

Vidyasagar University

Curriculum for B.A. (Honours) in History [Choice Based Credit System]

Semester-I

Course	Course Code	Name of the Subjects	Course Type/ Nature	Teaching Scheme in hour per week			Credit	Marks
				L	T	P		
CC1		C1T:Greek and Roman Historians	Core Course-1	5	1	0	6	75
CC2		C2T: Early Historic India (proto history to 6 th century B.C)	Core Course-2	5	1	0	6	75
GE1		TBD	Generic Elective-1				4/5	75
							2/1	
AECC		English	AECC (Elective)	1	1	0	2	50
Semester Total							20	275

L=Lecture, **T**=Tutorial, **P**=Practical, **CC**- Core Course, **TBD** - To be decided, **AECC**- Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course
Generic Elective (GE) (Interdisciplinary) from other Department [Paper will be of 6 credits]:

Semester-I
CORE COURSE (CC)

CC-1: Greek and Roman Historians

Credit 06

C1T: Greek and Roman Historians

Credit 06

Unit – I

Module I

Greek Historiography

New form of inquiry (historia) in Greece in the sixth century BCE

- 1.1 Logographers in ancient Greece.
- 1.2 Hecataeus of Miletus, the most important predecessor of Herodotus
- 1.3 Charon of Lampsacus
- 1.4 Xanthus of Lydia

Module II

Herodotus and his Histories

- 2.1 A traveller's romance?
- 2.2 Herodotus' method of history writing – his catholic inclusiveness
- 2.3 Herodotus' originality as a historian – focus on the struggle between the East and the West

Module III

Thucydides: the founder of scientific history writing

- 3.1 A historiography on Thucydides
- 3.2 History of the Peloponnesian War - a product of rigorous inquiry and examination
- 3.3 Thucydides' interpretive ability – his ideas of morality, Athenian imperialism, culture and democratic institutions
- 3.4 Description of plague in a symbolic way – assessment of the demagogues
- 3.5 A comparative study of the two greatest Greek historians

Module IV

Next generation of Greek historians

- 4.1 Xenophon and his History of Greece (*Hellenica*) – a description of events 410 BCE – 362 BCE -- writing in the style of a high-class journalist – lack of analytical skill
- 4.5 Polybius and the “pragmatic” history
- 4.3 Diodorus Siculus and his *Library of History* – the Stoic doctrine of the brotherhood of man

Unit II

Module I

Roman historiography

Development of Roman historiographical tradition

- 1.1 Quintus Fabius Pictor of late third century BCE and the “Graeci annals” – Rome's early history in Greek.
- 1.2 Marcus Porcius Cato (234 – 149 BCE) and the first Roman history in Latin – influence of Greek historiography

- 1.3 Marcus Tullius Cicero and the speculation on the theory of history – distinguishing history from poetry – the genre of moral historiography at Rome

Module II

Imperial historians

- 2.1 Livy and the History of Rome – a work on enormous scale - Livy's style of writing: honest but uncritical - Livy's comprehensive treatment: details of Roman religion and Roman law
- 2.2 Tacitus' history of the Roman empire - the greatest achievement of Roman historiography ? His moral and political judgements on the past -- a "philosophical historian"?

Module III

Historical methods in ancient Rome

- 3.1 Research and accuracy
- 3.2 Literary artistry
- 3.3 The use of dramatic elements

Suggested Readings:

The Oxford History of the Classical World, eds., John Boardman et al, Oxford: 1986

Cambridge Ancient History, 2nd ed., Vol. 4, eds., John Boardman et al, Cambridge:1992

Anton Powell, ed., *The Greek World*, London:1995

F.M. Cornford, *Thucydides Mythistoricus*, London:1907

F.E. Adcock, *Thucydides and His History*, Cambridge:1963

A. Momigliano, *Studies in Historiography*, New York: 1966

---, *Essays in Ancient and Modern Historiography*, Chicago:1977

H.D. Westlake, *Individuals in Thucydides*, Cambridge:1968

T.J.Luce, *The Greek Historians*, London and New York:1997

Stephen Usher, *The Historians of Greece and Rome*, London:1969

Michael Grant, *The Ancient Historians*, New York:1970

---, *Greek and Roman Historians*, London and New York: 1995

T.A. Dorey, ed., *Latin Historians*, London:1966

---, ed., *Tacitus*, London:1968

D.C. Earl, *The Political Thought of Sallust*, Cambridge:1961

Civilization of the Ancient Mediterranean: Greece and Rome, Vol. 3, eds., Michael Grant and Rachel Kitzinger, New York: 1988

CC – 2: Early Historic India (proto history to 6th century B.C)

Credits 06

C2T: Early Historic India (proto history to 6th century B.C)

Credits 06

Unit I

Module- I

Understanding early India

- 1.1 : Historical theories and interpretations about the Indian past

- 1.2 The idea of Bharatavarsha: Indian subcontinent with all its diversity and cultural traditions
- 1.3 An overview of literary and archaeological sources

Module-II

Neolithic to Chalcolithic settlements

- 2.1 The earliest village farming community in India—transition from pastoral life to the practice of agriculture: Mehrgarh and its various cultural phases
- 2.2 The first urbanization in the Indian subcontinent—Indus civilization: contemporary perspectives through a historiography
- 2.3 The early Harappan, Harappan and late Harappan phases: technology, architecture, religion and maritime trade.
- 2.4 End/transformation of the Indus civilization: different theories.

