

PROGRAMME:

B.A. (H)
SUBSIDIARY

SEMESTER:

II

PAPER NO: 2

THEMES IN EARLY INDIAN HISTORY

COURSE ID:

BHSS 203

CREDITS:

04

UNIT I

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE EARTH

1. Development of archaeology as a discipline
2. Practicing Archaeology: Methodological Issues
3. Archaeology and popular perception
4. Uses and Abuses of Archaeology
5. Indian Archeology: Trends and debates

UNIT II

CASTE AND CLASS IN EARLY INDIA

1. Understanding caste and class in Early India: An interdisciplinary approach
2. Development of Varna hierarchy as reflected in early and later Vedic texts
3. Transition from tribe to caste
4. Proliferation of castes
5. The origins of untouchability

UNIT III

CREATION OF THE BRAHMANICAL RELIGIOUS TRADITION

1. Religious beliefs and practices as reflected in early Vedic texts
2. Religion of the later Vedic texts
3. Protest and dissent against Vedic orthodoxy
4. Development of Puranic and Tantric religion
5. Origins and propagation of the idea of bhakti

UNIT IV

HETERODOX RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS IN EARLY INDIA

1. What is "orthodox" and "heterodox" in Early India?
2. The ascetics, mendicants and renouncers of the Vedas and Upanishads
3. Shramanic sects and issues raised by them
4. Origin and the development of Buddhism up to AD 800
5. Origin and the development of Jainism up to AD 800

Reading List:

Unit I

1. Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn, *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*, Thames and Hudson, London, 1991.
2. Dilip Chakrabarti, *The Oxford Companion to Indian Archaeology: The Archaeological Foundations of Ancient India, Stone Age to AD 13th Century*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2006.
3. Dilip K. Chakrabarti, *A History of Indian Archaeology from the Beginning to 1947*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1988.
4. Dilip K. Chakrabarti, *Archaeology in the Third World: A History of Indian Archaeology Since 1947*, D. K. Printworld, New Delhi, 2003.
5. H. P. Ray, and C. Sinopoli (eds.), *Archaeology as History in Early South Asia*, Indian Council of Historical Research and Aryan Books, New Delhi, 2004.
6. Raymond Allchin, and Bridget Allchin, *Origins of a Civilization: The Prehistory and Early Archaeology of South Asia*,

Viking, New Delhi, 1997.

7. Upinder Singh, *The Discovery of Ancient India: Early Archaeologists and the Beginnings of Archaeology*, Permanent Black, Delhi, 2004.

Unit II

1. Aloka Parasher, *Mlecchas in Early India: A Study in Attitudes towards Outsiders upto AD 600*, Munshiram Manoharlal, Delhi, 1991.
2. Aloka Parasher-Sen (ed.), *Subordinate and Marginal Groups in Early India*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2004.
3. Brian K. Smith, *Classifying the Universe: The Ancient Indian Varna System and the Origins of Caste*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1994.
4. Declan Quigley, *The Interpretation of Caste*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2002.
5. Dev Nathan (ed.), *From Tribe to Caste*, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, 1987.
6. Dipankar Gupta (ed.), *Social Stratification*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1992.
7. Narendra Wagle, *Society at the Time of the Buddha*, Popular Prakashan, Bombay, 1963.
8. R. S. Sharma, *Sudras in Ancient India: A Social History of the Lower Order Down to circa AD 600*, 2nd rev. edn., Motilal Banarasidass, Delhi, 2016.
9. Romesh Thapar (ed.), *Tribe, Caste and Religion in India*, Macmillan, Delhi, 1977.
10. Romila Thapar, *Ancient Indian Social History: Some Interpretations*, Orient Longman, New Delhi, 1979.
11. Suvira Jaiswal, *Caste: Origin, Function and Dimensions of Change*, Manohar, Delhi, 2000.
12. Uma Chakravarti, *Gendering Caste through a Feminist Lens*, Stree, Calcutta, 2003.

Unit III

1. David N. Lorenzen, *Who Invented Hinduism? Essays on Religion in History*, Yoda Press, New Delhi, 2006.
2. Friedhelm Hardy, *Viraha-Bhakti: The Early History of Krsna Devotion in South India*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1983.
3. G. H. Sutherland, *Yaksha in Hinduism and Buddhism: The Disguises of the Demon*, Manohar, New Delhi, 1992.
4. Gavin Flood (ed.), *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, Blackwell, New Delhi, 2005.
5. J. N. Banerjea, *Pauranic and Tantric Religion (Early Phase)*, University of Calcutta, Calcutta, 1966.
6. J. N. Banerjea, *The Development of Hindu Iconography*, 2nd rev. edn., Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1975.
7. Kunal Chakrabarti, *Religious Process: The Puranas and the Making of a Regional Tradition*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2001.
8. N. N. Bhattacharya, *History of the Sakta Religion*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1974.
9. N. N. Bhattacharya, *History of the Tantric Religion: An Historical, Ritualistic and Philosophical Study*, Manohar, Delhi, 1999.
10. R. G. Bhandarkar, *Vaishnavism, Saivism and Minor Religious Systems*, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona 1982.
11. Ram Nath Mishra, *The Yaksha Cult and Iconography*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1981.
12. Suvira Jaiswal, *The Origin and Development of Vaisnavism: Vaishnavism from 200 BC to AD500*, Munshiram Manoharlal, Delhi, 1981
13. Vidya Dehijia, *Slaves of the Lord: The Path of the Tamil Saints*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1988.

Unit IV

1. A. L. Basham, *History and Doctrines of the Ajivikas: A Vanished Religion*, Indian edn., Luzac and Co., London 2003.
2. Asim Kumar Chatterjee, *A Comprehensive History of Jainism*, 2 vols., Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 2000.
3. M. G. Bhagat, *Ancient Indian Asceticism*, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1976.
4. Padmanabh S. Jaini, *The Jaina Path of Purification*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1979.
5. Patric Olivelle, *The Ashram System: The History and Hermeneutics of a Religious Institution*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1993.
6. Paul Dundas, *The Jainas*, Routledge, London and New York, 1992.
7. Ronald M. Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism: A Social History of the Tantric Movement*, Columbia University Press, New York, 2002.
8. S. C. Malik, (ed.), *Indian Movements: Some Aspects of Dissent, Protest and Reform*, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, 1978.
9. Sukumar Dutt, *Buddhist Monks and Monasteries of India: Their History and Their Contribution to Indian Culture*, Rep. edn., Motilal Banarasidass, Delhi, 1988.

10. Uma Chakravarti, *The Social Dimensions of Early Buddhism*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1987.
11. Rupert Gettin, *The Foundations of Buddhism*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1998.