

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
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]:

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

Module II

Herodotus and his Histories

- 2.1 Herodotus' method of history writing – his catholic inclusiveness
- 2.2 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 History of the Peloponnesian War - a product of rigorous inquiry and examination
- 3.2 Thucydides' interpretive ability – his ideas of morality, Athenian imperialism, culture and democratic institutions
- 3.3 Description of plague in a symbolic way – assessment of the demagogues

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
- 4.15 Polybius and the “pragmatic” history
- 4.23 Diodorus Siculus and his *Library of History*

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”
- 1.2 Marcus Porcius Cato (234 – 149 BCE) and the first Roman history in Latin – influence of Greek historiography

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- 1.3 Marcus Tullius Cicero and the speculation on the theory of history; the genre of moral historiography at Rome

Module II

Imperial historians

- 2.1 Livy and the History of Rome: Livy's style of writing; Roman religion and Roman law
- 2.2 Tacitus' history of the Roman empire -

Module III

Historical methods in ancient Rome

- 3.1 Literary artistry
- 3.2 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~~ ~~Historical theories and interpretations,~~
~~and archaeological evidences about the Indian past~~

1.2

3

1.2 An overview of literary and archaeological sources

1.3 ~~The idea of Bharatavarsha: Indian subcontinent with all its diversity and cultural traditions~~

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 Civilization, and late Harappan phases: technology, architecture, religion and maritime trade.~~

2.4 -

Module-III

The Aryans in India: Vedic Age

3.1 The historiography of the concept Aryan

3.2 The period of the Vedas, Brahmanas and Upanishads: pastoralism, agriculture ~~and other occupations~~

3.3

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 ~~Untouchables~~
- 1.2 Women
- 1.3 ~~Forms of marriage~~

Module II

Cults, doctrines and metaphysics

- 2.1 The religion of the Vedas
- 2.2 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 The second urbanization

Module IV

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Module IV

The cultural milieu

- 4.1 Language and literature
- 4.2 Science and technology

Suggested Readings:

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[http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus_CBSC/BA_HONS/History\(Hons\).pdf](http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus_CBSC/BA_HONS/History(Hons).pdf)

- 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

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3. The Liberal State ~~– the state, individualism and citizenship –~~: John Locke – liberalism and the democratic order: Rousseau and the General Will
4. ~~The Liberal State – the utilitarian version: Bentham and John Stuart Mill~~
5. The state and class Marxist perspective — Max Weber and the bureaucratic order
6. **The ideological basis of the Welfare State and its comparison with Communism**
7. ~~– 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*

