

**Detailed Syllabus (Semester I--VI)  
B.A (Honours) Programme in History**

**CORE COURSE**

**Semester I**

**HIS-HC-1016: HISTORY OF INDIA- I**

**Lectures : 5; Tutorial : 1 (per week)**

**Course Outcome:** After the completion of this paper, the students will be able to explore and effectively use historical tools in reconstructing the remote past of ancient Indian pre and proto history. The course will also train the students to analyse the various stages of evolution of human cultures and the belief systems in the proto- history period.

**Unit I.** Reconstructing Ancient Indian History

[a] Early Indian notions of History

[b] Sources and tools of historical reconstruction: archaeological: epigraphy, numismatics, literary

[c] Historical interpretations (with special reference to gender, environment, technology, and regions)

**Unit II.** Pre-historic hunter-gatherers

[a] Paleolithic cultures- sequence and distribution; stone industries and other technological developments.

[b] Mesolithic cultures- regional and chronological distribution; new developments in technology and economy; rock art.

**Unit III.** The advent of food production

[a] Understanding the regional and chronological distribution of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures: subsistence, and patterns of exchange

**Unit IV.** The Harappan civilization

Origins; settlement patterns and town planning; agrarian base; craft productions and trade; social and political organization; religious beliefs and practices; art; the problem of urban decline and the late/post-Harappan traditions.

**Unit V.** Cultures in transition

Settlement patterns, technological and economic developments; social stratification; political relations; religion and philosophy; the Aryan Problem.

[a] North India (circa 1500 BCE-300 BCE)

[b] Central India and the Deccan (circa 1000 BCE - circa 300 BCE)

[c] Tamilakam (circa 300 BCE to circa CE 300)

**Readings:**

- R.S. Sharma, *India's Ancient Past*, New Delhi, OUP, 2007
- R. S. Sharma, *Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India*, Laxmi Publications, 2007.
- R.S. Sharma, *Looking for the Aryas*, Delhi, Orient Longman Publishers, 1995
- D. P. Agrawal, *The Archaeology of India*, 1985
- Bridget & F. Raymond Allchin, *The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan*, 1983.
- A. L. Basham, *The Wonder that Was India*, 1971.
- D. K. Chakrabarti, *The Archaeology of Ancient Indian Cities*, 1997,
- D. K. Chakrabarti, *The Oxford Companion to Indian Archaeology*, New Delhi, 2006.
- H. C. Raychaudhuri, *Political History of Ancient India*, Rev. ed. With Commentary by B. N. Mukherjee, 1996
- K. A. N. Sastri, ed., *History of South India*, OUP, 1966.
- Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*, 2008.
- Romila Thapar, *Early India from the Beginnings to 1300*, London, 2002.
- Uma Chakravarti, *The Social Dimensions of Early Buddhism*. 1997.
- Rajan Gurukul, *Social Formations of Early South India*, 2010.
- R. Champakalakshmi, *Trade. Ideology and urbanization: South India 300 BC- AD 1300*, 1996.

**HIS-HC-1026 : SOCIAL FORMATIONS AND CULTURAL PATTERNS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD****Lectures : 5; Tutorial : 1 (per week)**

**Course Outcome:** after the completion of this paper, the students will be able to explain the processes and stages of the evolution of the variety of cultural pattern throughout antiquarian periods in History. They will be able to relate the connections between the various Bronze Age civilizations in the ancient world as well as development of slave and polis societies in ancient Greece.

**Unit I. Evolution of Humankind:**

- [a] Paleolithic and Mesolithic cultures.
- [b] Food production: beginnings of agriculture
- [c] Animal husbandry.

**Unit II. Bronze Age Civilizations: economy, social stratification, state structure, religion**

- [a] Egypt (Old Kingdom)
- [b] Mesopotamia (up to the Akkadian Empire);
- [c] China (Shang);

**Unit III. Nomadic groups in Central and West Asia**

- [a] From Bronze to Iron age: Anatolia and Greece
- [b] Minoan Civilization
- [c] Debate on Iron

**Unit IV. Slave society in Ancient Greece:**

- [a] Origin of Slavery: Slavery in Sparta and Greece
- [b] Debate on Slavery
- [c] Agrarian economy, urbanization, trade.

**Unit V. Polis in ancient Greece:**

- [a] Development of democracy in Athens and Sparta;
- [b] Concept of citizenship
- [c] Greek Culture-Science and Philosophy, religion, art and architecture

**Readings:**

- Burns and Ralph. *World Civilizations. Cambridge History of Africa*, Vol. I.  
V. Gordon Childe, *What Happened in History*.  
G. Clark, *World Prehistory: A New Perspective*.  
B. Fagan, *People of the Earth*.  
Amar Farooqui, *Early Social Formations*.  
M. I. Finley, *The Ancient Economy*.  
Jacquetta Hawkes, *First Civilizations*.  
G. Roux, *Ancient Iraq*.  
Bai Shaoyi, *An Outline History of China*.  
H. W. F. Saggs, *The Greatness that was Babylon*.  
B. Trigger, *Ancient Egypt: A Social History*.  
UNESCO Series: *History of Mankind, Vols. I - III./ or New ed. History of Humanity*.  
R. J. Wenke, *Patterns in Prehistory*.

**SEMESTER II****HIS-HC-2016: HISTORY OF INDIA- II****Lecture : 5 Tutorial : 1 (per week)**

**Course Outcome:** On successful completion of this course the students will be able to explain the economic and socio-cultural connections, transitions and stratifications during the ruling houses, empires and the politico-administrative nuances of early Indian History from 300 BCE to 300 CE.

**Unit I. Economy and Society (circa 300 BCE to circa CE 300):**

- [a] Expansion of agrarian economy: production relations.
- [b] Urban growth: north India, central India and the Deccan;
- [c] craft Production: trade and trade routes; coinage.
- [d] Social stratification: class, *Varna, jati*, untouchability; gender; marriage and property relations

**Unit II. Changing political formations (circa 300 BCE to circa CE 300):**

- [a] The Mauryan Empire