



ARSD College, University of Delhi

Model Course Handout/Lesson Plan

Course Name : B.A. (H) History GE						
Semester	Course Code	Course Title	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)	Credit (C)
I		History of India I: From the beginning to fourth century BCE (DSC 01)	3	1	0	4
Teacher/Instructor(s)		Prof. V M Jha				
Session		2022-23				

Course Objective:

The course intends to provide an extensive and deep understanding of early Indian history to students who will be introduced to the way diverse aspects of ancient Indian history have been recovered from a rich variety of sources, archaeological, literary, numismatic, epigraphist. Students will become familiar with the tools required for studying history and explore the diverse histories and regional variations in the Indian subcontinent and, also study various facets of ancient India- social, cultural, political, environmental concerns. The course, with an interdisciplinary approach, will help students trace elements of continuity and changes in processes spanning over several millennia, from pre-historic times up to the 400 BCE. The emphasis on historiography will allow students to understand how historians have approached ancient India and how our present knowledge and perceptions have played a role in interpreting the past.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to:

- appreciate the diverse histories of our past
- understand the significant technological, social and cultural changes in the Indian Subcontinent from prehistoric times
- recognise the significance of environment and ecology
- develop an understanding of the historical trajectory of the relationships between communities and their subsistence strategies, regions, landscapes and resources

- comprehend the transitions to early state formations, social complexity, and emergence of religious and philosophical traditions
- learn about early artifacts, texts, coins and epigraphs
- recognise the need to study and preserve the rich cultural heritage of our past while also realizing the possibilities and future potential of the study of ancient Indian history

Lesson Plan:

Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be covered
1.	Introducing early Indian history: Sources (upto 750 CE) and historiographical trends: The aim of this unit is to familiarise students with the divergent landscapes, varied sources and the different approaches to the history of ancient India.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • archaeological sources literary sources historiography
2.	Prehistoric hunter-gatherers and early food-producing societies: This unit aims to familiarize students with the distribution, economic and technological patterns in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic cultures of the Indian subcontinent, and the beginnings of organized food production in pre-historic times in the Indian subcontinent. It also explains the impact on other aspects of the life of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic humans, their cultural practices, their art and funerary practices	3	Palaeolithic cultures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sequence and distribution • tool typology and technology • subsistence patterns.
		4	Mesolithic Cultures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional distribution • tool typology • subsistence patterns. • Mesolithic art
		4	Early food producing communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional and chronological distribution of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures • subsistence patterns • patterns of interaction and exchange
3.	The Harappan civilization:	2	Introduction and origins

	This unit seeks to familiarise students with various aspects of Harappan Civilization, their technological expertise, as well as the varied ways in which the archaeological remains of Harappa and related sites have been interpreted and studied.	1	Settlement patterns and town planning
		1	Agrarian base
		1	Pyro technology and water management
		2	Craft production and trade
		1	Social and political organization
		2	Religious beliefs and practices
		1	Art
		2	Late/ Post Harappan evidence
4.	Social and Cultural Transitions (up to 400 BCE): This unit traces the archaeological and textual evidence for processes that led to the emergence of states, social complexity, intensive agriculture and urban patterns. The unit also covers debates around the origins and coming of the Aryans, the cosmogonies, cosmology and world view of Vedic, Brahmanical texts and religio-philosophical thought in Upanishads, Buddhist, Jaina and Shramanic traditions.	5	Archeological cultures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGW • NBPW • Megalithic • Metallic coins • Role of iron technology
		2	Literary and textual traditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vedic • Brahmanical • Shramanic.
		1	The Aryan Question.
		5	Emergence of Social and political institutions
		2	Urbanisation
		2	Social stratification
		2	State formation

Evaluation Scheme:

No.	Component	Duration	Marks
1.	Internal Assessment		12 6 12 40 (Total:70)
	• Class Test		
	• Attendance		
	• Assignment		
	• Continuous assessment		
2.	End Semester Examination	3 hr	90

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