradition in South Asia." In *The Indo-Aryans of Ancient South Asia: Language, Material Culture and Ethnicity*, edited by G. Erdosy, 213–257. Berlin: W. DeGruyter.

- Kenoyer, Mark, et al. “Early Developments of Art, Symbol, and Technology in the Indus Valley Tradition.” Accessed April 30, 2025.

Unit 2: Origins and modes of representation in early Indian sculpture, c. 320 BCE-600 CE:

- Agarwala, P. K. (1983). *Mithuna: The Male Female Principle in Indian Art and Thought*. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers.
- Banerjea, J. N. (1956). *The Development of Hindu Iconography*. Calcutta: Calcutta University Press.
- Banerjea, J. N. (1956). *The Development of Hindu Iconography*. Calcutta: Calcutta University Press. Chapter on Vyanatara Devatas.
- Coomaraswamy, A. K. (1993). *Yakshas: Essays in Water Cosmology*. New Delhi: IGNCA.
- Gopinath Rao, T. A. (1968). *Elements of Hindu Iconography*. 2 vols. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- Gupte, R. S. (1972). *Iconography of the Hindus, Buddhists and Jains*. Bombay: D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co.
- Maxwell, T. S. (1997). *Gods of Asia: Image, Text, Meaning*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Rosenfield, John. (1987). *The Dynastic Art of the Kushanas*. Berkeley: University of
- Huntington, Susan L. (1985). *The Art of Ancient India*. New York and Tokyo: Weatherhill.
- Meister, M. W., ed. (1992). *Ananda Coomaraswamy: Essays in Early Indian Architecture*. New Delhi.
- Panikkar, Shivaji K. (1997). *Saptamatrka Worship and Sculptures*. Delhi: D. K. Print World.

Unit 3: Early forms of architecture; Mauryan Art, Monumentality and Stupas, chaityas and viharas:

- Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. (1930). “Early Indian Cities and City Gates.” *Eastern Art*.
- Dehejia, Vidya. (1972). *Early Buddhist Rock Temples*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University.
- Dehejia, Vidya. (1996). *Unseen Presence: The Buddha at Sanchi*. Mumbai: Marg Publications.
- Dehejia, Vidya (1997). *Discourse in Early Buddhist Art: Visual Narratives of India*. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers.
- Dhaky, M. A., and Michael Meister, eds. (1983). *Encyclopaedia of Indian Temple Architecture*. Vol. I, Part 1: North India, Chapters 1 and 2. Delhi: American Institute of Indian Studies and University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Irwin, John. (1975). “‘Asokan’ Pillars: A Reassessment of the Evidence – III: Capitals.” *The Burlington Magazine* 117 (871): 631–643.
- Irwin, John (1976). “‘Asokan’ Pillars: A Reassessment of the Evidence – IV: Symbolism.” *The Burlington Magazine* 118 (884): 734, 736–751, 753.

- Knox, Robert. (1993). *Amaravati: Buddhist Sculpture from the Great Stupa*. New York: Dover Publications.
- Ray, Niharranjan. (1965). *Maurya and Śuṅga Art*. 2nd ed. Calcutta: Indian Studies: Past and Present.
- Srinivasan, Doris Meth. (2007). *On the Cusp of an Era: Art in the Pre-Kuṣāṇa World*. Leiden: Brill.
- Stone, Elizabeth Rosen. (1994). *The Buddhist Art of Nagarjunakonda*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- Zin, Monika. (2018). *The Kanaganahalli Stupa: An Analysis of the 60 Massive Slabs Covering the Dome*. New Delhi: Aryan Book International.

Unit 4: Early temples in stone: Form, Iconography and Ritual, c. 400-600 CE:

- Berkson, Carmel, Wendy Doniger O’Flaherty, and George Michell. (1983). *Elephanta: The Cave of Shiva*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Chandra, Pramod, ed. (1975). *Studies in Indian Temple Architecture*. Varanasi: American Institute of Indian Studies.
- Dhaky, M. A., and Michael Meister, eds. (1983–). *Encyclopaedia of Indian Temple Architecture*. Vol. I (South India, in four parts); Vol. II (North India, in three parts so far). New Delhi: American Institute of Indian Studies.
- Ghosh, A., ed. (1996). *Ajanta Murals*. Reprint of 1967 ed. New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India.
- Joanna, G. (1982). *The Art of Gupta India: Empire and Province*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Kramrisch, Stella. (1976). *The Hindu Temple*. 2 vols. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass. (1st ed. 1946)
- Kramrisch, Stella. (2007). *The Presence of Shiva*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.
- Schlingloff, Dieter. (1999). *Guide to the Ajanta Paintings: Narrative Wall Paintings*. Vol. 1. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.
- Spink, Walter M. (1977). “Bagh: A Study.” *Archives of Asian Art* 30 (1976/1977): 53–84.
- Spink, Walter M.. (2005–2007). *Ajanta: History and Development*. Vols. I–V. Leiden and Boston: Brill.
- Tarr, Gary. (1970). “Chronology and Development of the Chalukya Cave Temples.” *Ars Orientalis* 8: 155–184.
- Tartakov, Gary. (1997). *The Durga Temple at Aihole: A Historiographical Study*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Willis, Michael. (2009). *The Archaeology of Hindu Ritual: Temples and the Establishment of the Gods*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Selected Readings:

- Bawa, Seema. (2002). *From Aditi to Dugdhadharini: Changing Iconography of a Goddess*. In *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, vol. 65. Amritsar.
- Coomaraswamy, A. K. (1956). *The Transformation of Nature in Art*. New York: Dover Publications. (Also 2004 reprint of 1934 edn). New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.
- Czuma, S. (1985). *Kushana Sculpture: Images from Early India*. Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art in cooperation with Indiana University Press.
- Dhavalikar, M. K. (1977). *Masterpieces of Indian Terracottas*. Bombay: D. B. Taraporevala Sons & CO. Private Ltd.
- Ray, Niharranjan. (1974). *An Approach to Indian Art*. Chandigarh: Panjab University Publication Bureau.
- Settar, S. (2003). *Footprints of Artisans in Indian History: Some Reflections on Early Artisans of India*. General President's Address, 64th session, Mysore. *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, 1–43.
- Singh, Upinder. (2009). *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century*. Delhi: Pearson Longman.
- Zimmer, Heinrich. (1984). *Artistic Form and Yoga in the Sacred Images of India*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 4: Theories, Methods and Practices in Archaeology**Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course**

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Pre requisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Theories, Methods and Practices in Archaeology	04	3	0	1	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

This course introduces to the students the basic concept of archaeology. The course includes theoretical and practical training in field methods including the process of archaeological investigation from the discovery of sites to their excavation and analysis excavation techniques, methods of data retrieval, chronology and dating methods, documentation, conservation and preservation of archaeological objects. The students will study the history of Indian Archaeology. In this course, students will also be learning about the various scientific disciplines used for archaeological research. The focus will also be drawn upon the development of Archaeology: from its roots in the distant past, the rise of antiquarianism, and the development of archaeology as a distinct discipline.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Become familiar with basic descriptive technique and preliminary study of various categories of remains and the practical methods of doing archaeological work.
- Understand the nature and scope of archaeology and its relation with sciences.
- Comprehend the scientific exploration and excavation methods.
- Appreciate the relative and scientific dating methods in archaeology.
- Understand the development of archaeology as a distinct discipline as practiced by scholars of the humanities and social sciences.
- Be able to describe the basic archaeological skills, such as how to locate, investigate and analyse archaeological sites and analysis of the data.
- Understand the chronology of cultural deposition; and the significance of stratification.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Introduction to Archaeology: Definition, aims and scope; brief history of archaeology in India; and natural and cultural site formation processes. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: Field Methods: Exploration techniques- Traditional and Scientific techniques; excavation techniques- Vertical, horizontal and step excavations. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Post-excavation: Report writing, preservation and conservation of artifacts and chronology and dating methods: Relative and Absolute. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Diversity of theoretical perspectives: Interpreting archaeological evidence and their implications; survival of evidence, threats and pressures; remedial measures - official and non-official and changing trends, issues and prospects in archaeology. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Introduction to Archaeology:

- Chakrabarti, Dilip Kumar. *India: An Archaeological History*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1999. 1–18.
- Goldberg, P., D. T. Nash, and M. D. Petraglia. *Formation Process in Archaeological Context*. Monographs in World Archaeology, No. 17. Madison, WI: Prehistory Press, 1993.
- Rajan, K. *Archaeology: Principles and Methods*. Chennai: Manoo Pathippakam, 2002. 1–57, 188-95.
- Raman, K. V. *Principles and Methods of Archaeology*. Chennai: Parthajan Publications, 1986. 1–58.
- Sharer, R. J., and Wendy Ashmore. *Fundamentals of Archaeology*. London: The Benjamin Publishing Company, 1979. 1–109, 265-90.
- Trigger, Bruce G. *A History of Archaeological Thought*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 1989. 1–80.

Unit 2: Field Methods:

- Drewett, Peter L. *Field Archaeology: An Introduction*. London: UCL Press, 1999. 1–17, 76–98, 145–191.
- Hogg, A. H. A. *Surveying for Archaeologists and Other Fieldworkers*. United Kingdom: Routledge, 2016.
- Raman, K. V. *Principles and Methods of Archaeology*. Chennai: Parthajan Publications, 1986. 59–137.
- Roskams, Steve. *Excavation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Scarre, C. “High-Tech ‘Digging’ in Archaeology.” *Archaeology*, September/October 1999, 50–55.
- Sharer, R. J., and Wendy Ashmore. *Fundamentals of Archaeology*. Menlo Park, CA: Benjamin/Cummings Publishing Co., 1979. 211–264.

Unit 3: Post excavation:

- Agrawal, D. P., and M. D. Yadava. *Dating the Human Past*. Pune: Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies, 1995.
- Balme, J., and Alistair Paterson, eds. *Archaeology in Practice*. UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014. 85–117.

- Pollard, A. Mark, Catherine M. Batt, Ben Stern, and Suzanne M. M. Young. *Analytical Chemistry in Archaeology. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Rajan, K. *Archaeology: Principles and Methods*. Chennai: Manoo Pathippakam, 2002. 174–217.
- Raman, K. V. *Principles and Methods of Archaeology*. Chennai: Parthajan Publications, 1986. 138–191.
- Valentin, D., and S. Vasiliev. "New Methods of Dating in Archaeology." *Geochronometria* 23 (2004): 39–43.

Unit 4: Diversity of theoretical perspectives:

- Caple, C. *Preservation of Archaeological Remains in Situ*. London: Routledge, 2016. 20–430.
- Dyson, Stephen L. "Processual Archaeology and the Radical Critique." *Current Anthropology* 28, no. 4 (1987): 501–538. The University of Chicago Press.
- Ellis, Linda, ed. *Archaeological Method and Theory: An Encyclopedia*. New York and London: Garland Publishing, Inc., 2000.
- Hodder, Ian. *Reading the Past: Current Approaches to Interpretation in Archaeology*. Edited by Scott Hutson. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991. 57–79.
- McGuire, R. H. *A Marxist Archaeology*. San Diego: Academic Press Inc., 1992. 1–75.
- Paddayya, K. *The New Archaeology and Aftermath: A View from Outside the Mainstream*. Pune: Ravish Publishers, 1990.

Suggested Readings:

- Aiken, M. J. *Science-Based Dating in Archaeology*. London: Longmans, 1990.
- Atkinson, R. J. C. *Field Archaeology*. London: Mathew and Co., 1953.
- Basker, P. *Techniques of Archaeological Excavation*. London: Batsford, 1982.
- Biswas, S.S. *Protecting the Cultural Heritage: National Legislations and International Conventions*. New Delhi: Aryan Books International, 1999.
- Bradley, R. *An Archaeology of Natural Places*. United Kingdom: Routledge, 2000.
- Brothwell, D. R., and A. M. Pollard, eds. *Handbook of Archaeological Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Brothwell, D., and E. Higgs, eds. *Science in Archaeology*. 2nd ed. London: Thames and Hudson, 1969.
- Chakrabarti, Dilip Kumar. *A History of Indian Archaeology: From the Beginning to 1947*.
- Chakrabarti, Dilip Kumar. *Theoretical Perspectives in Indian Archaeology*. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1989.
- Cloud, D. W. *Archaeological Dating Methods*, 1–32, 2014.
- Fagan, Brian M. *In the Beginning: An Introduction to Archaeology*. New York: Harper Collins, 1994.

- Feder, K. L. *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*. United Kingdom: Mayfield Publishing, 1996.
- Gamble, Clive. *Archaeology: The Basics*. New York: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, 2008.
- Ghosh, A. *Encyclopaedia of Indian Archaeology*. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1990.
- Goldberg, P., and Vance T. Holliday. *Earth Sciences and Archaeology*. New York and Boston: Plenum Publishers, 2001.
- Hodder, I. *The Archaeological Process: An Introduction*. United Kingdom: Wiley, 1999.
- Hodder, Ian. *Archaeological Theory Today*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2012.
- Michels, J. W. "Dating Methods." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 1 (1972): 113–126.
- Miller, Heather Margaret-Louise. *Archaeological Approaches to Technology*. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press Inc., 2009.
- Muckelroy, K. *Maritime Archaeology*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 1978.
- Renfrew, Colin, and P. Bahn. *Archaeology: Theories, Methods, and Practice*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1991.
- Schiffer, Michael B., ed. *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory*. Vol. 1. New York: Academic Press, 1978.
- Scollar, I. *Archaeological Prospecting and Remote Sensing*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- Shanks, M., and C. Y. Tilley. *Re-constructing Archaeology: Theory and Practice*. Kiribati: Routledge, 1992.
- Thakran, R. C. *Dynamics of Settlement Archaeology*. Haryana, India: Gyan Publishing House, 2000.
- Ucko, P. J., ed. *Theory in Archaeology – A World Perspective*. London: Routledge, 1995.
- White, Nancy. *Introduction to Archaeology*. Tampa: University of South Florida, 2000.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 5: Historiography of Ancient India

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Historiography of Ancient India	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the nature, scope, and evolution of historiographical traditions in ancient Indian history by examining the concept of historical consciousness in early Indian society. It will critically engage with the colonial construction of India as an “ahistorical” civilization and explore indigenous perceptions of time, memory, lineage, and the past. The course analyses Vedic, Buddhist, Jain, epic–Puranic, and early Indian textual traditions to understand how narratives of origins, genealogies, dynasties, and heroic achievements functioned within their socio-political contexts. It will seek to provide methodological tools for interpreting myths, inscriptions, biographies, and chronicles as sources of history while engaging with major historiographical debates and modern scholarly interpretations.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will:

- Critically evaluate colonial and Eurocentric interpretations of Indian historiography.
- Identify different genres expressing historical consciousness in ancient India.
- Analyse genealogies, bardic traditions, and inscriptions as political instruments.
- Understand transitions from Vedic to Puranic literary forms.
- Understand historiographical debates on myth, memory, and historicity.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Colonial Construction and Historical Consciousness: This unit deals with colonial construction of time and Indigenous conception of time(*kāla*), and memory. **(12 hours)**

Unit 2: Historical Consciousness in Vedic Traditions: This unit deals with Historical Consciousness in Vedic Traditions: *Gāthā*, *narāśaṃsī*, *ākhyāna*, and *dānastuti* **(12 hours)**

Unit 3: History in Buddhist and Jain Traditions: Within this unit, students will learn about the Shifts from Vedic ritual memory to narrative historical constructions. **(12 hours)**

Unit 4: Itihasa–Purana Tradition: Students will learn about suta-magadha tradition, genealogies (vaṃśānucarita): Debates on historicity versus historical consciousness, *suta-magadha* tradition, genealogies (*vaṃśānucarita*), Pargiter's reconstruction of dynastic lists, Engagement with modern scholarship on mythic narrative and political memory. **(12 Hours).**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Colonial Construction of Time and Historical Consciousness:

- Chakrabarti, Dilip K. *Colonial Indology: Socio-politics of the Ancient Indian Past*. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1997
- Jayaswal, K. P. *Hindu Polity: A Constitutional History of India in Hindu Times*. 2 vols. Calcutta: Butterworth & Co., 1924.
- Kulke, Hermann, and B. P. Sahu. "Historiography." In *History of Precolonial India: Issues and Debates*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2018.
- Ludden, David. "Orientalist Empiricism: Transformations of Colonial Knowledge." In *Orientalism and the Postcolonial Predicament: Perspectives on South Asia*, edited by Carol A. Breckenridge and Peter van der Veer, 250–278. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993.
- Majumdar, R. C. *Ancient India*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1977.
- Mookerji, R. K. *Hindu Civilization*. Bombay: Hind Kitabs, 1958.
- Mukhopadhyay, Subodh Kumar. *Evolution of Historiography in Modern India, 1900–1960*. Calcutta: K. P. Bagchi, 1974.
- Nilakanta Sastri, K. A. *A History of South India: From Prehistoric Times to the Fall of Vijayanagar*. 4th ed. Madras: Oxford University Press, 1975.
- Pandey, Gyanendra, 'The Colonial Construction of the Indian Past', *The Construction of Communalism in Colonial North India*. Delhi, 2006; Oxford Academic, 2012
- Raychaudhuri, H. C. *Political History of Ancient India: From the Accession of Parikshit to the Extinction of the Gupta Dynasty*. Calcutta: University of Calcutta, 1953.
- Singh, Upinder. *The Discovery of Ancient India: Early Archaeologists and the Beginnings of Archaeology*. New Delhi: Permanent Black, 2004.
- Stein, Burton. *A History of India*. 2nd ed. Edited by David Arnold. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2010.

Unit 2: Historical Consciousness in the Vedic Texts:

- Gonda, Jan, *Vedic Literature (Saṃhitās and Brāhmaṇas)*, A History of Indian Literature, vol. 1, fasc. 1 (Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1975) Chapter 1
- Pathak, V.S. *Ancient Historians of India*. Delhi: Asia Publishing House, 1966. Chapter 1
- Philips, C.H., ed. *Historians of India, Pakistan and Ceylon*. London: Oxford University Press, 1961. Chapter 1.