Module-III

The Aryans in India: Vedic Age

- 3.1 The historiography of the concept Aryan
- 3.2 The spread of Aryan settlements in India
- 3.3 The period of the Vedas, Brahmanas and Upanishads: pastoralism, agriculture and other occupations
- 3.4 Political development, culture and rituals

Module-IV

North India in sixth century BCE

- 4.1 Establishment of kingdoms, oligarchies and chiefdoms: sixteen Mahajanapadas
- 4.2 The autonomous clans
- 4.3 Rise of Magadhan imperialism

Unit II

Module I

Ideas and institutions in early India

- 1.1 Varna and Jati: the issue of upward mobility among the Shudras
- 1.2 Slavery: ancient forms and modern debates
- 1.3 Untouchables
- 1.4 Women
- 1.5 Forms of marriage

Module II

Cults, doctrines and metaphysics

- 2.1 The religion of the Vedas
- 2.2 The unorthodox sects – Buddhism, Jainism and the doctrine of the Ajivikas
- 2.3 Scepticism and materialism

Module III

Aspects of economy in the age of Buddha

- 3.1 Economic changes: use iron, rural economy, trade and crafts, guilds
- 3.2 Taxation
- 3.3 The second urbanization

Module IV

The cultural milieu

4.1 Education

4.2 Language and literature

4.3 Science and technology

Suggested Readings:

A. L. Basham, *The Wonder that was India*

D.D. Kosambi, *An Introduction to the Study of Indian History*

---, *Culture and Civilization of Ancient India in Historical Outline*

Romila Thapar, *Early India from the Origins to c. AD 1300*

Hermann Kulke and D. Rothermund, *A History of India*

R.C. Majumdar, ed., *The Vedic Age* (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan series, Vol. 1)

---, ed., *The Age of Imperial Unity* (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan series, Vol. 2)

Upinder Singh, *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*

Ranabir Chakravarti, *Exploring Early India: Upto c. AD 1300*

Jean-Francois Jarrige et al, eds., *Mehrgarh: Field Reports from Neolithic Times to the Indus Civilization*

Bridget Allchin and F.R. Allchin, *The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan*

B.B. Lal and S.P. Gupta, eds., *Frontiers of the Indus Civilization*

Gregory L. Possehl, *The Indus Civilization: A Contemporary Perspective*

---, ed., *Ancient Cities of the Indus*

Shereen Ratnagar, *Encounters: The Westerly Trade of the Harappan Civilization*

Asko Parpola, *Deciphering the Indus Script*

Nayanjot Lahiri, ed., *The Decline and Fall of the Indus Civilization*

R.S. Sharma, *Material Culture and Social Formations in Ancient India*

---, *Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India*

---, *Sudras in Ancient India: A Social History of the Lower Order Down to c. AD 600*

Dev Raj Chanana, *Slavery in Ancient India*

G.S. Ghurye, *Caste, Class and Occupation*

T.W. Rhys Davids, *Buddhist India*

Brian K. Smith, *Classifying the Universe: The Ancient Indian Varna System and the Origins of Caste*

Sukumari Bhattacharji, *Women and Society in Ancient India*

Patrick Olivelle, ed., *Between the Empires: Society in India 300 BCE to 400 CE*

Generic Elective(GE)

GE-1 [Interdisciplinary for other department]

GE - 1 : Theories of the Modern State

Credit 06

GE1T : Theories of the Modern State

Credit 06

1. The State Definitions and Elementary Concepts – Sovereignty and autonomy – state and the community – the nation state
2. The Absolutist State: Bodin, Hobbes and Hegel: the state, class and civil society

3. The Liberal State – the state, individualism and citizenship – the constitutional and the contractual state: John Locke – liberalism and the democratic order: Rousseau and the General Will
4. The Liberal State – the utilitarian version: Bentham and John Stuart Mill – John Mill and democracy: the tyranny of the majority
5. The state and class Marxist perspective – the problem of Bonapartism – Max Weber and the bureaucratic order
6. The ideological basis of the Welfare State and its comparison with Communism – John Rawls and the theory of justice

Suggested Readings:

1. Perry Anderson, *Lineages of the Absolutist State*
2. H. Dickinson, *Liberty and Property*
3. C. B. Macpherson, *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism*
4. C. B. Macpherson, *The Life and Times of Liberal Democracy*
5. C. B. Macpherson, *Democratic Theory*
6. Ralph Miliband, *The State in Capitalist Society*
7. Harold Laski, *A Short History of Liberalism*
8. Shirley Robin Letwin, *The Pursuit of Certainty: David Hume, Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill and Beatrice Webb*
9. James Steintrager, *Bentham*
10. R. J. Halliday, *John Stuart Mill*
11. Raymond Plant, *Hegel*
12. Amy Gutmann, *Liberal Equality*