

COOCH BEHAR PANCHANAN BARMA UNIVERSITY

Syllabus for 4 years degree course in History

(With effect from 2023-2024 to Onwards)

1st Semester

Major course

History of India

(Pre-History to 650 A.D.)

Total credit=6

Objective:

Ancient Indian civilization or culture was the greatest in the world in the field of geo-physical and natural importance, heart - land of knowledge in science, philosophy, history and literature. The flavor of knowledge of the Scholars, Scientists, Acharjas, Saints and Philosophers disseminated in the different parts of the world which were admired, appreciated and acknowledged by the scholars and intellectuals of the world. So, the different aspects of history of the ancient India have been included in the major course of the first semester so that students can be elevated and enriched themselves in going through the valuable part of Indian history.

UNIT – I

Sources and Approaches of ancient Indian History, Concept of Bharatvarsha

- a. Sources and tools of historical reconstruction; literature; archaeology; epigraphy and numismatics.
- b. Approaches of ancient Indian History.
- c. Understanding of Bharatvarsha
- d. Impact of Geographical features on Indian History

UNIT-II

Pre-historic age

- a. Palaeolithic culture-sequence and geographical distribution; topographic and climatic changes; evolution and uses of stone industries and other technological developments.

- b. Mesolithic culture-regional and chronological distribution; new developments in technology and economy; rock art.
- c. Food production-concept of the Neolithic; technological and economic development.

UNIT-III

Proto-Historic age

- a. The Harappan civilization: origin, extant, major sites
- b. Social and political organization; religious beliefs and practices
- c. Harappan Trade, art and architecture
- d. Decline of Harappan cultures and its contribution.

UNIT-IV

Vedic Civilization

- a. The Aryans; The Aryan problem; original homeland; spread of the Aryans
- b. Vedic literature; Epics-Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- c. Society, economy, polity, religion and military techniques of the Aryans.
- d. Varna system and position of women;

UNIT-V

New Religious movement and Philosophy

- a. Material and ideological background.
- b. Jainism, Buddhism, Ajivikas, Bhagabatism and Saivism.
- c. SadaDarsharn

UNIT-VI

Mahajanapadas to Magadhan Empire.

- a. Sixteen Mahajanapadas and its location; polity, non-monarchical states
- b. Growth of Magadhan Empire; Its dynasties
- c. Social Structure; trade and commerce and economy.
- d. Alexander's Invasion

UNIT-VII

Maurya Period

- a. Sources; Kautilya's Arthashastra, Megasthenes' Indica, Ashoka's Inscriptions and archaeological sources
- b. Chandragupta Maurya and his Expansion policy
- c. Kautilya's Saptanga theory of state, origin of kingship
- d. Ashoka the Great, Asoka's Dhamma
- e. Downfall of the Mauryan Empire

- f. Socio-economic condition, art and architecture

UNIT-VIII

Post -Maurya Period

- a. Ages of Sungas: Pushyamitra Sunga, cultural contribution, Hellenism and Buddhism
- b. Indo-Greeks, Sakas
- c. The Satavahanas; polity,
- d. Trade and trade routes; Indo-Roman Trade
- e. The age of Kushanas: Aspects of Polity, religion and culture
- f. The Sangam Age: society Literature

UNIT-IX

AGES OF GUPTAS

- a. Origin of the Guptas
- b. Polity, administrative institution
- c. Social and economic changes; Agrarian structure; land grants; coinage and currency system; trade and industry.
- d. Cultural developments: art; architecture; sculpture; painting; Sanskrit literature; religion;
- e. Science and technology
- f. Maukharis, Vakatakas and later Guptas.

UNIT-X

POST-GUPTA PERIOD

- a. Harshavardhana: political system and administrative institutions.
- b. Bengal under Sasanka, Pragjyotishpura
- c. Chalukyas, Pallavas; polity, society and economy. Culture developments

UNIT-XI

Social and Cultural condition in Ancient India.