- Staal, Frits. *Discovering the Vedas: Origins, Mantras, Rituals, Insights*. New Delhi: Penguin Books, 2008.
- Thapar, Romila, 'Historical Traditions in Early India: c. 1000 bc to c. ad 600', in Andrew Feldherr, and Grant Hardy (eds), *The Oxford History of Historical Writing: Volume 1: Beginnings to AD 600*, Oxford History of Historical Writing, Oxford, 2011
- Warder, A.K. *Indian Kāvya Literature, Vol. I: The Ways of Originality in Sanskrit*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1972. Chapter 9
- Witzel, Michael(ed), *Inside the Texts, Beyond the Texts: New Approaches to the Study of the Vedas*, Harvard University Press, pp. 257–348.

Unit 3: Buddhist and Jain Traditions:

- Bailey, Greg, and Ian Mabbett. *The Sociology of Early Buddhism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Bhattacharyya, N.N., *Indian Religious Historiography*, Vol. I, 1996.
- Dundas, Paul. *The Jains*. London: Routledge, 1992.
- Gombrich, Richard F. *How Buddhism Began: The Conditioned Genesis of the Early Teachings*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2002.
- Philips, C.H., ed. *Historians of India, Pakistan and Ceylon*. London: Oxford University Press, 1961. Chapter 2 and 3
- Warder, A.K. *Indian Kāvya Literature, Vol. II*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1972.

Unit 4: Itihasa–Purana Tradition:

- Brockington, C.F. *The Righteous Rama: The Evolution of an Epic*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1984.
- Bulcke, Kamil. *Rāmkaṭhā: Utpatti aur Vikas*. Allahabad: Hindi Parishad Prakashan, 1950.
- Hiltebeitel, Alf. *Reading the Fifth Veda: Studies on the Mahābhārata: Essays*. Netherlands: Brill, 2011. Chapter 1-4.
- Pargiter, F.E. *Ancient Indian Historical Tradition*. London: Oxford University Press, 1922.
- Sankalia, H.D. *Ramayana: Myth or Reality?* New Delhi: People's Publishing House, 1973.

Suggested Readings

- B. D. Chattopadhyaya, ed. D. D. Kosambi: *Combined Methods in Indology and Other Writings*. Delhi: OUP, 2002.
- Berkemer, G. Banausia and Endo-history: European Concepts of Indian Historical Consciousness. Internet Publication Series: South Asian History, 2007.
- Bongard-Levin, G. M., and A. Vigasin. *The Image of India: The Study of Ancient Indian Civilisation in the USSR*. 1984.
- Breckenridge, Carol A., and Peter van der Veer, eds. *Orientalism and the Postcolonial Predicament*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1994.

- Chaudhuri, Nirad C. Scholar Extraordinary: The Life of Friedrich Max Muller. New Delhi: Orient Paperbacks, 1974.
- Dodson, Michael S. Orientalism, Empire and National Culture: India, 1770–1880. Delhi: Foundation Books, 2010.
- Inden, Ronald. Imagining India. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1990.
- Kejariwal, O. P. The Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Discovery of India's Past 1784–1838. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1988
- Mantena, Rama. "The Question of History in Pre-colonial India." History and Theory 46, no. 3 (2007).
- Singh, G. P. Ancient Indian Historiography: Sources and Interpretations. Delhi: D.K. Printworld, 2003.
- Thapar, Romila. Cultural Pasts: Essays in Early Indian History. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 8: Historical Geography of Ancient India**Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course**

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
Historical Geography of Ancient India	4	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the conceptual frameworks of historical geography as applied to the study of ancient India. They will be familiarised with how India was conceived across a range of indigenous textual traditions and foreign accounts in various time periods. They will be introduced to cosmographic and sacred geographical schemes of Puranic, Buddhist, and Jaina traditions, and also examine how pilgrimage networks and sacred landscapes were constituted and mapped in these religious traditions. The course will also develop their ability to critically engage with geographical data embedded in diverse textual genres and inscriptions in order to understand how regions, sub-regions, and localities were conceptualised and formed. Finally, students will explore the political geographies of ancient India, including the inscriptional vocabulary of territorial and administrative Units and the geopolitical configurations of political power.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will:

- Critically understand indigenous geographical conceptions of India—including Saptasindhavaḥ, Bhāratavarṣa, Jambūdvīpa, and Āryāvarta—and evaluate how they compare with Greco-Roman, Chinese, and Arab representations.
- Understand cosmographic and sacred geographical frameworks in Brahmanical, Buddhist, and Jaina textual traditions, and assess the role of pilgrimage networks in the construction of sacred landscapes.
- Comprehend processes of region and sub-region formation in ancient India, with reference to specific case studies such as Kashmir, Tamiḷakam, Dakṣiṇa Kośala, and Bengal.

- Identify and interpret geographical data embedded in diverse textual genres — including grammatical treatises, encyclopaedic compendia, *kāvya*, and tantric texts — and assess their significance for historical geography.
- Examine the political geographies of ancient India through archaeological sources (particularly inscriptions), and critically evaluate the relationship between political power, territory, and spatial organisation.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Introducing Historical Geography: Indigenous and Foreign Conceptions of India: Conceptual framework and methodology of historical geography; indigenous conceptions of India: *Saptasindhavaḥ*, *Bhāratavarṣa*, *Jambudvīpa*, *Āryāvarta*, *Madhyadeśa/Majjhimadesa*, etc.; and foreign conceptions of India: Greco-Roman, Chinese, Arab. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: Cosmographies and Sacred Geographies in Religious Traditions: Locating India in the cosmographic schemes of Puranic, Buddhist, and Jaina literature; pilgrimage networks and sacred landscapes: Epic-Puranic, Buddhist-Jaina. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Regions and Geographical Taxonomies: Conceptualising 'region', 'sub-region' and 'locality' in ancient India; making of regions and sub-regions: Kashmir, Tamiḷakam (*tinai*s), Dakṣiṇa Kośala, Bengal and geographical data in *Aṣṭādhyāyī*, *Brhatsaṃhitā* and *Kāvya-mīmāṃsā*. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Political Geographies: Geographical configurations of political power; inscriptional vocabulary of territorial-administrative Units and landscape. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Introducing Historical Geography:

- Dixit, R. D. *Geographical Thought: A Contextual History of Ideas*. New Delhi: PHI Learning Pvt. Ltd., 2011. Chapters 8, 9, and 12.
- Benedetti, Giacomo. “The Idea of India in Ancient Indian Texts: Āryāvarta, Jambudvīpa, Bhāratavarṣa and the Relation with Non-āryas.” *Journal of Asian Civilizations* 42, no. 1 (2019): 117–54.
- Chattopadhyaya, B. D. “The Concept of Bhāratavarṣa and Its Historiographical Implications.” In *The Concept of Bharatavarsha and Other Essays*, 1–30. Albany: SUNY Press, 2018.
- Law, Bimala Churn. *Historical Geography of Ancient India*. 2nd rev. ed. Paris: Société Asiatique de Paris, 1968. Introduction.
- लाहा, बिमलचरण. *प्राचीन भारत का ऐतिहासिक भूगोल*. Translated by रामकृष्ण विवेदीउत्तर प्रदेश हिन्दी ग्रंथ :लखनऊ . अकादमी, 1972. प्रस्तावना.
- Sachau, Edward, trans. *Alberuni's India: An Account of the Religion, Philosophy, Literature, Geography, Chronology, Astronomy, Customs, Laws and Astrology of*

India about AD 1030. Vol. 1. New Delhi: Manohar, 2023. Chapters 18, 21–25, and 28–31.

- Sen, Tansen. *India, China, and the World: A Connected History*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. Chapter 1.
- Stoneman, Richard. *The Greek Experience of India: From Alexander to the Indo-Greeks*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2019. Part II.

Unit 2: Cosmographies and Sacred Geographies in Religious Traditions:

- Sircar, D. C. *Studies in the Geography of Ancient and Medieval India*. 2nd rev. and enl. ed. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1971. Chapter 2.
- Krueger, Patrick Felix. “The Tangible Universe: Aspects of Visualization and Materiality of the Jain Cosmos.” *Ancient Punjab* 9 (2021): 20–44.
- Sadakata, Akira. *Buddhist Cosmology: Philosophy and Origin*. Tokyo: Kosei, 1997. Chapters 1 and 5.
- Bhardwaj, S. M. *Hindu Places of Pilgrimage in India: A Study in Cultural Geography*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1973.
- Eck, Diana L. *India: A Sacred Geography*. New York: Harmony Books, 2012.
- Singh, Rana P. B., and Pravin S. Rana. “The Mythic Landscape of Buddhist Places of Pilgrimages in India.” In *Sacredscapes and Pilgrimage Systems*, edited by Rana P. B. Singh, 247–84. New Delhi: Shubhi Publications, 2011.
- Luithle-Hardenberg, Andrea. “Cāripalit Sangh: Jain Group Pilgrimages on Foot: Defining Sacred Territory and Religious Community.” In *Approaching the Sacred: Pilgrimage in Historical and Intercultural Perspective*, edited by Ute Luig, 159–99. *Berlin Studies of the Ancient World*, vol. 49. Berlin: Edition Topoi, 2018.

Unit 3: Regions and Geographical Taxonomies:

- Chattopadhyaya, B. D. (2018 [2011]). ‘Space, History and Cultural Process: Some Ideas on the Ingredients of Subregional ‘Identity’’. In *The Concept of Bharatavarsha and Other Essays*. Albany: SUNY Press. pp. 31–56.
- Sahu, Bhairabi Prasad. (2014). ‘Regions from the Perspective of Changing Perceptions of Early India’. *Indian Historical Review* 41 (1): 1–17.
- Gurukkal, Rajan. (1989). ‘Forms of Production and Forces of Change in Ancient Tamil Society’. *Studies in History* 5 (2): 159–75.
- Kaul, Shonaleeka. (2018). *The Making of Early Kashmir: Landscape and Identity in the Rājatarāṅgiṇī*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Morrison, Barrie M. (1970). *Political Centres and Cultural Regions in Early Bengal*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- Sahu, Bhairabi Prasad. (2011). ‘Profiling Dakṣiṇa Kośala: An Early Historical Sub-Region?’ In *Centres Out There?: Facets of Subregional Identities in Orissa*, edited by Hermann Kulke and Georg Berkemer. New Delhi: Manohar. pp. 39–59. Reprinted as ‘The Making of an Early Historical Subregion?’ In Bhairabi Prasad Sahu. (2013). *The*

Changing Gaze: Regions and the Constructions of Early India. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. pp. 80–105.

- Agrawala, V. S. (1963). *India as Known to Pāṇini*. 2nd rev. enl. edn. Varanasi: Prithvi Prakashan. (Ch. 2)/ अग्रवाल, वासुदेव) .1955 [वि.सं .2012]). पाणिनिकालीन भारतवर्ष. बनारस :मोतीलाल बनारसीदास .(अध्याय 2).
- Shastri, Ajay Mitra. (1969). *India as Seen in the Brhatsamhitā of Varāhamihira*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass. (Ch. 2).

Unit 4: Political Geographies:

- Chakrabarti, Dilip K. *The Geopolitical Orbits of Ancient India: The Geographical Frames of the Ancient Indian Dynasties*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Gupta, Paramanand. *Geography in Ancient Indian Inscriptions (up to 650 A.D.)*. Delhi: D.K. Publishing House, 1973.
- Subbarayalu, Y. “General President’s Address: Historical Geography of Ancient and Medieval India: A Comparative Study of Nadu and Vishaya.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 73 (2012): 1–12.
- Kumar, Kundan. *Political Geography and the Region in Indian History: Dakṣiṇa Kośala and Vidarbha c. 400–1300 CE*. New Delhi: Manohar, 2024.

Suggested Readings:

- Ali, S. Muzafer. *The Geography of the Purāṇas*. 3rd ed. New Delhi: People’s Publishing House, 1983.
- Bapat, P. V., ed. *2500 Years of Buddhism*. New Delhi: The Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, 1956. Chapter 12.
- Basant, P. K. “The Idea of Madhyadeśa in Early India.” *Asian Ethnology* 83, no. 1 (2024): 61–86.
- Brandtner, M. “Representations of Kaliṅga: The Changing Image and Geography of a Historical Region.” In *Jagannath Revisited: Studying Society, Religion and State in Orissa*, edited by Hermann Kulke and B. Schnepel, 179–210. New Delhi: Manohar, 2001.
- Chattopadhyaya, B. D. *A Survey of Historical Geography of Ancient India*. Calcutta: Manisha, 1974.
- Cunningham, Alexander. *The Ancient Geography of India*. Reprint. Delhi: Low Price Publications, 1990.
- Dundas, Paul. *The Jains*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2002.
- Furui, Ryosuke. *Land and Society in Early South Asia: Eastern India 400–1250 AD*. London and New York: Routledge, 2020. Chapter 2.
- Jacobsen, Knut A. “Early Pilgrimage Traditions in South Asia.” In *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Religions*, edited by Knut A. Jacobsen, 111–23. London and New York: Routledge, 2020.

- Minkowski, Christopher. “Where the Black Antelope Roam: Dharma and Human Geography in India.” In *Geography and Ethnography: Perceptions of the World in Pre-Modern Societies*, edited by Kurt A. Raaflaub and Richard J. A. Talbert, 9–31. Malden, MA and Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- Singh, Rana P. B., and Pravin S. Rana. “Sacred Geography of Hindu Holy Places.” In *History of Ancient India*, vol. 9, *Science and Technology, Medicine*, edited by Dilip K. Chakrabarti, 222–53. New Delhi: Vivekanand International Foundation and Aryan Books International, 2023.
- Subbarayalu, Y. *Political Geography of the Chola Country*. Tamil Nadu: Department of Archaeology, 1973.
- बापट, पी .वी., संपा. बौद्ध धर्म के २५०० वर्ष. दिल्ली :पब्लिकेशन्स डिविज़न, 1956. अध्याय 10.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 9: Perspectives on Nature in Ancient India

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Perspectives on Nature in Ancient India	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

This paper tries to identify and compare cosmogonic ideas across Brahmanical, Buddhist, and Jaina traditions. Students will learn how to analyse textual representations of interactions between *aranya/ vana* (forest) and *grāma/ kṣetra* (settlement), the state's perception of forests, etc. The course will also outline the representations of anthropomorphic depictions of flora, fauna, and other natural elements in literary sources as well as in art.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will:

- Understand how looking at cosmogonic and cosmological frameworks shape understandings of cosmic order (*ṛta*) and human-nature interconnections in philosophical systems.
- Better comprehend the dynamics between the forest and the settled spaces, against the larger background of assimilation and co-option in early Indian history.
- Evaluate representations of different facets of nature in literature, art and religion and engage with and critically look at representations of fertility, aniconism, and symbolism in different facets of literature, art and religion.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Humans, Nature, and the Cosmos: Cosmogonic ideas across textual traditions in ancient India; concepts around nature and matter in philosophical systems, (*guṇas*, *prakṛti*, *puruṣa*, *pañcabhūta*, etc.) (12 Hours)

Unit 2: Forest and Settlements: Textual representations of interactions between *aranya/ vana* and *grāma/ kṣetra*. (12 Hours)

Unit 3: Nature in Early Indian Literature: Anthropomorphic forms (depictions of flora and fauna in *kāvya*s, Jātakas, Sangam texts, epics, etc.) **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Nature in Art and Religion: Representations of fertility and Aniconism - worship of emblematic trees and animals. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Humans, Nature, and the Cosmos:

- Bhattacharyya, N. N. *History of Indian Cosmogonical Ideas*. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1971.
- Chapple, C. K. *Jainism and Ecology: Non-Violence in the Web of Life*. New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2006.
- Dhammika, S. *Nature and the Environment in Early Buddhism*. Singapore: Buddha Dhamma Mandala Society, 2015.
- Dwivedi, O. P. 1989. 'Environmental Protection in the Hindu Religion', in O. P. Dwivedi, ed. *World Religions and the Environment*. New Delhi: Gitanjali Publishing House. (Ch. 5)
- Kak, Subhash. "Concepts of Space, Time, and Consciousness in Ancient India." In *Space, Time and Consciousness*, edited by Munib Ahmad, 95–104. New Delhi: National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies, 1999.
- Narayan, S., ed. *Vedic, Buddhist and Jain Traditions*. Vol. 2. New Delhi: IGNCA, 1995.
- Narayanan, Vasudha, ed. *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2003.
- Radhakrishnan, S. *Indian Philosophy*. 2 vols. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1923–1927.
- Sahni, P. *Environmental Ethics in Buddhism: A Virtues Approach*. New York: Routledge, 2008.
- Vatsyayan, Kapila. *The Nature of Indian Culture*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1982.

Unit 2: Forest and Settlements:

- Chattopadhyaya, B. D. "The State's Perception of the 'Forest' and the 'Forest' as State in Early India." In *The Concept of Bharatavarsha and Other Essays*, chap. 3, 57–76. New York: SUNY Press, 2018.
- Olivelle, Patrick. "Village vs. Wilderness: Ascetic Ideals and the Hindu World." In *Ascetics and Brahmins: Studies in Ideologies and Institutions*, chaps. 3 and 6. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Sinha, K. "Envisioning a No-Man's Land: Hermitage as a Site of Exemption in Ancient and Early Medieval Indian Literature." In *Religious Exemption in Pre-Modern Eurasia, c. 300–1300 CE*, edited by C. West, 20–39. *Medieval Worlds: Comparative & Interdisciplinary Studies* 2017, no. 6 (2017).
- Sontheimer, Günther-Dietz. "The Vana and the Kṣetra: The Tribal Background of Some

Famous Cults.” In *The Routledge Handbook of the State in Premodern India*, edited by H. Kulke and B. P. Sahu, 81–100. Oxon: Routledge, 2022.

- Stasik, D., and A. Trynkowska, eds. *The City and the Forest in Indian Literature and Art*. Warsaw: Dom Wydawniczy Elipsa, 2010.
- Thapar, Romila. “Perceiving the Forest: Early India.” *Studies in History* 17, no. 1 (2001): 1–16.
- Visigalli, P. “Charting ‘Wilderness’ (aranya) in Brahmanical and Buddhist Texts.” *Indo-Iranian Journal* 62 (2019): 162–80.

