## VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

Paschim Midnapore, West Bengal



PROPOSED CURRICULUM & SYLLABUS (DRAFT) OF

# BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) MAJOR IN HISTORY

### 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 (common for all programmes)	2	2-0-0	10	40	50
			MDC	MDC01	Multidisciplinary Course -1 (to be chosen from the list)	3	3-0-0	10	40	50
			VAC	VAC01	ENVS (common for all programmes)	4	2-0-2	50	50	100
			Minor HIS	HISMI01	T: Ancient India (To be taken by students of other Disciplines)	4	3-1-0	15	60	75
			(DiscI)							
		Semester-I Total								400
		п	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 (common for all programmes)	2	2-0-0	10	40	50
			MDC	MDC02	Multi Disciplinary Course-02 (to be chosen from the list)	3	3-0-0	10	40	50
			VAC	VAC02	Value Added Course-02 (to be chosen from the list)	4	4-0-0	10	40	50
			Minor	HISMI02	T: Medieval India (To be taken by students of other Disciplines)	4	3-1-0	15	60	75
			(DiscII)							
			Summer	CS	Community Service	4	0-0-4	-	-	50
			Intern.							
		Semester-II Total								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

VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY, PASCHIM MIDNAPORE, WEST BENGAL

#### MAJOR (MJ)

Credits 04

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

#### 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

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- 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

- 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.

- 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

- 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.

- 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 Aurangazeb.
- 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/WomenRightsAre HR.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] 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

Full Marks: 50

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

#### **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)

- 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