- a. Caste system in ancient India
- b. Educational System ancient India
- c. Science and Technology in ancient India
- d. Marriage system and Coinage in ancient India
- e. Ethics of Indian value
- f. Health consciousness in ancient India; Ayurveda and Yoga

Suggested books:

1. Agarwal,D.P.,The Archaeology of India, Select Book Services Syndicate, Delhi,1984.
2. Agarwala, V.S.,Indian Art, Vol-1,PrithiviPrakashan,Varanasi,1972.
3. All Chin,F.R.,The Rise of Civilisation in India and Pakistan, Select Book Services Syndicate, Delhi,1983.
4. Basham,A.L.,The Wonder That Was India,Rupa,Mumbai,1971.
5. Bhattacharya, N.N., Ancient Indian Rituals and Their Social Contents, Manohar,Delhi,1996.
- 6.Chakraborty, Uma, The Social Dimensions of Early Buddhism, MunshiramManoharlal, Delhi,1996.
7. Chattopadhyay,B.D., A Survey of Historical geography of Ancient India, Manisha, Kolkata, 1984.
8. Chattopadhyay,B.D.,The Making of Early medieval India, OUP, Delhi,1994.
9. Jha,D.N.,Feudal Social Formation in Early India, Chanakya,Delhi,1988.
10. Jha,D.N.,Economy and Society in Early India: Issues and Paradigms, Chanakya,Delhi,1988.
11. Koshambi,D.D., An Introduction to the Study of Indian History, Popular Prakashan,Mumbai, 1975.
12. Majumdar,R.C.,et.al.,History and Culture of the Indian people,Vols-I,II& III,Mumbai,1974.
13. Raychoudhury,H.C.,Political History of Ancient India (Rev.ed. with commentary by B.N. Mukherjee, Delhi,1996.
14. Sharma, R.S., Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, MatilalBanarasidas, Delhi,1991.
 -Indian Feudalism, Macmillan, Delhi, 1981.
 -Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India, Macmillan, Delhi, 1983.
 - Shudras in Ancient India, MatilalBanarasidas, Delhi, 1980.

15. Thapar,R., Ancient Indian Social History: Some Interpretations, Orient Longman Publishers, Delhi,1984.

.....Early India From the Beginnings to 1300, London, 2002.

.....Recent Perspectives of Early Indian History, Popular Prakashan, Mumbai,

1995.

2nd Semester

Major course

History of India

(650 A.D. to 1526 A. D.)

Total credit=6

Objective:

In this major course of 2nd semester an important part of Indian history (From 650 A.D – 1526) has been included because during this period a transition took place in the soil of India. After the downfall of the Guptas a glorious chapter of Indian history was going to be declined; except the short break of the rule of HarshabardhanaSashanka and the Palas there was no strong power who ruled over the country successfully. In place of the strong political power various regional power ruled over the different parts of the country; conflicts and confrontations amongst these regional power was going on which weakened the stability of the country though a glorious part of history witnessed by establishing the rule of Sashanka and the Pala dynasty. Taking this opportunity of political instability, the Muslims from west Asia invaded the country and they carried on their looting and plundering in the different parts of the country and ultimately Muslims established their permanent rule in the soil of India since 1200.

UNIT-I

Reconstructing of Early Medieval Indian History

- a. Historical sources and their interpretation- literature, epigraphy and numismatics.
- b. Polity- the political condition of India; Arab invasion and its impact; Hindu resistance to the Muslims and its failure.
- c. Political developments; nature of the regional politics with special reference to the Pratiharas, Palas, Senas, Rastrakutas, Cholas and other contemporary dynasties.
- d. Origin of Rajput clans,
- e. Kingdom Kashmir; Karkota, Utpala and Lohara dynasty, Muslim conquest in Kashmir
- f. Early Turkish invasions; sultan Mahmud and Muhammad Ghuri; nature and impact. Muslim conquest in Bengal

UNIT-II

Economy and Society

- a. Land grants and agrarian expansion; changes in land tenure; condition of peasants
- b. Indian feudalism and debates

- c. Social Stratification: class, varna, jati, untouchability, gender, marriage and slavery
- d. Urban centre; trade and trade networks; internal trade; maritime trade
- e. Forms of exchange; coinage and currencies.
- f. Guilds and industries.