Unit 3: Nature in Early Indian Literature:

- Appleton, Naomi. “What Does It Mean to Be a Badly Behaved Animal? An Answer from the Devadatta Stories of the Pāli Jātakas.” *Religions* 10, no. 4 (2019): 288.
- Jarow, E. H. Rick. *The Cloud of Longing: A New Translation and Eco-Aesthetic Study of Kālidāsa’s Meghadūta*. Introduction and chap. 1.
- Mehendale, M. A. “The Fauna in the Āraṇyakaparvan of the Mahābhārata.” *Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute* 68, nos. 1–4 (1987): 327–44.
- Ohnuma, Reiko. “The Heretical, Heterodox Howl: Jackals in Pāli Buddhist Literature.” *Religions* 10, no. 221 (2019): 1–16.
- Olivelle, Patrick. “Talking Animals: Explorations in an Indian Literary Genre.” *Religions of South Asia* 7 (2013): 14–26.
- Vacek, Jaroslav. “Select Images of the Forest in Old Tamil Sangam Literature.” In *The City and the Forest in Indian Literature and Art*, edited by D. Stasik and A. Trynkowska. Warsaw: Dom Wydawniczy Elipsa, 2010.
- Vatsyayan, Kapila. “Ecology and Indian Myth.” *India International Centre Quarterly* 19, nos. 1–2 (1992) : 156–80.

Unit 4: Nature in Art and Religion:

- Agrawala, P. *Pūrṇa Kalāśa or the Vase of Plenty*. Varanasi: Prithvi Prakashan, 1965.
- Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. *The Dance of Śiva: Fourteen Indian Essays*. New York: Sunwise Turn, 1918.
- Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. *Yakṣas: Essays in the Water Cosmology*. Delhi: IGNCA, 1993. Chapters 1, 9, 10, and 17.
- Dehejia, Vidya. “Aniconism and the Multivalence of Emblems.” *Ars Orientalis* 21 (1991): 45–66.
- Desai, Devangana. “Shalabhanjika: Woman-and-Tree in Art and Literature.” Prof. K. D. Bajpai Memorial Lecture, 19th Session of the Indian Art History Congress, Kanyakumari, 1–18, 2010.
- Doniger, Wendy. *Animals in Four Worlds: Sculptures from India*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989.
- Guy, John. *Tree and Serpent: Early Buddhist Art in India*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2023. Select sections.
- Sivaramamurti, C. *Approach to Nature in Indian Art and Thought*. New Delhi: Kanak

Publications, 1980. 1–99.

Suggested Readings

- Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. *Introduction to Indian Art*. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1969.
- Roy, Kumkum. “Vedic Cosmogonies: Conceiving/Controlling Creation.” In *Tradition, Dissent and Ideology: Essays in Honour of Romila Thapar*, edited by R. Champakalakshmi and S. Gopal, 9–19. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Ganguly, S. “Wish Fulfilment and Blooming Trails: Visuals of Flora in Early India.” *Critical Collective Art Newsletter*, November 2024.
- Geer, Alexandra van der. *Animals in Stone: Indian Mammals Sculptured through Time*. Leiden: Brill, 2008.
- Kuttiyil, D. “Virile Animals and Powerful Kings: Simha Imagery in Pallava Birudās.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 81 (2022): 178–84.
- Ohnuma, Reiko. *Unfortunate Destiny: Animals in the Indian Buddhist Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- Ohnuma, Reiko. “When Animals Speak/Speaking Animals—Pāli Jātakas.” *Stanford Buddhist Studies*. Accessed March 25, 2026.
- De Silva, Padmasiri. *Environmental Philosophy and Ethics in Buddhism*. London: Macmillan Press, 1998.
- Thakur, V. K. “Deforestation, Ecological Degradation and the Buddhist Response in Early India: A Preliminary Enquiry.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 60 (1999): 79–88.
- Varadarajan, M. *The Treatment of Nature in Sangam Literature*. Madras: South Indian Saiva Siddhanta Works Publishing Society, 1957. Part 1, 1–22.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 15: History, Sources and Narratives in Medieval India

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
History, Sources, and Narratives in Medieval India	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

This course examines the diverse ways in which history and narratives of the medieval period in India have been remembered, represented, and recorded. Focusing on the interplay of historical events and the evolution of narratives, the course will explore how different groups: royal courts, religious institutions, communities, and modern historians have constructed and interpreted the past. This will be accomplished by drawing on examples from the historical narratives found in medieval India's various regions and linguistic and cultural zones.

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop Critical Analysis of Historical Sources, which has the ability to analyse a wide range of primary and secondary sources (such as chronicles, travelogues, inscriptions, and archival records) with a critical lens.
- Understand historical methodology by gaining insight into the construction of historical narratives, historiographical debates, and interpretive frameworks of medieval Indian history.
- Interpretation of Multiple Perspectives helps identify and compare diverse perspectives (regional, religious, and cultural) in medieval historical narratives, imparting the skill of Comparative analysis and multicultural literacy skills. This can be helpful in becoming a Policy researcher, journalist, and museum educator.
- Academic Writing and Presentation Skills. This would help enhance academic writing and oral presentation through research papers, group discussions, and seminars, and develop Writing, communication, and peer engagement skills.

Course Contents:

Unit 1: Memory, History and Traditions of History Writing in Pre-Modern India: This Unit introduces key conceptual frameworks, such as collective and social memory, to explore how societies remember and narrate the past. It examines the relationship between memory and history, emphasizing their social functions. The Unit also surveys traditions of historical writing in pre-modern India, including Sanskrit, Persian, and vernacular sources, while

critically engaging with how modern scholarship has interpreted these narrative forms. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: Historical Memory of Persianate Court: Hagiographies: The focus would be to comprehend the collective memory of the Indic religious sects, their memory of the Persianate court as imagined in hagiographies; how various Indic sects figured in Persian chronicles; and farmans issued to various religious communities. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Mughal Rajput Imperial Paradigm in Bhakti Tradition: This Unit would focus on the imperial patronage received by Bhakti, particularly under the Sultans of Delhi, the Mughals, and the Rajputs. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Regional Narratives and Narratives of Marginal Voices: This Unit explores the medieval histories of regions such as Bengal, Kashmir, and Western India through local narrative traditions like Mangalkabya and bardic lore. It further investigates vernacular accounts, such as the ballad of Dulla Bhatti, and the revolts of Sanatan Sardar and Papadu, to understand how cultural narratives articulated resistance to Mughal authority. Emphasis is placed on how these narratives reveal local imaginations of power, protest, and regional identity. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Memory, History and Traditions of History Writing in Pre-Modern India

- Burke, Peter. "History as Social Memory." In *Varieties of Cultural History*, edited by Peter Burke, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1997, pp. 43–59.
- Connerton, Paul. *How Society Remembers*. Cambridge: Oxford University Press, 1989.
- Hobsbawm, Eric, and Terence Ranger, eds. *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.
- Le Goff, Jacques. *History and Memory*. Translated by Steven Rendall and Elizabeth Claman. New York: Columbia University Press, 1992.
- Majumdar, R. C., ed. *The History and Culture of the Indian People*. Vol. VI: *The Delhi Sultanate*. Bombay: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1960. (chapter 1(sources) and chapter 15 (language and literature))
- Nora, Pierre. "Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Mémoire." *Representations* 26 (Spring 1989): 7–24.
- Ramanujan, A. K. "Is There an Indian Way of Thinking? An Informal Essay." *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 23 (1989): 41–58.
- Rao, Narayana V., David Shulman, and Sanjay Subrahmanyam. *Textures of Time: Writing History in South India 1600–1800*. Delhi: Permanent Black, 2001.
- Siddhichandra. *Bhanuchandraganicharit* (1613). Edited by Mohanlal Dalichand Desai. *Singhi Jain Series*, no. 15. Bombay: 1931.

Unit 2: Historical Memory of Persianate Court: Hagiographies

- Abul Fazl. *Ain-i-Akbari*. Translated by H. S. Jarret. Vol. 3. Delhi: Low Price Publications, 2006.

- Jain, Shalin. “Piety, Laity and Royalty: Jains under the Mughals in the First Half of the Seventeenth Century.” *Indian Historical Review* 40, no. 1 (2013): 67–92.
- Jhaveri, Krishnalal M. *Imperial Farmans (A.D. 1577 to A.D. 1805) Granted to the Ancestors of His Holiness the Tikayat Maharaj*. Bombay: News Printing Press, 1928.
- Minkowski, Christopher. “Learned Brahmins and the Mughal Court: The Jyotisas.” In *Religious Interactions in Mughal India*, edited by Vasudha Dalmia and Munis D. Faruqi, 102–134. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Sarkar, Jadunath. *History of Aurangzib*. 5 vols. Calcutta: M. C. Sarkar & Sons, 1912–1924. Chapter LXII (Conditions of people) chapter LXIII (Aurangzeb and Indian nationality)
- Sharma, S. R. *The Religious Policy of the Mughal Emperors*. London: Asia Publishing House, 1940.
- Siddhichandra. *Bhanuchandraganicharit* (1613). Edited by Mohanlal Dalichand Desai. *Singhi Jain Series*, no. 15. Bombay: 1931.
- Vose, Steven M. “Jain Memory of the Tughluq Sultans: Alternative Sources for the Historiography of Sultanate India.” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 3rd ser., 31 (2021): 1–25.

Unit 3: Mughal Rajput Imperial Paradigm in Bhakti Tradition

- Bruchett, Patton. *A Genealogy of Devotion: Bhakti, Tantra, Yoga, and Sufism in North India*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019, pp. 64–128.
- Hawley, John Stratton. *Three Bhakti Voices: Mirabai, Surdas, and Kabir in Their Times and Ours*. New Delhi: OUP, 2012.
- Hawley, John Stratton. *A Storm of Songs: India and the Idea of the Bhakti Movement*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015. Introduction and Chapters 3&4.
- Hawley, John Stratton. *Sur Das: Poet, Singer, Saint*. Primus, 2018. Chapter 1: “The Blind Poet”: 3–34.
- Lorenzen, David N. ed., *Bhakti Religion in North India: Community Identity and Political Action*, New Delhi: Manohar, 1996.
- Novetzke, Christian Lee. “The Political Theology of Bhakti, or When Devotionalism Meets Venularization.” In *Bhakti and Power: Debating India’s Past*, edited by John Stratton Hawley and Christian Lee Novetzke.
- Rajpurohit, Dalpat S. “Sulh-i Kull to Vedānta: The Dādūpanth and the Mughal-Rajput Imperial Paradigm.” *Modern Asian Studies* 56 (2022): 924–958.
- Schomer, Karine & W.H. McLeod eds., *The Sants: Studies in a Devotional Tradition of India*. New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1987.
- मित्तल, प्रभु दयाल. *ब्रज के धर्म सम्प्रदायों का इतिहास*. दिल्ली: नेशनल पब्लिशिंग हाउस.

Unit 4: Regional Narratives and Narratives of Marginal Voices

- Bhadra, Gautam. “Two Frontier Uprisings in Mughal India.” In *The Mughal State, 1526–1750*, edited by Muzaffar Alam and Sanjay Subrahmanyam, 474–490. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.

- Curley, David L. *Poetry and History: Bengali Mangal and Social Change in Pre-colonial Bengal*. Delhi: Chronicle Books, 2008.
- Dutt, Jogesh Chandra, trans. *Kings of Kashmira*. New Delhi: Low Price Publications, reprint edition (originally published in 1879).
- Eaton, Richard M. “The Northern Frontier: Resistance to Imperial Authority.” In *The Rise of Islam and the Bengal Frontier, 1204–1760*, 186–191. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Guha, Sumit. “Speaking Historically: The Changing Voices of Historical Narration in Western India, 1400–1900.” *American Historical Review* 109 (2004): 1–22.
- Keśavdās. *Rasikpriyā*. Varanasi: Chowkhamba Vidyabhavan, various editions.
- Kumar, Ram Krishna. *Maharaja, Merchants, and the Mart: The Emergence of Jaipur*. Jodhpur: Rajasthani Granthagar, 2024.
- Lāl Kavi. *Chhatraprakāś*. Edited by K. P. Bahadur (or regional Hindi editions). Delhi/Varanasi: various publishers.
- Obrock, Luther. “History at the End of History: Śrīvara’s Jainataranginī.” *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 50, no. 2 (2013): 223–238.
- Pandit, K.N. *Baharistan i- Shahi: A Chronicle of Medieval Kashmir*. Calcutta: Firma KLM Private Limited. 1991.
- Rana, R. P. “Resisting Dominance.” In *Rebels to Rulers: The Rise of Jat Power in Medieval India, c. 1665–1735*, 122–141. New Delhi: Manohar, 2006.
- Richards, J. F., and V. Narayan Rao. “Banditry in Mughal India: Historical and Folk Perceptions.” In *The Mughal State, 1526–1750*, edited by Muzaffar Alam and Sanjay Subrahmanyam, 491–519. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Singh, Surinder. “Mughal Centralization and Local Resistance in North Western India: An Exploration in the Ballad of Dulla Bhatti.” In *Popular Literature and Pre-modern Societies in South Asia*, edited by Surinder Singh and Ishwar Dayal Gaur, 89–112. Delhi: Pearson, 2008.
- Stein, M. A., ed. and trans. *Kalhaṇa’s Rājataranginī*. Vol. II (includes continuations). Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, reprint editions., 1961.
- Zutshi, Chitralekha. “Translating the Past: Rethinking ‘Rajatarangini’ Narratives in Colonial India.” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 70, no. 1 (2011): 5–27.

Suggested Readings:

- Ali, Daud. *Invoking the Past: The Use of History in South Asia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Bednar, Michael Boris. “Mongol, Muslim, Rajput: Mahimāsāhi in Persian Texts and the Sanskrit Hammīra-Mahākāvya.” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 60 (2017): 585–613.
- Berger, Stefan, and Bill Niven, eds. *Writing the History of Memory*. London: Bloomsbury, 2014.
- Bloch, Marc. *The Historian’s Craft*. New York: Penguin Random House, 1964.
- Chatterjee, Kumkum. “Persianization of Itihasa: Performance Narratives and Mughal Political Culture in 18th-Century Bengal.” *Journal of Asian Studies* 67 (2008).

- Chatterjee, Kumkum. *The Culture of History in Early Modern India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Chatterjee, Partha, and Anjan Ghosh, eds. *History and the Present*. London: Anthem Press, 2006.
- Chaudhary, Pragyan. “Social Mobility and Migration among the Jats of Medieval India.” In *Migrations in Medieval and Early Colonial India*, edited by Vijaya Ramaswamy. Routledge, 2016.
- Gandhi, Supriya. “The Prince and the Nuvahhid: Dara Shikoh and Mughal Engagements with Vedanta.” In *Religious Interactions in Mughal India*, edited by Vasudha Dalmia and Munis D. Faruqi, 65–101. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Goody, Jack. “Memory in Oral Tradition.” In *Memory*, edited by P. For a and K. Patterson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- Jain, Shalin. “Writing History and Jain Literary Production in Early Modern South Asia.” *Studies in People’s History* 11, no. 1 (2024): 59–77.
- Kanaka Durga, P. S. “Identity and Symbols of Sustenance.” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 44 (2001): 141–174.
- Mantena, Rama. “The Question of History in Pre-colonial India.” *History and Theory* 46 (2007): 396–408.
- Ricoeur, Paul. “Personal Memory, Collective Memory.” In *Memory, History, Forgetting*, translated by Kathleen Blamey and David Pellauer. London: University of Chicago Press, 2004.
- Singh, Surinder, and Ishwar Dayal Gaur, eds. *Popular Literature and Pre-Modern Societies in South Asia*. Delhi: Pearson Longman, 2008.
- Thapar, Romila. *The Past Before Us: Historical Traditions of Early North India*. Delhi: Permanent Black, 2013.
- Zutshi, Chitralekha. *Kashmir’s Contested Pasts*. London: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 18: History of an Idea: Rajasthan, c 1200-1800**Credit Distribution, Eligibility, and Pre-requisites of the Course**

Course Title and Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
History of Rajasthan: Methods and Skills	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objective:

This course introduces students to the history of Rajasthan through a study of wide range of themes: dynamics of state formation, the formation of the regional identities, norms of governance, development of the service culture, fiscal and economic organization, social formation and significance of local cults. These themes are explored through the study of primary sources written in Dhundhari and various regional dialects of Marwari used across present-day Rajasthan. Through the study of the primary sources or documents, the growth of the region will be tracked which will familiarize students with the changing dimensions of regional history.

Learning Outcome:

- Gain an understanding of the variety of regional sources and the methodologies used by historians in historical research.
- Develop the ability to read and interpret primary sources from the states of Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Bikaner and also become familiar with the process of state formation in regional states and acquire practical exposure to regional archives and sources written in various vernacular languages.
- Identify the unique characteristics of different regions and the agents of change that shaped regional identities and Understand the historical processes involved in the development of regional identity.
- Analyze the role and functioning of local autonomous Units and groups that became significant in the course of history.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Sources of Rajasthan history: This Unit includes Archival, Bardic, Oral and Literary Traditions of Rajasthan. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: The Idea of Rajasthan: This Unit include role of topography in formation of ‘subjective identity’ and a Region within Region. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Understanding the Region: This Unit includes Nomadic cultures and royal identities of Thar Desert. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Local Sects: This Unit includes Mira Bai, Panch-Pir, Jamboji and Karni Mata. Apart from this, Religious Centres at Ajmer and Nagaur, Militant Ascetics and the Pilgrimage Centre of Pushkar. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Sources of Rajasthan history:

- Das, Shyamal. *Vir Vinod*, 4 vols. Udaipur: Maharana Mewad Historical Publication Trust, 1886.
- Dastur Komwar. *Rajlok and Khoja*.
- Garg, Damodarlal. *Hamirraso ki Yaso Ghatha*. Sahityagara, 2009.
- Kavikalanidhi, Shrikrishnabhatt. *Isvarivillas*. Jaipur: Rajasthan Puratatvanveshan Mandir, 1958.
- *Manvillas*.
- Nainsi, Munhot. Badri Prasad Sakaria (ed.). *Munhot Nainsi ri Khyat*, 4 vols. Jodhpur: Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, 1960, 1962, 1964 & 1967.
- Nainsi, Munhot. Narayan Singh Bhati (ed.). *Marwar ra Pargana ri Vigat*, 3 vols. Jodhpur: Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, 1968, 1969 & 1974.
- *Shah Huzur*.
- Tod, James. *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, 2 vols. Reprint. New Delhi: Rupa, 1998.
- Ziegler, Norman P. “The Seventeenth Century Chronicles of Marwar: A Study in the Evolution and Use of Oral Traditions in Western India.” *History in Africa* 3, 1976. pp 127–153.
- Ziegler, Norman P. “Some Notes on Rajput Loyalties during the Mughal Period.” in Alam, Muzaffar and Sanjay Subramanyam eds. *The Mughal State c. 1526-1750*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1978.
- Ziegler, Norman P. “The Marwari Historical Chronicles: Sources for the Social and Cultural History of Rajasthan.” *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 13(2), 1976. pp: 219–250.

