

# **VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY**

Paschim Midnapore, West Bengal



*PROPOSED CURRICULUM & SYLLABUS (DRAFT) OF*

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**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS)**

**MAJOR IN HISTORY**

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**4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME**

*(w.e.f. Academic Year 2023-2024)*

*Based on*

**Curriculum & Credit Framework for Undergraduate Programmes**

**(CCFUP), 2023 & NEP, 2020**

**VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY**  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) MAJOR IN HISTORY**  
**(under CCFUP, 2023)**

Level	YR.	SEM	Course Type	Course Code	Course Title	Credit	L-T-P	Marks			
								CA	ESE	TOTAL	
BA (Hon s.)	1 <sup>st</sup>	I	SEMESTER-I								
			Major-1	HISHMJ101	T: Ancient India from the Earliest Times to 600 BCE	4	3-1-0	15	60	75	
			SEC	HISSEC01	P: Art Appreciation: An Introduction to Indian Art	3	0-0-3	10	40	50	
			AEC	AEC01	Communicative English -1 ( <i>common for all programmes</i> )	2	2-0-0	10	40	50	
			MDC	MDC01	Multidisciplinary Course -1 ( <i>to be chosen from the list</i> )	3	3-0-0	10	40	50	
			VAC	VAC01	ENVS ( <i>common for all programmes</i> )	4	2-0-2	50	50	100	
			Minor HIS (Disc.-I)	HISMI01	T: Ancient India ( <i>To be taken by students of other Disciplines</i> )	4	3-1-0	15	60	75	
		Semester-I Total				20				400	
		II	SEMESTER-II								
			Major-2	HISHMJ102	T: Social Formations and Cultural Patterns of Ancient World	4	3-1-0	15	60	75	
			SEC	HISSEC02	P: Archives and Museums in India	3	0-0-3	10	40	50	
			AEC	AEC02	MIL-1 ( <i>common for all programmes</i> )	2	2-0-0	10	40	50	
			MDC	MDC02	Multi Disciplinary Course-02 ( <i>to be chosen from the list</i> )	3	3-0-0	10	40	50	
			VAC	VAC02	Value Added Course-02 ( <i>to be chosen from the list</i> )	4	4-0-0	10	40	50	
			Minor (Disc.-II)	HISMI02	T: Medieval India ( <i>To be taken by students of other Disciplines</i> )	4	3-1-0	15	60	75	
		Summer Intern.	CS	Community Service	4	0-0-4	-	-	50		
		Semester-II Total				24				400	
		TOTAL of YEAR-1				44				800	

MJ = Major, MI = Minor Course, SEC = Skill Enhancement Course, AEC = Ability Enhancement Course, MDC = Multidisciplinary Course, VAC = Value Added Course; CA= Continuous Assessment, ESE= End Semester Examination, T = Theory, P= Practical, L-T-P = Lecture-Tutorial-Practical, MIL = Modern Indian Language, ENVS = Environmental Studies

## MAJOR (MJ)

**MJ-1: Ancient India from the Earliest Times to 600 BCE**

**Credits 04**

**MJ1T: Ancient India from the Earliest Times to 600 BCE**

**Full Marks: 75**

**Course contents:**

### **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:**

1. A. L. Basham, The Wonder that was India
2. D.D. Kosambi, An Introduction to the Study of Indian History  
---, Culture and Civilization of Ancient India in Historical Outline
3. Romila Thapar, Early India from the Origins to c. AD 1300
4. Hermann Kulke and D. Rothermund, A History of India
5. 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)
6. Upinder Singh, A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India
7. Ranabir Chakravarti, Exploring Early India: Upto c. AD 1300
8. Jean-Francois Jarrige et al, eds., Mehrgarh: Field Reports from Neolithic Times to the Indus  
9. Civilization
10. Bridget Allchin and F.R. Allchin, The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan
11. B.B. Lal and S.P. Gupta, eds., Frontiers of the Indus Civilization
12. Gregory L. Possehl, The Indus Civilization: A Contemporary Perspective  
---, ed., Ancient Cities of the Indus
13. Shereen Ratnagar, Encounters: The Westerly Trade of the Harappan Civilization
14. Asko Parpola, Deciphering the Indus Script
15. Nayanjot Lahiri, ed., The Decline and Fall of the Indus Civilization
16. 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
17. Dev Raj Chanana, Slavery in Ancient India
18. G.S. Ghurye, Caste, Class and Occupation
19. T.W. Rhys Davids, Buddhist India
20. Brian K. Smith, Classifying the Universe: The Ancient Indian Varna System and the Origins of  
Caste
21. Sukumari Bhattacharji, Women and Society in Ancient India
22. Patrick Olivelle, ed., Between the Empires: Society in India 300 BCE to 400 CE

**MJ-2: Social Formations and the Cultural Patterns of the Ancient World****Credits 04****MJ2T: Social Formations and the Cultural Patterns of the Ancient World****Full Marks: 75****Course contents:**

- I. Evolution of humankind; Paleolithic and Mesolithic cultures.
- II. Food production: Beginnings of agriculture and animal husbandry.
- III. Bronze Age Civilizations, with reference to any one of the following: i) Egypt (Old Kingdom); ii) Mesopotamia (up to the Akkadian Empire); iii) China (Shang); IV) Eastern Mediterranean (Minoan) economy, social stratification, state structure, religion.
- IV. Nomadic groups in Central and West Asia; Debate on the advent of iron and its implications
- V. Slave society in ancient Greece: Agrarian economy, urbanization, trade.
- VI. Polis in ancient Greece: Athens and Sparta; Greek Culture.