UNIT-IV

Religion and Culture

- a. Schools of Indian Philosophy; Bhakti; Tantrism; Puranic traditions; Buddhism and Jainism; popular religious cults; Vishnuism, Shivaism, Shankara and Advaita Vedanta, Lingayatism, Alvars and Nayanars
- b. Literature; rise and growth of regional languages.
- c. Science and technology

UNIT-V

Art & Architecture

- d. Art and architecture; Nagara, Dravida, Vesara style of temple architecture;
- e. Painting; sculpture; arts and crafts
- f. Evolution of regional styles

UNIT-VI

Sultanate age, sources and polity

- a. Sources of history of Sultanate period
- b. Political Structure: 1206-1290, 1290-1450, and 1450-1526
- c. Iqta System; Administration, Mongol Invasion;

UNIT-VII

Society, economy

- a. Rural society: revenue system.
- b. agricultural production;
- c. internal and external trade
- d. science and technology

UNIT-VIII

Religion & Culture of the Sultanate age

- a. Bhakti movements: Nathpanthis; Kabir; Nanak; and the Sant tradition.
- b. Sufism: doctrines Silsilas; and practices.
- c. Sultanate architecture.
- d. Literature: Persian and indigenous.

UNIT-IX

Regions: Bengal, Vijaynagar and Bahamani

- a. Ilyas Shahi and the Hussain Shahi rule in Bengal,
- b. Vijayanagar -polity, administration, society, economy and cultural aspects

- c. Bahamani kingdom; role of Mahmud Gawan
- d. Vaishnavite movements in eastern India

Selected readings:

1. Chattopadhyay, B. D., The Making of Early medieval India, OUP, Delhi, 1994.
2. Jha, D. N., Feudal Social Formation in Early India, Chanakya, Delhi, 1988.
3. Jha, D. N., Economy and Society in Early India: Issues and Paradigms, Chanakya, Delhi, 1988.
4. Koshambi, D. D., An Introduction to the Study of Indian History, Popular Prakashan, Mumbai, 1975.
5. Irfan Habib: The Agrarian System of Mughal India 1556-1707,
6. Irfan Habib (ed.) : Madhya Kaleen Bharat,
7. Shireen Moosvi: The Economy of the Mughal Empire.
8. R.P. Tripathi: The Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire, 2 vol. I. H. Siddiqui: Some Aspects of Afghan Despotism
Keshvan Veluthat: Political Structure of Early Medieval South India
9. P.J. Marshall: The Eighteenth Century in Indian History. Stewart Gordon, : The Marathas 1600-1818.
10. Percy Brown, : Islamic Architecture.
11. R. S. Sharma: Indian Feudalism-India's Ancient Past.
12. B. D. Chattopadhyaya: Making of Early Medieval India
13. Derryl N. Maclean: Religion and Society in Arab Sindh
14. K. M. Ashraf: Life and Conditions of the People of Hindustan
15. M. Habib and K.A. Nizami: A Comprehensive History of India Vol. V.
16. Tapan Ray Chaudhary and Irfan Habib (ed.): The Cambridge Economic History of India, Vol. I.
17. Peter Jackson: Delhi Sultanate: A Political and Military History.
18. Tara Chand: Influence of Islam on Indian Culture.
19. Satish Chandra: A History of Medieval India, 2 Volumes

MDC
History of India
Total credit=3

Objective:

In this course, MDC, about the different aspects and stages of the Indian history have been included. The motto of this course is to give some ideas briefly about the history of India from ancient to modern period so that the students from other disciplines can acquire some historical knowledge of the country.