Unit 2: The Idea of Rajasthan:

- Choudhary, Manisha. “The Historical Thar Desert of India”. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences* 12(4): 78, 2021.
- Choudhary, Manisha. “The Imperial Connections of the Thar Desert: Environment, Power and Political Alliances.” *History and Sociology of South Asia* 17(2), 2023. pp: 170–189. (Original work published 2023)

- Choudhary, Manisha. *The History of Thar: Environment, Culture & Society*. Shimla: Indian Institute of Advanced Study, 2021.
- Kumar, Ram Krishna. *Maharaja, Merchants and the Mart: The Emergence of Jaipur*. Jodhpur: Rajasthani Granthagar, 2024.
- Laad, Azhruddin. "Serving Two Masters: Kayamkhanis of the Thar Desert", *Scattered Histories: Religion, Culture and Society in Northern India*. Springer Nature. 2026.
- Schomer, Karine, Joan L. Erdman, Deryck O. Lodrick, and Lloyd I. Rudolph, eds. (*The Idea of Rajasthan: Explorations in Regional Identity*, 2 vols. New Delhi: Manohar, 2001.
- Sharma, Dashrath. *Rajasthan through the Ages*. Bikaner: Rajasthan State Archives, 1966.
- Rana, R. P. "Chakar to Raja: The Emergence of Naruka State of Alwar (c. 1660-1790)." *Social Science Probings*, Vol. 18, No. 1, June, 2006. pp: 56–79.
- Tod, James. *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, 2 vols. New Delhi: Rupa, 1998.

Unit 3: Understanding the Region:

- Choudhary, Manisha. "Changing Area, Shrinking Spaces and Struggling Species: History of Camels." *History and Sociology of South Asia* 13(2), 2021. pp: 93–111. (Original work published 2019)
- Choudhary, Manisha. "The Historical Thar Desert of India". *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences* 12(4): 78, 2021.
- Choudhary, Manisha. "The Thar Desert and Its Travelers". *Ancient Asia* 15: 1, 2024. pp: 43–54.
- Gupta, Rajkumar and Ishwar Prakash, eds. *Environmental Analysis of the Thar Desert*. Dehradun: English Book Depot, 1975. Introduction.
- McKee, E. D., ed. *A Study of Global Sand Seas*. Tunbridge Wells, Kent: Castle House Publications, 1980.
- R.P Rana, "Chakar to Raja, The Emergence of Naruka State of Alwar (c.1660-1790)" *Social Science Probings*, june 2006, pp.59-79.
- Trimizi, S. A. I. *Ajmer through Inscriptions*. New Delhi: Indian Institute of Islamic Studies, 1968.

Unit 4: Local deities, Cult and Sects:

- Choudhary, Manisha. "Interaction between Jaipur State, Popular Culture and Religious Dignitaries". *ADES IV Proceedings*, 2017.
- Choudhary, Manisha. "Khanabadoshi: Socio-Economic History of Mobility in Rajasthan". *Vol. 29, no. 2*, 2022.
- Choudhary, Manisha. "Understanding a Little Tradition: Landscape Beyond Divinity". *Scattered Histories: Religion, Culture and Society in Northern India*. Springer Nature. 2026
- Harcourt, Max. "The Deshnok 'Karni Mata' Temple and Political Legitimacy in Medieval Rajasthan." *Journal of South Asian Studies*, 1993. pp: 33–48.

- Jain, K.C. *Ancient Cities and Towns of Rajasthan*. Jodhpur: Books Treasure, 2016.
- Khan, Dominique-Sila. *Conversion and Shifting Identities: Ramdev Pir and Ismailis in Rajasthan*. Delhi: Manohar, 2003.
- Khan, Dominique-Sila. “THE COMING OF NIKALANK AVATAR: A MESSIANIC THEME IN SOME SECTARIAN TRADITIONS OF NORTH-WESTERN INDIA”. *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 25: 401-426, 1997.
- Mukta, Parita. *Upholding the Common Life: The Community of Mirabai*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1994.
- Pinch, William R. *Peasants and Monks in British India*. London: University of California Press, 1996.
- Pinch, William R. *Warrior Ascetics and Indian Empires*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Schomer, Karine, Joan L. Erdman, Deryck O. Lodrick, and Lloyd I. Rudolph, eds. *The Idea of Rajasthan: Explorations in Regional Identity*. 2 vols. New Delhi: Manohar, 2001.
- Trimizi, S. A. I. *Ajmer through Inscriptions*. New Delhi: Indian Institute of Islamic Studies, 1968.

Suggested Readings:

- Bhadani, B. L. *Peasants, Artisans and Entrepreneurs*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications, 1999.
- Chattopadhyaya, B. D. “The Emergence of Rajputs as Historical Process in Early Medieval Rajasthan.” In *The Idea of Rajasthan*, Vol. II, edited by Karine Schomer, Delhi: Manohar, 1994.
- Choudhary, Manisha. “Contesting and Negotiating Power: The Multi-Faceted Dynamics of the Jat Uprising during Late 17th and Early 18th Century.” *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention*, 2013. pp: 23–26.
- Choudhary, Manisha. “Interaction between Jaipur State, Popular Culture and Religious Dignitaries.” *ADES IV Proceedings*, 2017.
- Choudhary, Manisha. “The Court Protocol and Social Ordering in Jaipur State.” *International Journal of History and Cultural Studies (IJHCS)*, 1(1), 2013. pp: 14–26.
- Choudhary, M. ed. *Scattered Histories: Religion, Culture and Society in Northern India*. Springer Nature. 2026.
- Fox, R. G. *Kin, Clan, Raja and Rule: State Hinterland Relations in Pre-Industrial India*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971.
- Gupta, S.P. *Agrarian System of Eastern Rajasthan*. New Delhi: Manohar, 1986.
- Harcourt, Max. “The Deshnok ‘Karni Mata’ Temple and Political Legitimacy in Medieval Rajasthan.” *Journal of South Asian Studies*, 1993. pp: 33–48.
- Khan, Dominique-Sila. *Conversion and Shifting Identities: Ramdev Pir and Ismailis in Rajasthan*. Delhi: Manohar, 2003.
- Kolff, Dirk H. A. *Naukar, Rajput, and Sepoy: The Ethno-history of the Labour Military Labour Market of Hindustan, 1450-1850*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

- Pinch, William R. *Warrior Ascetics and Indian Empires*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Rana, R.P. *Rebels to Rulers: The Rise of Jat Power in Medieval India, C. 1665-1735*. New Delhi: Manohar, 2006.
- Richards, J. F., ed. (n.d.). *Kingship and Authority in South Asia*. Madison: South Asia Studies, 1978. pp: 215–250.
- Saxena, R. K. *Rajput Nobility: A Study of 18th Century Rajputana*. Jaipur: Publication Scheme, 1996.
- Schomer, Karine, Joan L. Erdman, Deryck O. Lodrick, and Lloyd I. Rudolph, eds. *The Idea of Rajasthan: Explorations in Regional Identity*. 2 vols. New Delhi: Manohar, 2001. (Select ARTICLES)

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 20: Socio-Economic History of India: 1200-1700

Credit Distribution, Eligibility, and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title and Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Socio-Economic History of India: 1200-1700	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives: This course examines the economic history of the Indian subcontinent from the thirteenth to the late eighteenth century. It traces the changing nature of the economy by analysing shifts in agrarian production, methodologies of land revenue assessment, the administrative machinery of tax collection, and history of agrarian classes. It highlights the impact of political conflict on the regional economy. Additionally, it familiarizes students with the dynamics of medieval trade, the processes of urbanization, and the structural complexities of the urban economy.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the basic strands of the economic history of India and appreciate the role of economic and social changes in shaping the power dynamics of the Indian subcontinent.
- Understand the importance of medieval technology in irrigation, cultivation, grafting and Gain comprehensive knowledge of medieval revenue administration and understand agrarian life and agrarian production in medieval India and crop patterns and the evolution of new crops.
- Develop an understanding of urbanization in the medieval period and learn about inland trade and foreign trade and their role in the economic structure.

Course Content:

Unit 1: State, Society and Social Change: This Unit includes a study of the social life and states of Medieval India on the basis of some primary sources. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: Economy and Revenue Machinery: This Unit examines the nature of the medieval economy, encompassing both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, the growth of the urban economy, industry, and artisanal crafts. Special emphasis is placed on the agrarian innovations and reforms of introduced during the medieval times. The Unit further analyzes market reform, price regulations, and their socio-economic impacts, structure of agrarian society and the role of state officials in revenue administration. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Vijaynagar Empire: This Unit includes emergence of the state, the cosmopolitan nature of the empire, the society and economy of the state. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Inland and foreign trade: This Unit includes Banjaras, traders and merchants, maritime trade, commodity production and distribution and advent of European companies. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: State, Society and Social Change:

- Afif, Shams Siraj. *Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi*. Edited and Translated by Lieutenant Henry Lewis. Delhi: Low Price Publication, 1849.
- Arnold, Thomas Walker. *The Preaching of Islam: A History of the Propagation of the Muslim Faith*. 2nd ed. London: Constable & Company, 1913.
- Arnold, Thomas Walker. *The Preaching of Islam: A History of the Propagation of the Muslim Faith*. 2nd ed. London: Constable & Company, 1913.
- Barani, Ziauddin. *Tarik-i-Firozshahi*. Edited and Translated by Sir H.M. Elliot. Delhi: Low Price Publication, 1849.
- Habib, Mohammad. *The Political Theory of the Delhi Sultanate: Including a Translation of Ziauddin Barani's Fatawa-I-Jahandari*, Circa 1358-59 A.D. Hardcover. Delhi: Aakar, 2020.
- Ibn Battuta. *Rehla*. English translation by Samuel Lee. New York: Dover Publication Inc., 1829.
- Jackson, Peter. *The Delhi Sultanate: A Political and Military History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Khare, G. H., ed. *Persian Sources of Indian History*, Vol. I, Nos. 41, 45, 46, Shivcharitra Sahiya, Vol. II, Nos. 203, 205, 213. BISM, Pune, 1937.
- Lal, Kishori Saran. *Growth of Muslim Population in Medieval India (A.D. 1000–1800)*. Delhi: Research Publications in Social Sciences, 1973.
- Lal, Kishori Saran. *Indian Muslims: Who Are They*. New Delhi: Voice of India, 1990.
- Lal, Kishori Saran. *The Legacy of Muslim Rule in India*. New Delhi: Aditya Prakashan, 1992.
- Prasad, Pushpa. *Sanskrit Inscriptions of Delhi Sultanate 1191-1526*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Siddiqui, I.H. *Composite Culture under the Sultanate of Delhi*. New Delhi: Primus Books, 2016.
- Siddiqui, Iqtidar H. *Perso-Arabic Sources of Information on the Life and Conditions in the Sultanate of Delhi*. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd, 1992.
- The Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri; or, *Memoirs of Jahangir*. Translated by Alexander Rogers. Edited by Henry Beveridge. (1909-1914). Delhi: Low Price Publication, 2023.

Unit 2: Economy and Revenue Machinery:

- Asher, Catherine B., and Cynthia Talbot. *India Before Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Chaudhary, Tapan, and Irfan Habib, eds. *Cambridge Economic History of India (1200-1750)*, vol. 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982.
- Chaudhary, Tapan, and Irfan Habib, eds. *Cambridge Economic History of India (1200-1750)*, vol. 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982.
- Habib, Irfan “Economic History of the Delhi Sultanate: An Essay in Interpretation.” *Indian Historical Review* 4, 1978. pp: 287–303.
- Habib, Irfan. “Economic History of the Delhi Sultanate: An Essay in Interpretation.” *Indian Historical Review* 4, 1978. pp: 287–303.
- Habib, Irfan. “The Price Regulations of ‘Ala al-Din Khalaji: A Defense of Zia Barani.” *The Indian Economic & Social History Review* 21, 1984. pp: 393–414.
- Habib, Mohammad, and K.A. Nizami. *A Comprehensive History of India: The Delhi Sultanate (A.D. 1206-1526)*, Vol. 5 in 2 Parts, 1992.
- Habib, Mohammad. *Studies in Medieval Indian Polity and Culture: The Delhi Sultanate and Its Times*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Hameed-Ud-Din. “The Organization of Government under the Lodi Sultans of India.” *Zeitschrift Der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 110 (n.F. 35)(2), 1960. pp: 330–341.
- Imam, F.A. (1987). “The Administration of the City of Delhi During the Sultanate.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 48, 1987. pp: 179–186.
- Jackson, Peter. *The Delhi Sultanate: A Political and Military History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Kaur, D. “Iqtadari System and the Growth of Towns in Medieval India.” *India Quarterly* 46(2/3), 1990. pp: 188–196.
- Khan, H. “The Institution of Iqta’ and Its Impact on Muslim Rule in India.” *Islamic Studies* 22(1), 1983. pp: 1–9.
- Kulkarni, G.T. “Some Observations on the Medieval History of the Deccan.” *Bulletin of the Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute* 34(1/4), 1974. pp: 91–102.
- Kulkarni, G.T. “The Central Secretariat under Adil Shahi Government.” *BISM Quarterly* 72: 61, 1995.
- Kulkarni, G.T. “The Non-Revenue Dues.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, 55th Session, 1995.
- Latif, S.A. “The Indian Elements in the Bureaucracy of the Delhi Sultanate.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 54, 1993. pp: 158–162.
- Ray, Aniruddha. *The Sultanate of Delhi (1206–1526): Polity, Economy, Society and Culture*. New Delhi: Manohar, 2019.
- Richards, J.F. “The Economic History of the Lodi Period: 1451-1526.” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 8(1), 1965. pp: 47–67.
- Shyam, Radhey. Presidential Address. (1984). *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 45, Indian History Congress, 1984. pp: 241–287.

- Siddiqi, I.H. “Iqta System under the Lodis.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 24, 1961. pp: 145–149.
- Siddiqui, Iqtidar Hussain. *Delhi Sultanate - Urbanization and Social Change*, 2nd ed. New Delhi: Viva Books, 2015.

Unit 3: The Vijayanagar Empire:

- Nayaka, H. “Religious Ideology and Rural Economy of Early Medieval Karnataka.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 75, 2014. pp: 232–238.
- Paes, Domingos, and Fernao Nuniz. *The Vijayanagar Empire: Chronicles of Paes & Nuniz*. Asian Educational Services, 1991.
- Ramaswamy, V. “Sectional President’s Address: Crafts and Artisans in South Indian History.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 64, 2003. pp: 300–336.
- Ray, A. “The Rise and Fall of Vijayanagar — An Alternative Hypothesis to ‘Hindu Nationalism’ Thesis.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 64, 2003. pp: 420–433.
- Sastri, K.A. Nilakanta. *A History of South India: From Prehistoric Times to the Fall of Vijayanagar*. Oxford University Press, 1955.
- Seenaiah, E. “Some Aspects of the Agrarian Economy and Trade in the Vijayanagar Empire [1500-1600].” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 48, 1987. pp: 271–274..
- Sinopoli, C.M. “The Organization of Craft Production at Vijayanagara, South India.” *American Anthropologist* 90(3), 1988. pp: 580–597.
- Stein, Burton. “The Economic Function of a Medieval South Indian Temple.” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 19(2), 1960. pp: 163–176.
- Stein, Burton. *The New Cambridge History of India. Vijayanagar: 2*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Stein, Burton. *Vijayanagar. The New Cambridge History of India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
- Verghese, Anila. “Deities, Cults and Kings at Vijayanagara”. *World Archaeology* 36, no. 3 Taylor & Francis, Ltd, Sept. 2004. pp: 416–431

Unit 4: Inland and foreign trade:

- Chaudhuri, K.N. “Surat Revisited: A Tribute to Ashin Das Gupta.” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 43(1), 2000. pp: 18–22.
- Choudhary, Manisha. *Trade, Transport and Tanda: Shifting Identities of Banjaras*. Delhi: Manohar, 2018.
- Das Gupta, A. “India’s Quest for the Indian Ocean: The Collection at the National Library.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 49, 1988. pp: 420–424.
- Das Gupta, A. “Indian Merchants and the Western Indian Ocean: The Early Seventeenth Century.” *Modern Asian Studies* 19(3), 1985. pp: 481–499.
- Das Gupta, Ashin. *The World of the Indian Ocean Merchants (Collected Essays)*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2001.

- Guha, A. “India and Indian Ocean Trade [Review of *India and the Indian Ocean 1500-1800*, by A. D. Gupta].” *Economic and Political Weekly* 23(37), 1988. pp: 1894–1896.
- Gupta, A. D. *India and the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800*. Oxford University Press, 1987.
- Gupta, A. D. *Merchants of Maritime India, 1500-1800: 441 (Variorum Collected Studies)*. Routledge, 1994.
- Kumar, Ram Krishna. *Maharaja, Merchants, and the Mart: The Emergence of Jaipur*. Jodhpur: Rajasthani Granthagar, 2024.
- Parthasarathi, P., & Riello, G. “The Indian Ocean in the Long Eighteenth Century.” *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 48(1), 2014. pp: 1–19..
- Pearson, M. N., & Gupta, A. D. *India and the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800*. Oxford University Press, 1987.
- Prakash, O. “The Indian Maritime Merchant, 1500-1800.” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 47(3), 2004. pp: 435–457.