**Suggested Readings:**

1. Burns and Ralph. World Civilizations
2. Cambridge History of Africa, Vol. I
3. Gordon Childe, What Happened in History
4. G. Clark, World Prehistory: A New Perspective
5. B. Fagan, People of the Earth
6. Amar Farooqui, Early Social Formations
7. M. I. Finley, The Ancient Economy
8. Jacquetta Hawkes, First Civilizations
9. G. Roux, Ancient Iraq
10. Bai Shaoyi, An Outline History of China
11. H. W. F. Saggs, The Greatness that was Babylon
12. B. Trigger, Ancient Egypt: A Social History
13. UNESCO Series: History of Mankind, Vols. I - III./ or New ed. History of Humanity
14. R. J. Wenke, Patterns in Prehistory
15. G. E. M. de Ste Croix, Class Struggles in the Ancient Greek World
16. J. D. Bernal, Science in History, Vol. I, V.
17. Gordon Childe, Social Evolution
18. Glyn Daniel, First Civilizations
19. Hauser, A Social History of Art, Vol. I.
20. Gitashri Bandana Sengupta, Peloponesiyo juddha (in Bengali)
21. Sujato Bhadra and Kunal Chattopadhyay, Prachin Greecer Samaj o Sanskriti
22. Supratim Das, Greecer Itihas

## MINOR (MI)

**MI – 1: Ancient India**

**Credits 04**

**MI – 1T: Ancient India**

**Full Marks: 75**

### **Course contents:**

- Harappan Civilisation: Features & Town Planning, Decline
- Vedic Age: Corpus of Vedic Literature, Society, Economy and Polity in Early & Later Vedic Period
- State Formation in Early India: Mahajanapadas
- Mauryan Empire: Chandragupta Maurya to Asoka: Polity, Administration, Society, Culture and Mauryan decline
- Gupta Empire: Chandragupta I to Skandagupta: Polity, Administration, Society, Culture and Downfall
- Overview of the Early Medieval India: Formation of Regional States

### **Suggested Readings:**

1. Allchin, Bridget and Raymond, The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan.
2. Basham, A.L., The Wonder that was India.
3. Bhattacharjee, Sukumari, Women and Society in Ancient India.
4. Chakrabarty, Ranabir, Exploring Early India upto A.D. 1300.
5. Habib, Irfan (General Editor), A Peoples History of India
  - (a) Vol. I –Pre History.
  - (b) Vol. II –The Indus Civilization.
  - (c) Vol. III – The Vedic Age.
  - (d) Vol. IV –The Mauryas.
6. Jha, D.N., Ancient India in Historical Outline
7. Jha, D.N., Ancient India : An Introduction.
8. Kochar,R., The Vedic People.
9. Kosambi, D.D., An Introduction to the Study of Indian History.
10. Kulke, H., The State in India (1000-1700).
11. Lahiri, Naianjyot, The Decline and Fall of the Indus Civilization.
12. Ratnagar, Shireen, The End of the Great Harappan Tradition.
13. Sastri, K.A., A History of South India from Pre-historic Times to the Fall of Vijaynagara,
14. Sharma, R.S., India's AncientPast.
15. Singh, Upinder, A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India.
16. Thapar, Romila, From Lineage to State.
17. Thapar, Romila, Early India: From the Origins to A.D. 1300.
18. Thapar, Romila, TheMauryas Revisited.
19. Romila, Thapar, Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas.
20. Ranabir Chakraborty, Bharat Itihaser Adiparba

## MI-2: Medieval India

Credits 04

### MI – 2T: Medieval India

Full Marks: 75

#### Course contents:

1. Arab Conquest of Sindh: Nature and Impact
2. Causes and Consequences of Early Turkish invasion
3. Mahmud of Ghazni and Shihab-ud-din of Ghur
4. Establishment and consolidation of the Sultanate: Qutb-ud-din Aibak to Firuz Shah Tughluqs, polity, economy, culture
5. Emergence of regional powers: Vijaynagar and Bahamani Kingdoms, Hussain Shahi and Illiyas Shahi Dynasties.
6. Mughal Imperialism: Establishment and consolidation - Greater Mughals; Polity, economy, culture
7. Socio-cultural syncretism, Bhakti & Sufi movements.