Unit – 1:

History and its different aspects:

- a) Definition of history
- b) Sources for the study of history
- c) Scope of history, Importance of the study of history

Unit 2:

Ancient India: A brief history:

- a) Harappan civilization and its historical significance
- b) Vedic civilization: An introduction, its historical significance
- c) Age of the Mouryas: Chandragupta Maurya and Ashoka the great.
- d) Age of the Guptas: Origin of the Guptas, Samudragupta Chandrad Gupta II and Skandagupta.
- e) Harshabardhana and Sshanka.

Unit- 3:

The age of the Delhi Sultanate: A brief history

Khalji Dynasty, Tughlaq Dynasty, Sayed Dynasty and Lodi Dynasty

Unit- 4:

Mughal India: A brief History:

Babur and Humayun, Akbar, Sahajan, Auranzeb

Unit- 5:

History of modern India:

The origin of the British rule in India, the Revolt of 1857, Indian National Congress, Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose, Freedom movements of India, Partition of India and Indian independence.

Selected readings:

1. Jha,D.N.,Economy and Society in Early India: Issues and Paradigms, Chanakya,Delhi,1988.
2. Koshambi,D.D., An Introduction to the Study of Indian History, popular Prakashan,Mumbai, 1975.
3. Majumdar,R.C.,et.al.,History and Culture of the Indian people,Vols-I,II & III,Mumbai,1974.
4. Raychoudhury,H.C.,Political History of Ancient India (Rev.ed. with commentary by B.N. Mukherjee, Delhi,1996.
5. Sastri,K. N. (ed), History of South India, OUP,Delhi,1966.
6. Sharma, R.S., Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, MatilalBanarasidas, Delhi,1991

.....Indian Feudalism, Macmillan, Delhi, 1981.

7. Richards J.F. –The Mughal Empire
8. Gordon S.-The Marathas 1600-1818
9. Alam, Muzaffar & Subhramanyam, Sanjay (ed.)-The Mughal State.
10. Ali, M. Athar- i) The Mughal Nobility Under Aurangzeb,
a. Mughal India: Studies in Polity, Ideas, society and Culture.
11. Bandopadhyay, S, From Plassey to Partition
12. Eaton, R.M.-i) The Rise of Islam and the Bengal Frontier 1204-1760;
13. Gordon S.-The Marathas, 1600-1818
14. Grewal J.S., The Sikhs of the Punjab
15. Sarkar, Sir J.N.-i) History of Aurangzeb 5 vols.;
a. The Fall of the Mughal Empire (4 vols.)
16. Tripathi R.P.-i) The Rise & Fall of the Mughal Empire ii) Some Aspects of Muslim Administration

17. Habib Irfan(ed.), -i) Medieval India
 - a. The Agrarian System of Mughal India (1556-1707).
18. Raychoudhuri T.K. & Habib I. (eds.)-The Cambridge Economic History of India vol.1
19. Gordon S.-The Marathas 1600-1818
20. Alavi, Seema (ed.), The Eighteenth Century in India
21. Alam, Muzaffar, The Crisis of Empire in Mughal North India: Awadh and Punjab-1707- 1748.
22. Sumit Sarkar, Modern India, 1885-1947.
23. Anil, Seal, Emergence of Indian Nationalism.
24. Eleanor Zelliott, From Untouchable to Dalit: Essays on the Ambedkar Movement.
25. Judith Brown, Gandhi: (et al) A Prisoner of Hope.
26. Bipan Chandra, Communalism in Modern India, 2nd ed., 1987.
27. Bipan Chandra, K.N. Panikkar, Mridula Mukherjee, Sucheta Mahajan and Aditya Mukherjee, India's, Struggles for Independence.
28. A.R. Desai, Social Background of Indian Nationalism. A.R. Desai, Peasant Struggles in India.

Proposal for internship course:

During the course of six- months internship students can go through different historical places including village and urban areas for field visit. They can collect data from the field survey in the different ethnic and tribal communities on their social, economic and cultural lives and then they can prepare a project on the basis of the collecting data in addition with the secondary sources. Students also can carry on their project works on the historical art and architecture in the localities consulting with the authority of Archaeological Survey of India.