Suggested Readings:

- Ali Athar. *Reinterpreting History of the Delhi Sultanate*. (English). Publications Division, 2015.
- Ali, M. A. “The Use of Sources in Mughal Historiography.” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 5(3), 1995. pp: 361–373.
- Babur, Z. M. *Divan-e-Babur* [Chaghatai Turkish poetry].
- Fritz, J. M. “Vijayanagara: Authority and Meaning of a South Indian Imperial Capital.” *American Anthropologist* 88(1), 1986. pp: 44–55.
- Furber, Holden. *Rival Empires of Trade in the Orient, 1600-1800*. Minneapolis: University Press, 1976.
- Ganeshiah, K. N., Shaanker, R. U., & Vasudeva, R. “Bio-resources and Empire Building: What Favoured the Growth of Vijayanagara Empire?” *Current Science* 93(2), 2007. pp:140–146.
- Gupta, A. D. “Indian Merchants and the Western Indian Ocean: The Early Seventeenth Century.” *Modern Asian Studies* 19(3), 1985. pp: 481–499.
- Gupta, A. D. “PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 35, 1974. pp: 99–111.
- Kaur, D. “Iqtadari System and the Growth of Towns in Medieval India.” *India Quarterly* 46(2/3), 1990. pp: 188–196.
- Khan, I. A. “Tracing Sources of Principles of Mughal Governance: A Critique of Recent Historiography.” *Social Scientist* 37(5/6), 2009. pp: 45–54.
- Kulkarni, G. T. “Deccan (Maharashtra) Under the Muslim Rulers from Khalijis to Shivaji: A Study in Interaction.” *Bulletin of the Deccan College Research Institute* 51/52, 1991. pp: 501–510.
- Mate, M. S. “Urban Culture of Medieval Deccan (1300 A.D. to 1650 A.D.).” *Bulletin of the Deccan College Research Institute* 56/57, 1996. pp: 161–217.

- Roy, T. “Rethinking the Origins of British India: State Formation and Military-fiscal Undertakings in an Eighteenth Century World Region.” *Modern Asian Studies* 47(4), 2013. pp: 1125–1156.
- Shivarudraswamy, S. N. “Hindu-Muslim Relations Under the Vijayanagar Empire.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 66, 2005. pp: 394–398.
- Sinopoli, C. M. “From the Lion Throne: Political and Social Dynamics of the Vijayanagara Empire.” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 43(3), 2000. pp: 364–398.
- Stern, P. J. “A Politie of Civil & Military Power: Political Thought and the Late Seventeenth-Century Foundations of the East India Company-State.” *Journal of British Studies* 47(2), 2008. pp: 253–283.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 21: Sovereignty and Court Culture in South Asia, 1400–1700

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Sovereignty and Court Culture in South Asia, 1400–1700	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

The course focuses on South Asia during 1400- 1700. It focuses especially on the Vijayanagar kingdom, the Mughal Empire, the Deccan Sultanates, Rajput states, and various other polities. With this approach, the course investigates the history of sovereignty and courtly culture against this background. This course explores key questions surrounding the competition for greatness and renown among the kings and emperors of South Asia during the medieval and early modern periods and how various local, regional, and transregional influences shaped kingship and court culture during this time. It delves into how these rulers transformed their courts into vibrant public spaces for the imagining, articulating, and debating of various ideas and ideals of kingship and sovereignty.

The course also attempts to understand kingship and courtly culture through gifts, rituals, etiquette, texts, etc. By the end of the semester, students will have a substantial understanding of various facets of sovereignty and court culture and the myriad ways modern scholars have looked at this rich and complex history.

Learning Outcomes:

- By the end of the semester, students will have a firm understanding of various facets of sovereignty and court culture (1400- 1700).
- Interpret kingship through historical and cultural lenses, and the political processes that provide a backdrop to the development of early modernity in South Asian history.
- Critically evaluate primary and secondary historical sources.
- Familiarity with the myriad ways modern scholars and historiography have looked at this rich and complex history.

- Developed capacity for critical engagement with and evaluation of historical literature and scholarship through reading, discussion, and group presentations.
- Acquire or significantly improve advanced academic writing and presentation skills.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Understanding Sovereignty and Court Culture: This Unit will help understand sovereignty and court culture at local, regional, and transregional levels. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: The Political and Cultural Evolution at Vijayanagar: This Unit discusses the cultural and political flowering of Vijayanagar. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Material Culture and Sovereignty: The Deccan Courts: This Unit focuses on Deccan courts with a thematic approach investigating sovereignty and material culture in terms of networks, friends, paintings, and architecture. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Imagining the Sovereigns and the Imperial Courts: This Unit examines imperial courts as dynamic spaces where meanings of kingship and sovereignty were imagined, articulated, and negotiated. It also explores the cultural norms associated with Mughal masculinity, refined deportment, and courtly civility to understand how authority and legitimacy were embodied and performed. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Understanding Sovereignty and Court Culture:

- Ali, Daud. “Kingship.” In *Brill’s Encyclopaedia of Hinduism*, 90–96. 2011.
- Balabanlilar, Lisa. “Divine Kingship and the Imperial Cult.” In *The Emperor Jahangir: Power and Kingship in Mughal India*, 83–95. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020.
- Flood, Finbarr B. “Cultural Cross-dressing.” In *Objects of Translation: Material Culture and Medieval ‘Hindu-Muslim’ Encounter*, 61–88. Princeton University Press, 2009.
- Gordon, Stewart. “Robes of Honour: A Transactional Kingly Ceremony.” *The Indian Economic and Social History Review* 33, no. 3 (1996): 225–242.
- Kumar, Sunil. “Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries CE.” In *Court Cultures in the Muslim World: Seventh to Nineteenth Centuries*, edited by Albrecht Fuess and Jan-Peter Hartung, 123–148. New York: Routledge, 2011.
- Majumdar, R. C. *The History and Culture of the Indian People*. Vol. VII: *The Mughal Empire*. Mumbai: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1974.
- Majumdar, R. C. *The Vijayanagara Empire*. Mumbai: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1960
- Moin, Azfar. “Introduction: Islam and Millennium.” In *The Millennial Sovereign: Sacred Kingship and Sainthood in Islam*, 1–22. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Nilakanta Sastri, K. A. *A History of South India*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1955.

- Richards, John F. “The Formulation of Imperial Authority under Akbar and Jahangir.” In *Kingship and Authority in South Asia*, edited by J. F. Richards. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Simmons, Caleb. “Introduction: Kingship and Sovereignty in Mysore.” In *Devotional Sovereignty: Kingship and Religion in India*, 1–30. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Unit 2: The Political and Cultural Evolution at Vijayanagar:

- Eaton, Richard M. *India in the Persianate Age, 1000–1765*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2019.
- Fritz, J. “Vijayanagara: Authority and Meaning of a South Indian Capital”. *American Anthropologist* 88(1), 1986: 44–55.
- Fritz, John M., and George Michell. “Interpreting the Plan of a Medieval Hindu Capital, Vijayanagara.” *World Archaeology* (1987): 105–129.
- Howes, Jennifer. “Vijayanagara and Madurai.” In *The Courts of Pre-Colonial South India: Material Culture and Kingship*, 27–70. London: Routledge, 2016.
- Lal, K. S. *Theory and Practice of Muslim State in India*. New Delhi: Aditya Prakashan, 1999.
- Rao, Velcheru Narayana, David Shulman, and Sanjay Subrahmanyam. *Symbols of Substance: Court and State in Nāyaka Period South India*. Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Wagoner, Philip B. “‘Sultan among the Hindu Kings’: Dress, Titles, and the Islamization of Hindu Culture at Vijayanagara.” *Journal of Asian Studies* 55, no. 4 (1996): 851–880.
- Wagoner, Philip B. “Harihara, Bukka, and the Sultan: The Delhi Sultanate in the Political Imagination of Vijayanagara.” In *Beyond Turk and Hindu: Rethinking Religious Identities in Islamicate South Asia*, edited by David Gilmartin and Bruce B. Lawrence, 300–326.

Unit 3: Material Culture and Sovereignty: The Deccan Courts:

- Eaton, Richard and Phillip Wagoner. *Power, Memory, Architecture: Contested Sites on India's Deccan Plateau, 1300–1600*. Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Flatt, Emma J. “Courts, Merchants and Traders.” In *The Courts of the Deccan Sultanates*, 120–164. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- Flatt, Emma J. “Networks, Patrons and Friends.” In *The Courts of the Deccan Sultanates*, 74–119. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- Flatt, Emma. “Practicing Music at the Deccan Sultanate Courts”. *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 24, no. 3. 2014.
- Howes, Jennifer. “Paintings in the Ramalinga Vilasam.” In *The Courts of Pre-Colonial South India: Material Culture and Kingship*, 90–126. London: Routledge, 2016.
- Howes, Jennifer. “Ramnad Palace.” In *The Courts of Pre-Colonial South India: Material Culture and Kingship*, 127–158. London: Routledge, 2016.

- Sarkar, Jadunath. *Studies in Mughal India*. Kolkata: M. C. Sarkar & Sons, 1919.

Unit 4: Imagining the Sovereigns and the Imperial Courts:

- Balabanlilar, Lisa. “The Peripatetic Court.” In *The Emperor Jahangir: Power and Kingship in Mughal India*, 125–137. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020.
- Hanlon, Rosalind. “Manliness and Imperial Service in Mughal North India.” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 42, no. 1 (1991): 47–110.
- Kapadia, Aparna. “The Last Cakravartin? The Gujarat Sultan as ‘Universal King’ in Fifteenth Century Sanskrit Poetry.” *The Medieval History Journal* 16 (2013): 63–88.
- Lal, K. S. *The Mughal Harem*. New Delhi: Aditya Prakashan, 1988.
- Latif, Mika. “Mughal Tolerance and the Encounters with Europe,” “Mughal Masters and European Art: Tradition and Innovation at the Royal Workshops,” and “European Articles in Mughal Painting.” In *Mughal Occidentalism: Artistic Encounters between Europe and Asia at the Courts of India, 1580–1630*, 48–57, 68–109, 110–134.
- Majumdar, R. C. *An Advanced History of India*. London: Macmillan, 1946.
- Mukhia, Harbans. “Etiquette and Empire” and “Folklore and the Mughal Court Culture.” In *The Mughals of India*, 72–112, 751–782. Blackwell Publishing, 2004.
- Ramaswamy, Sumathi. “Conceit of the Globe in Mughal Visual Practice.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 49, no. 4 (2007): 751–782.
- Richards, John F. “Norms of Comportment among Imperial Mughal Officers.” In *Moral Conduct and Authority: The Place of Adab in South Asian Islam*, edited by Barbara Metcalf. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Sarkar, Jadunath. *History of Aurangzib*. 5 vols. Kolkata: M. C. Sarkar & Sons, 1912–1924.
- Sreenivasan, Ramya. “Warrior-Tales at Hinterland Courts in North India, 1370–1550.” In *After Timur Left: Culture and Circulation in Fifteenth-Century North India*, edited by Francesca Orsini and Samira Sheikh, 219–245. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Truschke, Audrey. “Local Stories in Fourteenth Century Gujarat and Fifteenth-Century Kashmir.” In *The Language of History: Sanskrit Narratives of Muslim Past*, 72–107. New Delhi: Penguin, 2021.

Suggested Readings:

- Alam, Muzaffar, and Sanjay Subrahmanyam, eds. *The Mughal State, 1526–1750*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Balabanlilar, Lisa. “Lords of the Auspicious Conjunction: Turco-Mongol Imperial Identity on the Subcontinent.” *Journal of World History* 18, no. 1 (2007): 1–39.
- Balabanlilar, Lisa. “The Itinerant King.” In *The Emperor Jahangir: Power and Kingship in Mughal India*, 139–161. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020.
- Eaton, Richard M. *India in the Persianate Age, 1000–1765*, 23–36.
- Flatt, Emma. *The Courts of the Deccan Sultanates: Living Well in the Persian Cosmopolis*. Cambridge University Press, 2019.

- Geary, Patrick J. “Courtly Cultures: Western Europe, Byzantium, the Islamic World, India, China, and Japan.” In *The Cambridge World History*, vol. V, edited by Benjamin Z. Kedar and Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, 179–205. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.
- Hanlon, Rosalind. “Kingdom, Household and Body: History, Gender and Imperial Service under Akbar.” *Modern Asian Studies* 41, no. 5 (2007): 887–922.
- Hasan, Farhat. *State and Locality in Mughal India: Power Relations in Western India, c. 1572–1730*. Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Koch, Ebba. “The Mughal Audience Hall: A Solomonic Revival of Persepolis in the Form of a Mosque.” In *Royal Courts in Dynastic States and Empires*, edited by Jeroen Duindam et al. Brill, 2011.
- Kumar, Sunil. *The Emergence of the Delhi Sultanate, 1192–1286*. Permanent Black, 2010.
- Kumar, Sunil. “An Inconvenient Heritage: The Central Asian Background of the Delhi Sultans.” In *Asian Encounters*, edited by Upinder Singh and Parul P. Dhar, 86–106. Delhi, 2014.
- Simmons, Caleb. *Devotional Sovereignty: Kingship and Religion in India*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Streusand, Douglas E. “The Akbari Constitution.” In *The Formation of the Mughal Empire*, 123–153. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

Modern Indian History DSEs

DSE 22: The Rise of British Imperial and Colonial Power in India, 1707-1857**Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course**

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
The Rise of British Imperial and Colonial Power in India, 1757-1857.	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

This course critically examines the rise and establishment of British colonialism in India from the death of Aurangzeb to the Great Revolt of 1857. The objective of this course is to familiarize the students with the main commercial, political, military and ideological aspects of the rise, and establishment of, the English East India Company rule in India. An additional objective of this course is to decolonize our understanding British colonialism in India. Throughout the course the students will study the impact of British rule on India and the Indian reactions to this rule ranging across a variety of subjects. Students opting for an MA in modern history with specialization in papers on Indian history can consider this course as one of the foundation courses of the MA program in the Department of History which will prepare them for studying other modern history elective courses.

Learning Outcomes:

- The course will enable the students to understand the evolution of British colonialism in India.
- The students will understand key concepts of modern Indian history like Imperialism and Colonialism.
- The students will understand the superstructure of British Colonialism in India with respect to Indology, Orientalism and Utilitarianism.
- The students will also acquire a general holistic understanding of the subject of Modern Indian History.

Course content:

Unit 1: Mercantilism and Conquest: The Dutch and English Systems: In this Unit the students will be introduced to the various models of colonialism and taught the essentials of

colonial trade. They will familiarize themselves with the various problems faced by the European trading companies in India and the Indian Ocean World. The essential elements of the Dutch Colonial System will be explained to the students. The students will understand the fundamental cause of the colonial conquest of India which lay in the balance of payments crisis faced by the European trading companies in India. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: The Colonial Wars of Conquest: East, South, West and North India: This Unit will contain explanations of the various wars of conquest waged by the English East India Company in India between the 1750s and 1849. The causes and consequences of these wars of conquest form the political and economic bedrock of British colonialism in India. Without understanding this political and military history of rising British power in India no holistic understanding of British colonialism is possible. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Colonial ideology: Historiography, Indology, Orientalism and Utilitarianism: British colonial power was both material and ideological. British colonial policies in India emanated from the ideas of governance, civilization and reforms which conditioned the minds of the British rulers and large sections of the Indian elites. In addition, the students will learn the basic premises of colonialist historiography with its long-term intellectual influences in India in this Unit. They will understand the meaning of Indology, Orientalism and Utilitarian liberalism in the context of British colonial rule over India and its society. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Resistance to Company Rule: Select Mutinies and Popular Rebellions (Vellore, Barrackpore, Santhal Rebellion, Revolt of 1857): In this Unit students will learn to appreciate some Indian responses to British imperial policies specifically with reference to the colonial armed forces. British colonialism in India was an autocracy which rested on military force exercised by the three presidency armies of the East India Company. However, the relationship of the British officers and Indian soldiers in these armies was problematic and the colonial state could never take the loyalty of the latter for granted. The mutinies and revolts which occurred in the nineteenth century led to significant changes in British policies in India. The students will study the causes, consequences and nuances of these events in this Unit. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Mercantilism and Conquest: The Dutch and English Systems:

- Farooqui, Amar. *The Establishment of British Rule, 1757–1813*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2013 (pp. 1–20).
- Ludden, David. *India and South Asia: A Short History*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2002 (pp. 1–100).
- Nautiyal, Vishnu. *Plassey Se Parmanu Yuga: Adhunik Bharat ka Vrihat Itihas*. New Delhi: Rajkamal Prakashan, 2005 (pp. 1–40).
- Prakash, Om. *The Economic Encounter Between Asia and Europe, 1500–1800*. Surrey, England: Ashgate, 2014 (Part I: pp. 4–69, 331–356; Part II: pp. 1–17).

- Subramanian, Lakshmi. *History of India, 1707–1857*. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2010 (pp. 1–47).
- Subrahmanyam, Sanjay. *Connected Histories: Notes towards a Reconfiguration of Early Modern Eurasia*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Roy, Tirthankar. *India in the World Economy: From Antiquity to the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Panikkar, K. M. *Asia and Western Dominance: A Survey of the Vasco da Gama Epoch of Asian History, 1498–1945*. London: Allen & Unwin, 1953.

Unit 2: The Colonial Wars of Conquest: East, South, West and North India:

- Deshpande, Anirudh. “The Wars of the East India Company.” In *The International Encyclopaedia of War*, edited by Gordon Martel. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.
- Farooqui, Amar. *The Establishment of British Rule, 1757–1813*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2013 (pp. 7–53).
- Nautiyal, Vishnu. *Plassey Se Parmanu Yuga: Adhunik Bharat ka Vrihat Itihas*. New Delhi: Rajkamal Prakashan, 2005 (pp. 41–159).
- Subramanian, Lakshmi. *History of India, 1707–1857*. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2010 (pp. 47–85).
- Wilson, Jon. *India Conquered: Britain’s Raj and the Chaos of Empire*. London: Simon & Schuster, 2016 (pp. 82–121).
- Sarkar, Jadunath. *Military History of India*. Calcutta: Orient Longman, 1960.

Unit 3: Colonial ideology: Historiography, Indology, Orientalism and Utilitarianism:

- Aurobindo, Sri. *The Foundations of Indian Culture*. Pondicherry: Sri Aurobindo Ashram, 1953.
- Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi. *The Colonial State: Theory and Practice*. New Delhi: Primus Books, 2016 (25–27).
- Deshpande, Anirudh. *King, Country and War: Ideology, Memory and Written Indian History c. 1600–1900*. New Delhi: Primus Books, 2025 (pp. 2–38).
- Frykenberg, Robert Eric. *India’s History, India’s Raj*. New Delhi: Primus Books, 2024 (pp. 1–42).
- Metcalf, Thomas R. *Ideologies of the Raj*. The New Cambridge History of India. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995 (Introduction).
- Vanina, Eugenia. *History in History: Interpretations of the Indian Pasts*. Delhi: Primus Books, 2024 (Introduction; pp. 20–71).