#### Suggested Readings:

1. Ahmed, Bashir, Akbar, The Mughal Emperor.
2. Chandra, S., History of Medieval India.
3. Habib, Irfan, Medieval India: The Study of a Civilization.
4. Habib, Irfan, Economic History of Medieval India: A Survey.
5. Habib, Irfan, The Agrarian System of Mughal India.
6. Habibullah, A.B.M., The Foundation Of Muslim Rule in India.
7. Hasan A. Mahdi, The Tughlaq Dynasty.
8. Hasan, S. Nurul, Thoughts on Agrarian Relations in Mughal India.
9. Jackson, Peter, The Delhi Sultanate: A Political and Military History.
10. Kulke , H. (ed.), The State in India(1000-1700).
11. Kumar, Sunil, The Emergence of the Sultanate of Delhi.
12. Raychaudhuri, T.K and Habib, I. (ed.), The Cambridge Economic History of India.
13. Stein, Burton, Vijayanagara.
14. Alam, Muzaffar and Subhramanyan, Sanjoy (eds.), The Mughal State.
15. Ali, M. Athar, Mughal India, Studies in Polity, Ideas, Society and Culture.
16. Ali, M. Athar, The Mughal Nobility under Aurangzeb.
17. Chandra, Satish, A History of Medieval India.
18. Richards, J.F., The Mughal Empire.
19. Tripathi, R.P., The Rise and fall of Mughal India.
20. Tripathi, R.P., Some Aspects of Muslim Administration.
21. Women's Rights are Human Rights UNHR, Geneva & New York,  
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Events/WHRD/WomenRightsAreHR.pdf>
22. Meena Anand, ed. Dalit Women: Fear and Discrimination. Delhi: Isha Books, 2005.
23. Abin Chakraborty. "Venomous Touch: Meena Kandasamy and the Poetics of Dalit Resistance." Postcolonial Text 4.4 (2008): 3.

## **SKILL ENHANCEMENT COURSE (SEC)**

### **SEC 1: Art Appreciation: An Introduction to Indian Art**

**Credits 03**

#### **SEC1P: Art Appreciation: An Introduction to Indian Art**

**Marks: 50**

##### **Course Outline:**

- I. Prehistoric and protohistoric art: Rock art; Harappan arts and crafts
- II. Indian art (c. 600 BCE – 600 CE): World Heritage Site Managers, UNESCO World Heritage Manuals [can be downloaded/ accessed at [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)] Notions of art and craft Canons of Indian paintings. Major developments in stupa, cave, and temple art and architecture Early Indian sculpture: style and iconography. Numismatic art
- III. Indian Art (c. 600 CE – 1200 CE): Temple forms and their architectural features Early illustrated manuscripts and mural painting traditions Early medieval sculpture: style and iconography Indian bronzes or metal icons
- IV. Indian art and architecture (c. 1200 CE – 1800 CE): Sultanate and Mughal architecture Miniature painting traditions: Mughal, Rajasthani, Pahari Introduction to fort, palace and haveli Architecture
- V. Modern and Contemporary Indian art and Architecture: The Colonial Period\_Art movements: Bengal School of Art, Progressive Artists Group, etc. Major artists and their artworks. Popular art forms (folk art traditions)

##### **Suggested Readings:**

1. Erwin Neumayer, Lines of Stone: The pre-historic rock-art of India
2. B.N.Goswamy, Essence of Indian Art
3. Susan Huntington, The Art of Ancient India: Hindu, Buddhist, Jain
4. Tapati Guha Thakurta, The making of a new modern Indian art: Aesthetics and nationalism in Bengal, 1850-1920
5. Partha Mitter, Indian Art, Oxford History of Art series
6. Parul Pandya Dhar(ed.), 2011, Indian Art History Changing Perspectives
7. M.C. Beach, The New Cambridge History of India Mughal and Rajput Painting
8. Niharranjan Ray, An Approach to Indian Art

### **SEC 2: Archives and Museums in India**

**Credits 03**

#### **SEC 2P: Archives and Museums in India**

**Full Marks: 50**

##### **Course Outline:**

- I. Definition and history of development (with special reference to India)
- II. Types of archives and museums: Understanding the traditions of preservation in India Collection policies, ethics and procedures Collection: field exploration, excavation, purchase, gift and bequests, loans and deposits, exchanges, treasure trove confiscation and others. Documentation:



accessioning, indexing, cataloguing, digital documentation and de-accessioning Preservation:  
curatorial care, preventive conservation, chemical preservation and restoration

III. Museum Presentation and Exhibition

IV. Museums, Archives and Society: (Education and communication Outreach activities)

### **Suggested Readings:**

1. Saloni Mathur, India By Design: Colonial History and Cultural Display
2. S. Sengupta, Experiencing History Through Archives
3. Tapati Guha Thakurta, Monuments, Objects, Histories: Institution of Art in Colonial India
4. Y. P. Kathpalia, Conservation and Restoration of Archive Materials,
5. R.D. Choudhary, Museums of India and their maladies
6. S.M. Nair, Bio-Deterioration of Museum Materials
7. O.P. Agrawal, Essentials of Conservation and Museology