Unit 4: Resistance to Company Rule: Select Mutinies and Popular Rebellions (Vellore, Barrackpore, Santhal Rebellion, Revolt of 1857):

- Chakravarty, Gautam. *The Indian Mutiny and the British Imagination*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005 (pp. 1–50; 127–156).

- David, Saul. *The Indian Mutiny, 1857*. London: Penguin, 2003 (pp. 1–165).
- Dempster, T. E. “The Barrackpore Mutiny of 1824.” *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research* 54, no. 217, Spring 1976 (pp. 3–13).
- Guha, Ranajit. *Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1999 (pp. 1–220).
- Gupta, Maya. *Lord William Bentinck in Madras and the Vellore Mutiny, 1803–7*. New Delhi: Capital Publishers & Distributors, 1986 (pp. 1–100).
- Majumdar, R. C. *The Sepoy Mutiny and the Revolt of 1857*. Calcutta: Firma KLM, 1957.
- Savarkar, Vinayak Damodar. *The Indian War of Independence, 1857*. New Delhi: Publications Division, Government of India, 2009.

Suggested Readings:

- Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications, 2015.
- Barnett, Richard. *Rethinking Early Modern India*. New Delhi: Manohar, 2002.
- Bayly, C. A. *Imperial Meridian: The British Empire and the World 1780–1830*. London: Longman, 1989.
- Dasgupta, S. *In Defence of Honour and Justice: Sepoy Rebellions in the Nineteenth Century*. New Delhi: Primus, 2015.
- Figueira, Dorothy M. *Aryans, Jews, Brahmins: Theorizing Authority Through Myths of Identity*. New Delhi: Navayana, 2015.
- Guha, Ranajit. *Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1983.
- Hobsbawm, Eric. *Nations and Nationalism since 1780*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Kennedy, Paul. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000*. New York: Random House, 1987.
- Lawson, Philip. *The East India Company: A History*. London: Longman, 1993.
- Malcolm, John. *Political History of British India from 1784 to 1823*. New Delhi: Associated Publishing House, 1970.
- Mani, B. R. *Debrahmanising History: Dominance and Resistance in Indian Society*. Delhi: Manohar, 2007.
- Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *On Colonialism*. Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1976 (pp. 45–87).
- Peers, Douglas. *India under Colonial Rule, 1700–1885*. London: Longman, 2006.
- Raychaudhuri, Tapan. *Perceptions, Emotions, Sensibilities: Essays on India’s Colonial and Post-Colonial Experiences*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005. (pp. 155–172).
- Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. New Delhi: Penguin, 2001.
- Wickremesekera, Channa. *Best Black Troops in the World: British Perceptions and the Making of the Sepoy, 1746–1805*. New Delhi: Manohar, 2002.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 23: Some Aspects of the Cultural Histories of Colonial India: The Visual and the Aural

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Some Aspects of the Cultural Histories of Colonial India: The Visual and the Aural	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives: This course will introduce students to some aspects of the cultural histories of colonial and postcolonial India with a particular focus on the visual and the aural. Students will be introduced to key historical and historiographical texts that study cultural forms as embedded in social and political histories including those of nationalism and colonialism.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students would

- Understand key historiographical debates on cultural history in India.
- Understanding how culture has been shaped by modernity, colonialism and nationalism.
- Understand how historians have researched and theorized non-textual (visual and aural) aspects of culture.
- Understand how societies are, and have been, shaped by images and sounds.

Course Contents:

Unit 1: The Arrival of Photography in India: This Unit examines the relationship between photography and colonial rule, focusing on how visual technologies shaped knowledge, governance, and representation in colonial contexts. It explores photography as an instrument of imperial power and a medium through which colonized subjects were classified and controlled. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: The Performing Arts and Indian Nationalism: Classical Music and Dance: This Unit examines the role of nationalism in shaping the categories of “classical” music and dance in modern India. It explores how colonial modernity, reform movements, and cultural nationalism contributed to the reconfiguration of performance traditions and aesthetic hierarchies. It draws attention to issues of gender, caste, and social respectability in the reconstitution of performance culture. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Popular Visual Cultures in Colonial India: This Unit examines the emergence of popular visual cultures in colonial India, with particular attention to print media, calendar art, and nationalist iconography. It explores how visual forms participated in shaping ideas of gender, religion, and the nation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Unit also considers the circulation and reception of images across different publics, highlighting the intersections of aesthetics, commerce, and politics. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Radio and Cinema in Colonial India: This Unit deals with the evolution of radio and cinema in colonial and postcolonial India. It examines how radio and cinema shaped public life and everyday culture. It also examines the role of media institutions and technologies in shaping forms of communication and cultural production. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: The Arrival of Photography in India:

- Chaudhary, Zahid R. *Afterimage of Empire: Photography in Nineteenth-Century India*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012.
- Edwards, Steve. “Photography in Colonial India.” In *Empire and Art: British India*, edited by R. Dohmen, 111–43. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2017.
- Gutman, Judith Mara. “Through Indian Eyes.” In *Illuminations*, 427–34. London: Routledge, 2021.
- Harris, Clare. *Photography and Tibet*. London: Reaktion Books, 2016.
- Johnson, William. *The Oriental Races and Tribes, Residents and Visitors of Bombay: A Series of Photographs with Letter Press Descriptions*. London: W. J. Johnson, 1863.
- Pachau, Joy L. K. *The Camera as Witness: A Social History of Mizoram, North East India*. Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2015.
- Pinney, Christopher. *Camera Indica: The Social Life of Indian Photographs*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997.
- Pinney, Christopher. *The Coming of Photography to India*. London: The British Library, 2008.
- Ryan, James R. *Picturing Empire: Photography and the Visualization of the British Empire*. London: Reaktion Books, 1997.
- Tagg, John. *The Burden of Representation: Essays on Photographies and Histories*. Basingstoke: Macmillan Education, 1988.

Unit 2: Performing Arts and Indian Nationalism: Music and Dance:

- Bakhle, Janaki. *Two Men and Music: Nationalism in the Making of an Indian Classical Tradition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

- Chakravorty, Pallabi. “Hegemony, Dance and Nation: The Construction of the Classical Dance in India.” *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 21, no. 2, 1998 (pp. 107–20).
- Dennen, David. “The Third Stream: Oḍiśī Music, Regional Nationalism, and the Concept of ‘Classical’.” *Asian Music* 41, no. 2, 2010 (pp. 149–79).
- Karpuria, Radha. *Music in Colonial Punjab: Courtesans, Bards and Connoisseurs, 1800–1947*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.
- Niranjana, T. (ed.). *Music, Modernity, and Publicness in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2020
- Schofield, Katherine Butler. “Reviving the Golden Age Again: ‘Classicization,’ Hindustani Music, and the Mughals.” *Ethnomusicology* 54, no. 3, 2010 (pp. 484–517).
- Soneji, Daves. *Unfinished Gestures: Devadāsīs, Memory, and Modernity in South India*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2012.
- Subramanian, Lakshmi. *From the Tanjore Court to the Madras Music Academy: A Social History of Music in South India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Weidman, Amanda. *Singing the Classical, Voicing the Modern: The Postcolonial Politics of Music in South India*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006.

Unit 3: Popular Visual Cultures in Colonial India:

- Ghosh, Sanmita. “‘Bharat Mata’ and ‘Ma Victoria’: Forms of Divine Motherhood in Colonial Bengal.” *Indian Historical Review* 47, no. 2 (2020): 296–312.
- Guha-Thakurta, Tapati “Raja Ravi Varma and the Project of a New National Art.” In *Raja Ravi Varma: New Perspectives*, edited by R.C. Sharma and Rupika Chawla. New Delhi: National Museum, 1993 (pp. 96-102).
- Guha-Thakurta, Tapati “Visualizing the Nation: The Iconography of a 'National Art' in Modern India.” *Journal of Art and Ideas* 27–28, 1995 (pp. 7–41).
- Guha-Thakurta, Tapati. “Women as ‘Calendar Art’ Icons: Emergence of Pictorial Stereotype in Colonial India.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 26, no. 43, 1991. (pp. 91–99).
- Jain, Kajri. *Gods in the Bazaar: The Economies of Indian Calendar Art*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.
- Jain, Kajri. *Gods in the Time of Democracy*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2021.
- Mitter, Partha. *Art and Nationalism in Colonial India, 1850–1922: Occidental Orientations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.
- Pinney, Christopher. *Photos of the Gods: The Printed Image and Political Struggle in India*. London: Reaktion Books, 2004.
- Ramaswamy, Sumathi (ed.). *Beyond Appearances? Visual Practices and Ideologies in Modern India*. New Delhi: SAGE Publications, 2002.
- Ramaswamy, Sumathi. “Maps and Mother Goddesses in Modern India.” *Imago Mundi* 53, 2001 (pp. 97–114).

- Tirkey, Isha. “‘To Instil the Feeling of Patriotism’: Bharat Mata Temples in the Construction of the Religion of Nationalism in India.” *National Identities* 26, no. 2 (2024): 193–215.
- Uberoi, Patricia. “Feminine Identity and National Ethos in Indian Calendar Art.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 25, no. 17, 1990 (pp. 41–48).
- Vishwanathan, Kedar. “Aesthetics, Nationalism, and the Image of Woman in Modern Indian Art.” *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 12, no. 2, 2010 (pp. 4).

Unit 4: Radio and Cinema:

- Alonso, Isabel Huacuja. *Radio for the Millions: Hindi-Urdu Broadcasting Across Borders*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2023.
- Chowdhry, Prem. *Colonial India and the Making of Empire Cinema: Image, Ideology and Identity*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2000.
- Dickey, Sara. *Cinema and the Urban Poor in South India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Dwyer, Rachel, and Christopher Pinney, eds. *Pleasure and the Nation: The History, Politics and Consumption of Public Culture in India*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Jaikumar, Priya. *Cinema at the End of Empire: A Politics of Transition in Britain and India*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005.
- Lelyveld, David. “Upon the Subdominant: Administering Music on All-India Radio.” *Social Text*, no. 39, 1994 (pp. 111–26).
- Manuel, Peter. *Cassette Culture: Popular Music and Technology in North India*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993.
- Mukherjee, Debashree. *Bombay Hustle: Making Movies in a Colonial City*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2020.
- Prasad, M. Madhava. “The Natives Are Looking: Cinema and Censorship in Colonial India.” In *Law's Moving Image*, 161–72. London: Routledge-Cavendish, 2012.
- Deshpande, Anirudh. *Class, Power and Consciousness in Indian Cinema and Television*. New Delhi. Primus, 2009.

Suggested Readings:

- Bhargubanda, Uma. *Deities and Devotees: Cinema, Religion, and Politics in South India*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.
- Chakravarty, Sumita. *National Identity in Indian Popular Cinema: 1947–1987*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Deshpande, Anirudh & Kamble, Anagha (eds.). *Critical Social Science Perspectives on Indian Cinema*. New Delhi: Routledge, 2026.
- Jain, Jyotindra, ed. *India's Popular Culture: Iconic Spaces and Fluid Images*. Mumbai: Marg Foundation, 2008.

- Manuel, Peter. “The Intermediate Sphere in North Indian Music Culture: Between and Beyond ‘Folk’ and ‘Classical.’” *Ethnomusicology* 59, no. 1 (2015): 82–115.
- Mazumdar, Ranjani. *Bombay Cinema: An Archive of the City*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007.
- Schofield, Katherine Butler. *Music and Musicians in Late Mughal India: Histories of the Ephemeral, 1748–1858*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Srinivas, S.V. *Politics as Performance: A Social History of the Telugu Cinema*. Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2018.
- Tasveer Ghar. “Tasveer Ghar.” Accessed March 22, 2026.
- Vasudevan, Ravi, ed. *Making Meaning in Indian Cinema*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Viridi, Jyotika. *The Cinematic Imagination: Indian Popular Films as Social History*. New Delhi: Permanent Black, 2004.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 24: Revolutionaries in India's Struggle for Freedom**Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course**

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Revolutionaries in India's Struggle for Freedom	4	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

There were multiple ways in which Indians waged struggles against the colonial regime. Revolutionary nationalists formed an indispensable part of this resistance. From the latter part of the 19th century, through a deeply-felt realization about the servitude of the motherland, and moved by intense yearning for liberty, a series of revolutionary protests and actions worked to enthuse and inspire a sizeable segment of population. Pitted against the mighty British empire and its growing surveillance and repression, these organizations and individuals inspired patriotism among the people. This course aims to equip students with a nuanced understanding of the ideas and activities of these individuals and groups in the national and international contexts.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able:

- To develop a holistic understanding of different strategies of gaining freedom from the colonial rule and place revolutionary movements in proper perspective.
- To explain the background and intellectual underpinnings which inspired individuals and organizations to develop deep-rooted patriotism and stand up selflessly against the mighty British empire.
- To understand the structure and objectives of revolutionary organizations and their global networks and work among the Indian diaspora.
- To comprehend the nature of colonial surveillance and repression and underline the inspiring stories of revolutionary men and women.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Intellectual Foundations and Early Trends: Intellectual foundations: the impact of 1857, writings of Bankimchandra, Vivekananda, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Aurobindo, Lajpat Rai, Hemchandra Kanungo and others; Impact of international revolutionary movements, Early revolutionary thought, organizations and nationalists: Vasudeo Balwant Phadke, Chapekar Brothers, Abhinav Bharat, Anushilan and Jugantar. Swadeshi movement, secret societies. **(12 hours)**

Unit 2: Growth of Revolutionary Nationalism and Global Networks: Global Revolutionary Networks; India House in London and associated activities; Ghadar Movement, Indian Diaspora; World War I and international conspiracies; role of Shyamji Krishnavarma, V.D. Savarkar, Lala Hardayal, Bhikaji Cama, Sohan Singh Bhakna and others. **(12 hours)**

Unit 3: Mature Phase: Ghadar movement to the Second World War: Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) and Bhagat Singh: Bhagat Singh's writings, revolutionary upsurge, court statements, martyrdom; Revolutionary Ideology and objectives; Chandrashekhar Azad, Sukhdev, Batukeshwar Dutt, Barkatullah, Ashfaqullah; Kakori Conspiracy Case, Chittagong Armoury Raid etc. **(12 hours)**

Unit 4: Surveillance and Repression, Imagery of Revolutionaries, Women revolutionaries: Surveillance and repression: CID reports, colonial intelligence, detention camps, prison life, trials: Meerut Conspiracy Case; imagery of revolutionaries and post-colonial appropriation; Women in revolutionary movements: Participation of figures like Bhikaji Cama, Kalpana Dutt, Pritilata Waddadar, Durgawati Devi and others. **(12 hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Intellectual Foundations and Early Trends:

- Ghosh, Aurobindo. *Speeches: On Indian Politics and National Education*. Puducherry: Aurobindo Ashram, 1922.
- Heehs, Peter. *The Bomb in Bengal: The Rise of Revolutionary Terrorism in India, 1900–1910*. Delhi: OUP, 1993.
- Joshi, V.S. *Vasudeo Balvant Phadke: First Rebel against the British Rule*. Mumbai: D.S. Marathe, 1959.
- Kanungo, Hemchandra. *An Account of the Revolutionary Movement in Bengal*. Calcutta: National Book Agency, 1928.
- Majumdar, Bimanbehari. *Militant Nationalism in India and Its Socio-Religious Background (1897–1917)*. Kolkata: General Printers & Publishers, 1966.
- Majumdar, R.C., ed. *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol. 11: *Struggle for Freedom*. Mumbai: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 2003 (first edition 1969) (Chapters 3 and 8).
- Mukherjee, Haridas, and Uma Mukherjee. *'Bande Mataram' and Indian Nationalism (1906–1908)*. Kolkata: Firma K.L. Mukhopadhyay, 1957.
- Mukherjee, Uma. *Two Great Indian Revolutionaries: Ras Behari Bose and Jyotindranath Mukherjee*. Kolkata: Firma K.L. Mukhopadhyay, 1966.
- Sarkar, Sumit. *Swadeshi Movement in Bengal 1903–1908*. New Delhi: PPH, 1973 (Chapters 2 and 9).

Unit 2: Growth of Revolutionary Nationalism and Global Network:

- Bose, Arun Coomer. *Indian Revolutionaries Abroad: 1905-1922: In the Background of International Developments*, Patna: Bharati Bhavan, 1971.

- Brown, Emily C. *Har Dayal: Hindu Revolutionary and Rationalist*. Delhi: Manohar Books, 1975.
- Datta, V.N. *Madan Lal Dhingra and the Revolutionary Movement*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House, 1978.
- Fischer-Tine, Harald. *Shyamji Krishnavarma: Sanskrit, Sociology and Anti Imperialism*. Delhi: Routledge, 2014.
- Josh, Sohan Singh. *Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna: Life of the Founder of the Ghadar Party*. New Delhi: PPH, 1970.
- Puri, Harish K. *Ghadar Movement: Ideology, Organisation & Strategy*. Amritsar: Guru Nanak Dev University Press, 1983.
- Ramnath, Maia. *Haj to Utopia: How the Ghadar Movement Charted Global Radicalism and Attempted to Overthrow the British Empire*, Berkley: University of California Press, 2011 (Chapters 1-4).
- Sampath, Vikram. *Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past 1883-1924*, Gurugram: Penguin India, 2019 (Chapters 3-6).
- झा, भुवन कुमार. 'श्यामजी कृष्णवर्मा और प्रवासी भारतीय क्रांतिकारी संरचना', *लमही* (विशेषांक: प्रतिबंध और प्रतिरोध 1850-1947), 16 (4), April-June 2024 (pp. 41-65).

Unit 3: The Mature Phase: Ghadar movement to the Second World War:

- Chatterjee, Manini. *Do and Die: The Chittagong Uprising 1930–34*. Penguin Books, 1999.
- Ghosh, Durba, *Gentlemanly Terrorists: Political Violence and the Colonial State in India, 1919–1947*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017 (Chapters 3–4).
- Grewal, J.S. ed. *Bhagat Singh and His Legend*. Patiala: World Punjabi Centre Punjabi University, 2008.
- Lal, Chaman, ed. *The Bhagat Singh Reader*. Gurugram: HarperCollins, 2019.
- Maclean, Kama. *A Revolutionary History of Interwar India: Violence, Image, Voice and Text*. New York: OUP, 2015 (Chapters 1-3).
- Majumdar, R.C. ed. *The History and Culture of the Indian People*, Vol.11: *Struggle for Freedom*, Mumbai: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 2003. (first edition 1969) (Chapter 22).
- Sanyal, Sanjeev. *Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom*. Gurugram: HarperCollins, 2023 (Chapters 5-7).
- बिस्मिल, रामप्रसाद. *आत्मकथा: निज जीवन की एक छटा*, नयी दिल्ली: पेंगुइन, 2025
- सान्याल, शचीन्द्रनाथ. *बंदी जीवन: उत्तर भारत में क्रांति का उद्योग* (संपादक: बनारसीदास चतुर्वेदी). दिल्ली: आत्माराम एंड संस, 1963.
- सिंह, जगमोहन और चमन लाल. *भगत सिंह और उनके साथियों के दस्तावेज़*. नयी दिल्ली, 1983.

Unit 4: Surveillance and Repression, Imagery of Revolutionaries, Women revolutionaries:

- Barrier, N. Gerald. *Banned: Controversial Literature and Political Control in British India, 1907-47*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1974.

- Chattopadhyaya, Kamaladevi. *Indian Women's Battle for Freedom*. New Delhi: Abhinav Publications, 1983.
- Dutt, Kalpana. *Chittagong Armoury Raiders: Reminiscences*. Kolkata: National Book Agency, 1963.
- Dutt, Ullaskar. *Twelve Years of Prison Life*, Kolkata: Arya Publishing House, 1924
- Forbes, Geraldine. *Women in Modern India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008 (Chapter 5).
- Ghosh, Durba. *Gentlemanly Terrorists: Political Violence and the Colonial State in India, 1919–1947*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017 (Chapters 5–6).
- Kaur, Manmohan. *Women in India's Freedom Struggle*. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 1968.
- Maclean, Kama. "The Portrait's Journey: The Image, Social Communication and Martyr-Making in Colonial India" in *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 70 (4), November 2011 (pp. 105-1082).
- Moffat, Chris. *India's Revolutionary Inheritance: Politics and the Promise of Bhagat Singh*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- Nanda, Savitri Devi. *Women in the Freedom Movement*. New Delhi: Publication Division, Government of India, 1962.
- Raza, Ali. *Revolutionary Pasts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. (Chapter 4)
- Saha, Panchanan. *Madam Cama (Bhikaji Rustom K.R.): Mother of Indian Revolution*. Kolkata: Manisha Granthalaya, 1975.
- Sanyal, Sanjeev. *Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom*. New Delhi: HarperCollins, 2022.
- Vohra, Asha Rani. *Nari Vidroh ke Bharatiya Manch*. Delhi: National Publishing House, 1972.

Suggested Readings:

- Barooah, Nirode K. *Chatto: Life and times of an Indian anti-imperialist*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Bhattacharyya, Buddhadeva (ed.). *Freedom Struggle and Anushilan Samiti*, Vol.1. Kolkata: Anushilan Samiti, 1979 (Chapters 1-3).
- Bismil, Ram Prasad. *Musings from the Gallows: Autobiography of Ram Prasad Bismil*, Chandigarh: Unistar Books, 2007 (translated by Rajinder Singh)
- Cao, Yin. "Bombs in Beijing and Delhi: The Global Spread of Bomb Making Technology and Revolutionary Terrorism in Modern China and India" in *Journal of World History*, 30 (4), 2019 (pp.559-589).
- Chakraborty, Trailokyanath. *Thirty Years in Prison: Sensational Confessions of a Revolutionary*. Kolkata: Alpha-Beta Publications, 1963.
- Chatterji, Jogesh Chandra. *In Search for Freedom*. Kolkata: Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee, 1958.
- Chopra, Prabha and P.N. Chopra. *Forgotten Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle: A Who's Who (British Secret Documents)*. Delhi: Agam Prakashan, 1992.

- Dhanagare, D.N. *Peasant Movements in India, 1920-1950*, New York: OUP, 1983
- Dharmavira. *Lala Har Dayal and Revolutionary Movements of His Time*, New Delhi: Indian Book Company, 1970.
- Gordon, Leonard A. *Bengal: The Nationalist Movement, 1876-1940*. Delhi: Manohar Books, 1974 (Chapters 3-5).
- Gupta, Manmathnath. *History of the Indian Revolutionary Movement*. Mumbai: Somajya Publications, 1972.
- Heehs, Peter. “Foreign Influences on Bengali Revolutionary Terrorism 1902-1908” in *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 28, No. 3, 1994 (pp. 533-556).
- Manjapra, Kris. “Knowledgeable Internationalism and the Swadeshi Movement, 1903-1921” in *Economic and Political Weekly*, 47 (42), October 2012 (pp.53-62).
- Mukherjee, Amitabha. *Militant Nationalism in India 1876-1947*. Kolkata: Institute of Historical Studies, 1959.
- Mukherjee, Prithwindra. *Bagha Jatin: Life and Times of Jatindranath Mukherjee*. New Delhi: National Book Trust, 2017.
- Owen, Nicholas. “The Soft Heart of the British Empire: Indian radicals in Edwardian London” in *Past and Present* 220 (1), 2013 (pp.143-184).
- Sareen, Tilak Raj. *Indian Revolutionary Movement Abroad (1905-1921)*. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers, 1979.
- Savarkar, Vinayak Damodar. *The Indian War of Independence 1857*. Facsimile Publisher, 2020.
- Zachariah, Benjamin. “A Long, Strange Trip: The lives in exile of Har Dayal” in *South Asian History and Culture*, 4(4), 2013 (pp. 574–592)
- गुप्त मन्मथनाथ. *क्रांतिकारी आंदोलन का वैचारिक इतिहास*. नयी दिल्ली: निधि प्रकाशन, 1980.
- धर्मवीर. *भाई परमानन्द एवं उनका युग*,. दिल्ली:भाई परमानन्द स्मारक समिति, 1981.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 26: The Colonial Economy in India: 1757-1857

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
The Colonial Economy in India: 1757-1857	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

This course studies the significant aspects of the Indian economy under the English East India Company Rule, 1750-1850. It introduces students to the fundamental economic transformation of India brought about by British colonialism with respect to agriculture, artisanal activity, trade, labour and law. It also raises methodological issues pertinent to the study of the market, economic production and their relationship with the colonial state.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students would:

- Understand the emergence of modern institutions such as the state and market in colonial India
- Understand the relationship between political conquest, economy, law and economic practices.
- Understand the impact of colonial policies on the economic activities of various communities in the Indian subcontinent
- Be able to read and analyse select primary sources.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Methodological Approaches to Economic History: In this Unit students will study the methodological issues pertinent to Economic History as well as the recent literature on the position of the Indian subcontinent in the global economy of the 18th century. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: The English East India Company: Trade, Conquest and Sovereignty: In this Unit students will study the nature of the English East India Company, the historical relationship between trade and conquest in the 18th century, the economic effects of colonialism on weavers and merchants, as well as the responses of these communities. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: Land Revenue Settlements, ‘Proprietary Right’ and Commercial Agriculture: In this Unit students will study the relationship between sovereignty and property in the form of land revenue settlements, commercial agriculture and the varied responses, including rebellion, to such changes by different communities in different regions. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: Forms of Labour and Labour Control: This Unit analyses labour and colonial law. It addresses questions pertinent to slavery, agrestic servitude, debt bondage, indentured labour and penal colonies. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Methodological Approaches to Economic History:

- Habib, Irfan. “Studying a Colonial Economy without Perceiving Colonialism”, *Modern Asian Studies*, 19 (3), 1985.
- Hayek, Fredrick. *Road to Serfdom*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994, Chapters 3–7.
- Ingham, G. *The Nature of Money*, London: Polity Press, 2004, Parts 1–2.
- Kumar, Dharma, ed. *Cambridge Economic History of India, Vol. II*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983, Selections.
- Parthasarathi, Prasannan. *Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia Did Not*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011, Chapters 1–4.
- Perlin, Frank. “Proto-Industrialization and Pre-colonial South Asia”, *Past and Present*, No. 98, 1983.
- Perlin, Frank. “State Formation Reconsidered”, *Modern Asian Studies*, 19 (3), 1985.
- Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation*, Boston: Beacon Press, 1963, Part 2.

Unit 2: The English East India Company: Trade, Conquest and Sovereignty:

- Chatterjee, Kumkum. *Merchants, Politics and Society in Early Modern India*, Leiden: Brill, 1996.
- Chaudhuri, Sushil. *From Prosperity to Decline*, New Delhi: Manohar, 1996.
- Gupta, A.D. *The World of the Indian Ocean Merchant*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2001, Part I.
- Hossain, Hameeda. *The Company Weavers of Bengal*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Lawson, P. *East India Company: A History*, New York: Longman, 1993.
- Parthasarathi, Prasannan. *The Transition to a Colonial Economy: Weavers, Merchants and Kings in South India, 1720–1800*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Prakash, Om. *Bullion for Goods*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2004.
- S. Agha and E. Kolsky, ed. *Fringes of Empire*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Unit 3: Land Revenue Settlements, ‘Proprietary Right’ and Commercial Agriculture

- Bayly, C. A. *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

- Chaudhury, B.B. *Growth of Commercial Agriculture in Bengal 1757-1900*, Calcutta: Indian Studies Past and Present, 1964.
- Dutt, R. Palme. *India Today*. London: Victor Gollancz, 1940.
- Govind, Rahul. “Revenue Rent. Profit: Early British Imperialism, Political Economy and the Search for a Differentia Specifica (inter se)”, *IESHR*, 48 (2), 2011.
- Guha, Ranajit. *A Rule of Property in Bengal: An Essay on the Idea of Permanent Settlement*, Paris: Mouton, 1963.
- Iliopoulou, Despina. “The Uncertainty of Private Property”, *Dialectical Anthropology*, 26 (1), March 2001, pp. 65-88.
- Irshick, Eugene. *Dialogue and History*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994.
- Kaviraj, Narahari. *A Peasant Uprising in Bengal, 1783*, Delhi: Peoples Publishing House, 1972.
- Misra, Sanghamitra. *The Long Conquest*, New Delhi: Routledge, 2024 [Chapters 1-4].
- Ray, Ratnalekha. *Change in Bengal Agrarian Society, c.1760-1850*, Delhi: Manohar, 1979.
- Robb, Peter. *Agrarian Development in Colonial India: The British and Bihar*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2021.
- Siddiqi, Asiya. *Agrarian Change in a Northern Indian State: Uttar Pradesh, 1819-1833*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1973.
- Sivaramakrishnan, K. *Modern Forests*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999 [Chapters 1-4].

Unit 4: Forms of Labour and Labour Control:

- Anderson, Clare. “Convicts and Coolies: Rethinking Indentured Labour in the Nineteenth Century”, *A Journal of Slave and Post-Slave Studies*, 30 (1), 2009.
- Cassels, N.G. *Social Legislation of the East India Company*, Delhi: Sage, 2010, [Chapter 3].
- Patnaik, Utsa and Dingwaney, ed. *Chains of Servitude: Bondage and Slavery in India*, Hyderabad: Sangam Books, 1985.
- Prakash, Gyan, ed. *The World of the Rural Labourer*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Ranade, M. G. *Essays on Indian Economics*. Madras: G. A. Natesan & Co., 1898.
- Robb, Peter. *Dalit Movements and the Meanings of Labour in India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Tinker, Hugh. *A New System of Slavery: The Export of Indian Labour Overseas, 1830–1920*. London: Oxford University Press, 1974.

Suggested Readings:

- Bannerjee, Prathama. *Politics of Time*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006, [Chapter 3].
- Bauer, Rolf. *The Peasant Production of Opium in Nineteenth-Century India*, Leiden: Brill, 2019.
- Bowen, H.V. *Revenue and Reform*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

- Deo, Vishal Singh. “The Empire's Famine: Colonial Property and the Making of a Punitive Labour Regime in India 1803–1870”, *Studies in People's History*, 11 (1), 2024.
- D'Souza, R. *Drowned and Damned*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Farooqui, Amar. *Smuggling as Subversion*, New Delhi: New Age International, 1998.
- Islam, Sirajul. *The Permanent Settlement in Bengal*, Dacca: Bangla Academy, 1979.
- Kulge, A.K. “Framed, Blamed and Renamed: The Recasting of Islamic Jurisprudence in Colonial South Asia”, *Modern Asian Studies*, 35 (2), 2001.
- Ludden, David. *Early Capitalism and Local History in Southern India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Stokes, Eric. *English Utilitarians and India*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1959.
- Travers, Robert. *Empire of Complaints*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020, [chapters 2-4].
- Wilson, Jon. “A Thousand Countries to go to”, *Past and Present*, 189, 2005, pp. 81–109.
- Wilson, Jon. *The Domination of Strangers*, New York: Palgrave, 2008.
- Wink, A. *Land and Sovereignty in India*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.
- Yazdani, Kaveh. *India, Modernity and the Great Divergence*, London: Brill, 2017.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 27: Strategies of Imperial Control, 1857–1939

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practie		
Strategies of Imperial Control, 1857–1939	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

This paper is designed to equip students with an in-depth understanding of the nature of colonial governance, the mechanisms by which authority was exercised, the strategies employed to legitimise it, and the disciplinary apparatus used to regulate colonial subjects. The course will engage with key historiographical approaches and scholarly debates, particularly those concerning sovereignty, while integrating perspectives from administrative and military histories. Special attention will be given to the ideological underpinnings of colonial rule, especially the role of racial ideologies, to analyse the complex interrelations between state formation, social structures, political thought, and colonial power in late nineteenth and early twentieth-century India.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an informed understanding of the key debates concerning the characterisation of the colonial state and engage critically with the historiography surrounding the concept of sovereignty.
- Identify and analyse the structural features and functions of major institutions of colonial governance, particularly the bureaucracy and the military, during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- Assess the strategies the colonial state deployed to legitimise its authority viz the role of coercive practices.
- Examine the processes through which segments of Indian society were or co-opted the colonial administration.
- Evaluate the various models of colonial administration, with particular emphasis on the widespread adoption of indirect rule as a mechanism of governance.

Course Content:

Unit 1: The Colonial State in the nineteenth century: This Unit will cover the administrative changes after the 1857 revolt, examine the structure of governance, and introduce students to writings on the colonial legitimisation processes and the ideas of sovereignty. **(12 hours).**

Unit 2: The Bureaucratic Apparatus: Recruitment and Training; The ‘Indianization’ question: This Unit will examine the bureaucratic apparatus of the colonial state, tracing the transformation in the recruitment, training, and social composition of the higher civil services. The Unit will also explore the ‘Indianization’ of the higher civil services post-World War I. **(12 hours).**

Unit 3: The Army: recruitment of *sipahis*; ‘Martial Races’ and the colonial ideology; Question of King’s Commissions for Indians in the Army: This Unit will discuss the reorganisation of the colonial army after the 1857 revolt. Central to the discussion are the colonial ideas and ideology of race that shaped the doctrine of ‘martial races’ by the 1880s. The Unit will analyse the colonial discourse of the ‘martial races’, and its impact on some Indian communities. This Unit also examines issues of recruiting Indians as King’s commissioned officers in the colonial Indian Army. **(12 hours)**

Unit 4: Contesting sovereignty and transforming spaces: Princely States and ‘Indirect Rule’; Transformations in the colonial urban space and the creation of new imperial capital: This Unit explores colonial policy towards princely states and examines ‘indirect’ rule as a mode of colonial governance. The colonial construction of a ‘feudal’ hierarchy incorporating princely states as ‘little kingdoms’ is taught in some detail. The Unit also discusses imperial imperatives, ideas, and policies that wrought significant changes in urban planning after 1857. **(12 hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: The Colonial State in the nineteenth century, before and after the revolt:

- Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi, "The Colonial State: Theory and Practice," Proceedings of the Indian History Congress 65 (2004): 1-31.
- Buckler, F. W. "The Political Theory of the Indian Mutiny." Transactions of the Royal Historical Society, 1922.
- Dewar, Douglas, H. L. Garrett, and F. W. Buckler. "A Reply and with a Rejoinder." Transactions of the Royal Historical Society, 1924.
- Downs, Troy. "Bengal Regulation 10 of 1804 and Martial Law in British Colonial India." Law and History Review 40 2022, 1.
- Farooqui, Amar. "Governance, Corporate Interest and Colonialism: The Case of the East India Company." Social Scientist 35, nos. 9–10, 2007.
- Gopal, S. *British Policy in India 1858–1905*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1965.
- Govind, R. "The King’s Plunder, the King’s Justice: Sovereignty in British India, 1756–76." Indian Economic & Social History Review 59, no. 4 2022. pp 405–30.

- Kumar, A. “Trial as a Tool of Colonialism: The 1858 Trial of Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar.” *International Criminal Law Review* 22, nos. 1–2 2022. pp - 166–88.
- Majumdar, R. C. *British Paramountcy and Indian Renaissance*. Bombay: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1965.
- Minault, Gail. “The Emperor’s Old Clothes: Robing and Sovereignty in Late Mughal and Early British India.” In *Robes of Honour: Khil’at in Pre-colonial and Colonial India*, edited by Stewart Gordon, [page range, if available]. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Sengupta, S. “The Sovereign Exception.” *Social Scientist* 46, nos. 5–6 2018, 21–38.

Unit 2: The Bureaucratic Apparatus: Recruitment and Training; The ‘Indianization’ question:

- Beaglehole, T. H. “From Rulers to Servants: The ICS and the Demission of Power in India.” *Modern Asian Studies* 11, no. 2 1977 pp.237–55.
- Cohn, Bernard. “The Recruitment and Training of British Civil Servants.” In *An Anthropologist among the Historians*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Cohn, Bernard. *Colonialism and Its Forms of Knowledge*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.
- Compton, J. M. “Open Competition and the Indian Civil Service, 1854–1876.” *English Historical Review* 83, no. 327, 1968 pp.265–84.
- Farooqui, A. *The Colonial Subjugation of India*. Mumbai: Aleph Book Company, 2022, Select Chapters
- Hogben, Murray W. “An Imperial Dilemma: The Reluctant Indianization of the Indian Political Service.” *Modern Asian Studies* 15, no. 4 1981, pp .751–69.
- Mason, Philip. *The Men Who Ruled India*. London: Jonathan Cape, 1953.
- Misra, B. B. *The Indian Civil Service and the Indian National Movement*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977.
- Potter, David. “Manpower Shortage and the End of Colonialism: The Case of the Indian Civil Service.” *Modern Asian Studies* 7, no. 1 1973, pp.47–73.
- Spangenberg, Bradford. “The Problem of Recruitment for the Indian Civil Service During the Late Nineteenth Century.” *Journal of Asian Studies* 30, no. 2 , 1971, pp. 341–60.
- Vasunia, P. “Greek, Latin and the Indian Civil Service.” *Cambridge Classical Journal* 51 2005, pp. 35–71.

Unit 3: The Army: recruitment of *sipahis*; ‘Martial Races’ and the colonial ideology; Question of King’s Commissions for Indians in the Army:

- Caplan, Lionel. “Martial Gurkhas.” In *The Concept of Race in South Asia*, edited by Peter Robb, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1995.

- Cohen, Stephen P. *The Indian Army: Contribution to the Development of a Nation*. Rev. Indian ed. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1990. (Chapters 3 and 5).
- Cohn, Bernard. *Colonialism and Its Forms of Knowledge*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.
- Constable, Philip. “The Marginalisation of a Dalit Martial Race in Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Western India.” *Journal of Asian Studies* 60, no. 2 2001, pp. 439–78.
- Deshpande, Anirudh. *British Military Policy in India: Colonial Constraints and Declining Power, 1900-1945*: Manohar, 2005 (Chapters on Indianization, and post First World War demobilization).
- Farooqui, Amar. “‘Divide and Rule’? Race, Military Recruitment and Society in Late Nineteenth Century Colonial India.” Presidential Address, Modern India Section, Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, Delhi Session, 2014 , pp. 428–40.
- Farwell, Byron. *Armies of the Raj: From the Great Indian Mutiny to Independence*. London: W. W. Norton, 1989.
- Gupta, Partha Sarathi, and A. Deshpande, eds. *The British Raj and Its Indian Armed Forces, 1857–1939*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005. (Essay by Anirudh Deshpande on the Skeen Committee and Indianization).
- Mason, Philip. *The Men Who Ruled India*. London: Jonathan Cape, 1953.
- Misra, B. B. *The Indian Civil Service and the Indian National Movement*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977.
- Omissi, David. *The Sepoy and the Raj*. London: Macmillan, 1994. (Chapter 5).
- Roy, K. “Race and Recruitment in the Indian Army: 1880–1918.” *Modern Asian Studies* 47, no. 4 (2013): 1310–47.
- Roy, Kaushik. *Brown Warriors of the Raj: Recruitment and the Mechanics of Command in the Sepoy Army 1859–1913*. New Delhi: Primus, 2008.
- Singh, Gajendra. “Finding Those Men with ‘Guts’”; Gavin Rand, “Reconstructing the Imperial Military after the Rebellion.” In *Mutiny at the Margins Volume: IV: Military Aspects of the Indian Uprising*, edited by Crispin Bates and Gavin Rand, Delhi: Sage, 2013.

Unit 4: Contesting sovereignty and transforming spaces: Princely States and ‘Indirect Rule’; Transformations in the colonial urban space and the creation of new imperial capital:

- Bhagavan, Manu. *Sovereign Spheres: Princes, Education and Empire in Colonial India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2003. (Introduction).
- Cohn, Bernard. “Representing Authority in Victorian India.” In *The Invention of Tradition*, edited by E. J. Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger,. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.
- Farooqui, A. *The Colonial Subjugation of India*. Mumbai: Aleph Book Company, 2022.
- Frykenberg, R. E., ed. *Delhi through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture, and Society*. Oxford University Press, 1986. (Essays by Frykenberg, Narayani Gupta, and

Thomas Metcalf).

- Kanwar, Pamela. *Imperial Simla*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1999. (Chapters 1–4).
- Oldenburg, Veena T. *The Making of Colonial Lucknow, 1856–1877*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989. (Chapters 2, 4, and 6).
- Panikkar, K. M. *Indian States and the Government of India*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1937.
- Ramusack, Barbara N. *The Indian Princes and Their States*. Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 1978. (Chapters 1, 3–6).
- Singh, Hira. “Colonial and Postcolonial Historiography and the Princely States: Relations of Power and Rituals of Legitimation.” In *India’s Princely States: People, Princes and Colonialism*, edited by Waltraud Ernst and Biswamoy Pati, . Indian ed. Delhi: Primus, 2009.

Primary Published Sources:

- Roberts, Frederick. *Forty-one Years in India: From Subaltern to Commander-in-Chief*. 2 vols. London: Richard Bentley and Son, 1897
- MacMunn, George F. *The Martial Races of India*. London: Sampson Low, Marston, 1933.

Suggested Readings:

- Bates, Crispin. “Race, Caste, and Tribe in Central India.” In *The Concept of Race in South Asia*, edited by Peter Robb. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi. *The Colonial State: Theory and Practice*. Delhi: Primus, 2016.
- Bowen, H. V. *The Business of Empire: The East India Company and Imperial Britain, 1756–1833*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Cannadine, David. *Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Caplan, Lionel. “‘Bravest of the Brave’: Representations of ‘The Gurkha’ in British Military Writings.” *Modern Asian Studies* 25, no. 3 1991. pp.571–97.
- Copland, Ian. *The British Raj and the Indian Princes: Paramountcy in Western India, 1857-1930*. London: Sangam, 1982.
- Deshpande, A. “Affirmative Action and the Politics of Indianisation, 1900–1935.” *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 61, pt. 1 2001pp. 625–47.
- Dirks, Nicholas. “The Ethnographic State.” In *Postcolonial Passages: Contemporary History-Writing on India*, edited by Saurabh Dube. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Govind, R. *The King's Plunder, The King's Bodies: Prize Laws, the British Empire and the Modern Legal Order*. Delhi: Tulika Books, 2023.
- Gupta, Narayani. *Delhi Between Two Empires*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1981.
- Hettne, Bjorn. *The Political Economy of Indirect Rule: Mysore, 1881-1947*. London: Curzon Press, 1978.

- Jeffrey, Robin, ed. *People, Princes and Paramount Power: Society, and Politics in the Indian Princely States*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1978.
- King, Antony. *Colonial Urban Development: Culture, Social Power and Environment*. London: Routledge, 1976.
- Kolff, Dirk H. A. *Naukar, Rajput, and Sepoy: The Ethnohistory of the Military Labour Market of Hindustan, 1450-1850*. Vol. 43. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- Metcalf, Thomas R. *An Imperial Vision: Indian Architecture and Britain's Raj*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989.
- Pillai, S. "Fragmenting the Nation: Divisible Sovereignty and Travancore's Quest for Federal Independence." *Law and History Review* 34, no. 3 2016pp. 743–82.
- Radhakrishna, Meena (2006), 'Of Apes and Ancestors: Evolutionary Science and Colonial Ethnography', *Indian Historical Review*, Volume XXXIII, Number 1, pp. 1-23.
- Roy, Kaushik. "Combat, Combat Motivation and the Construction of Identities: A Case Study." *Mutiny at the Margins* 4 2013,31.
- Streets, Heather. *Martial Races: The Military, Race and Masculinity in Imperial Culture 1857-1914*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2004.
- Sundaram, Chandar S. "'Treated with Scant Attention': The Imperial Cadet Corps, Indian Nobles, and Anglo-Indian Policy, 1897–1917." *The Journal of Military History* 77, no. 1 2013, pp.41–70.
- Tan Tai Yong. *The Garrison State: Military, Government and Society in Colonial Punjab, 1849-1947*. Delhi: Sage, 2005.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.

DSE 29: Artisans, Skill, and Knowledge in Modern Indian History (c.1857-1947) –

Credit Distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course Title & Code	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Prerequisite of the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Artisans, Skill, and Knowledge in Modern Indian History (c.1857–1947)	04	3	1	0	Nil	Nil

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to examine the transformations in artisanal labour, skill, and knowledge dissemination in colonial and early post-colonial India. The course engages with a range of sources, including historical records, ethnographies, and contemporary debates on informal and formal labour history. How the transformations in artisanal skill and knowledge in India between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries took place due to colonial policies on craft and industry, the impact of industrialization and to what extent the nationalist responses shaped the role of artisans in nationalist and post-independence development discourses are the main issues along with artisanal production, labour, and knowledge systems. The association between living practices and ritualistic forms, ceremonial occasions, customary beliefs and fashions, gendered work cultures is part of this study of artisan culture. Finally, to illustrate and complicate the general processes discussed in the course, students will explore the history of particular artisanal traditions as select case studies -- their geographical distribution, internal organization, patterns of patronage, artisanal myths and legends.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students would:

- Understand the shifts in artisanal production and the knowledge economy under colonial rule.
- Analyse the socio-economic impact of industrialization and state intervention on artisan communities.
- Examine debates on skill, technology, and labour in the context of colonial policies and nationalist movements.
- Assess the role of artisans in post-independence India's development strategies.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches to Artisanal Knowledge: This Unit reflects critically on the use of relevant terminologies like ‘craft’ ‘artisanal knowledge’ and ‘skill’ within theoretical and conceptual approaches in terms of socialisation, production, biographies, exchange, art, fetishism, taste, lifestyle, consumption, values, history, place and landscapes. Indigenous technological systems and epistemologies and the concept of “de-skilling” and its critiques gets explained in this process. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 2: Colonial Policies, Industrialization and the Crisis of Traditional Artisanal Industries; Indigenous and Colonial Institutions of Artisanal Training, Knowledge Transfer, Skill, and the Making of ‘Industrial’ Labour: This Unit introduces artisanal communities in modern India through organization of labour, caste, and skill and the impeding transformations and crises. The impact of colonial economic policies through railways and machine-made imports, Deindustrialization debates, the role of colonial exhibitions and surveys in shaping artisanal identity and continuities and disruptions under British Institutions of Artisanal and Industrial training like colonial art and technical schools gave new meanings to gender, caste, and skill hierarchies in colonial factories and workshops. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 3: The Artisanal Response, Resistance, Adaptation, and Innovation; Oral Histories and Ethnographies of Artisans: This Unit engages with the artisanal responses such as resistance, adaptation, and technological innovation beside the role of guilds and caste networks in skill transmission. Here the role of memory and oral history in understanding artisanal lives through ethnographic studies of artisans’ workshop traditions and intergenerational transmission of knowledge is vital. **(12 Hours)**

Unit 4: The Interplay of Artisanal Skill and Nationalist Mobilization(1910s–1940s); Artisans in Post-Independence Trajectories; Decline or Resurgence; Continuities and Transformations: This Unit deals with mobilizations like the Swadeshi Movement and craft revivalism. Gandhian ideas of self-reliance and village industries and the place of artisans in the nationalist economic imagination and interactions between artisans and intellectuals. It will also study Nehruvian planning and its impact on artisanal industries. The role of cooperatives and interventions in state funded institutions, globalization and artisanal labour, continuities and new challenges in state policies on handicrafts and small industries in the debates on modernization and preservation of traditional crafts. **(12 Hours)**

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches to Artisanal Knowledge:

- Appadurai, Arjun. "Introduction: Commodities and the Politics of Value." In *The Social Life of Things*, edited by Arjun Appadurai, 3-63. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.
- Arnold, David. *The New Cambridge History of India: Science, Technology and Medicine in Colonial India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. chapters 2 & 3.
- Burke, Peter. *A Social History of Knowledge*. Malden, MA: Polity, 2012.
- De Munck, Bert. "Artisans as Knowledge Workers: Craft and Creativity in a Long-Term Perspective." *Geoforum* 99: 227-237, 2019.

- Hanagan, Michael P. "Artisan and Skilled Worker: The Problem of Definition." *International Labor and Working-Class History* 12: 28-31, 1977.
- Haynes, Douglas E. "Artisan Cloth-Producers and the Emergence of Power-Loom Manufacture in Western India, 1920-1950." *Past & Present* 172: 170-198, 2001.
- Parthasarathi, Prasannan. *Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia Did Not: Global Economic Divergence, 1600-1850*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. chapters 4 & 6.
- चट्टोपाध्याय, कमलादेवी. *भारतीय हस्तशिल्प*. मुंबई: एलाइड पब्लिशर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, 1982.

Unit 2: Colonial Policies, Industrialization and the Crisis of Traditional Artisanal Industries; Indigenous and Colonial Institutions of Artisanal Training, Knowledge Transfer, Skill, and the Making of 'Industrial' Labour:

- Bagchi, Amiya Kumar. "Deindustrialization in India in the Nineteenth Century: Some Theoretical Implications." *The Journal of Development Studies* 12(2): 135-164, 1976.
- Cohn, Bernard S. "Cloth, Clothes and Colonialism: India in the Nineteenth Century." In *Cloth and Human Experience*, edited by Annette B. Weiner and Jane Schneider, 106-162. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1989.
- Kumar, Arun. "Skilling and Its Histories: Labour Market, Technical Knowledge and the Meaning of Skilled Workers in Colonial India (1880-1910)." *Journal of South Asian Development* 13(3): 249-271, 2018.
- Rai, Santosh Kumar. "Ways to Modernisation and Adaptation: The State, Weaving Training Schools and Handloom Weavers in Early Twentieth Century United Provinces, India." *Indian Historical Review* 42(2): 261-287, 2015.
- Rai, Santosh Kumar. "Colonial Knowledge Economy: Handloom Weavers in Early Twentieth-Century United Provinces, India." *International Review of Social History* 67(3): 435-465, 2022.
- Roy, Tirthankar. *Traditional Industry in the Economy of Colonial India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. Chapters 1 & 2.
- Roy, Tirthankar. "Out of Tradition: Master Artisans and Economic Change in Colonial India." *Journal of Asian Studies* 66(4): 963-991, 2007.
- Washbrook, David. "Progress and Problems: South Asian Economic and Social History, c.1720-1860." *Modern Asian Studies* 22(1): 57-96, 1988.

Unit 3: The Artisanal Response, Resistance, Adaptation, and Innovation; Oral Histories and Ethnographies of Artisans:

- Appadurai, Arjun. "The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective." *Cambridge Journal of Anthropology* 6: 34-46, 1986.
- Breman, Jan. *The Labouring Poor in India: Patterns of Exploitation, Subordination, and Exclusion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. Chapter 4.
- Brouwer, Jan. *The Makers of the World: Caste, Craft and Mind of South Indian Artisans*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1995.

- Chandavarkar, Rajnarayan. *Imperial Power and Popular Politics: Class, Resistance and the State in India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. Chapters 3 & 4.
- Gooptu, Nandini. *The Politics of the Urban Poor in Early Twentieth-Century India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Chapters 4 & 5.
- Parry, Jonathan. *Death in Banaras*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Chapter 3.
- Rai, Santosh Kumar. "Muslim Weavers' Politics in Early 20th Century Northern India: Locating an Identity." *Economic and Political Weekly* 47(15): 61-70, 2012.
- Rai, Santosh Kumar. "The Fuzzy Boundaries: Julaha Weavers' Identity Formation in Early Twentieth Century United Provinces." *Indian Historical Review* 40(1): 117-143, 2013.

Unit 4: The Interplay of Artisanal Skill and Nationalist Mobilization(1910s–1940s); Artisans in Post-Independence Trajectories; Decline or Resurgence; Continuities and Transformations:

- Agarwal, Bina. *A Field of One's Own: Gender and Land Rights in South Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Chapter 6 on women in artisanal labor.
- Agarwala, Rina. *Informal Labor, Formal Politics, and Dignified Discontent in India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. Chapters 2 & 3.
- Bayly, C. A. "The Origins of Swadeshi (Home Industry): Cloth and Indian Society, 1700-1930." In *Origins of Nationality in South Asia: Patriotism and Ethical Government in the Making of Modern India*, edited by C. A. Bayly, 172-209. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Goswami, Manu. *Producing India: From Colonial Economy to National Space*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004. Chapters 7 & 8.
- Haynes, Douglas. *Small Town Capitalism in Western India: Artisans, Merchants and the Making of the Informal Economy, 1870-1960*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. Chapters 2 & 5.
- Roy, Tirthankar. *Traditional Industry in the Economy of Colonial India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. Chapter 8.
- Sarkar, Sumit. *The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, 1903-1908*. Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2010. Chapters 3 & 6.
- Trivedi, Lisa. *Clothing Gandhi's Nation: Homespun and Modern India*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007. Chapters 1, 2 & 4.

Suggested Readings:

- Arnold, David. *The New Cambridge History of India: Science, Technology and Medicine in Colonial India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. Chapters 4 & 5.
- Breman, Jan. *The Shattered Image: Construction and Deconstruction of the Village in Colonial South Asia*. Providence, RI: Foris Publications, 1988.
- Chatterjee, P., and I. Rudra. "Handicrafts and Industrialization in India." *Economic and Political Weekly* 16(8): 327-339, 1981.
- Dewan, Deepali. "The Body at Work: Colonial Art Education and the Figure of the 'Native Craftsman.'" In *Confronting the Body: The Politics of Physicality in Colonial India*, edited by James Mill and Satadru Sen, 118-134. London: Anthem Press, 2004.

- Pandey, Gyanendra. *The Construction of Communalism in Colonial North India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Prakash, Om. "Bullion for Goods: International Trade and the Economy of Early Eighteenth Century Bengal." *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 18(2): 197-210, 1981.
- Rai, Santosh Kumar. "Weaving Hierarchies: Production Networks of the Handloom Industry in Colonial Eastern Uttar Pradesh." *Studies in History* 28(2): 203-230, 2012.
- Rai, Santosh Kumar. "Social Histories of Exclusion and Moments of Resistance: The Case of Muslim Julaha Weavers in Colonial United Provinces." *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 55(4): 549-574, 2018.
- Ray, Rajat Kanta. "The Bazaar: Changing Structural Characteristics of the Indigenous Section of the Indian Economy before and after the Great Depression." *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 25(3): 263-318, 1988.
- Roy, Tirthankar. *The Economic History of India 1857-1947*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. Chapters 5 & 6.
- Roy, Tirthankar. *The Crafts and Capitalism: Handloom Weaving Industry in Colonial India*. London: Routledge, 2020. Chapters 6 & 7.
- Sinopoli, Carla. *The Political Economy of Craft Production: Crafting Empire in South India, c. 1350-1650*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Tutorials: Tutorials in the MA History provide a smaller interactive space for critical discussion, close reading of sources, historiographical assessment, case studies, debates, group activities, and guided writing exercises. They prepare students for presentations, literature reviews, source-based analyses, archival and field-based assignments, seminar discussions, and research projects while strengthening hermeneutic skills.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.