

# 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		
<b>CC1</b>		<b>C1T:</b> Greek and Roman Historians	Core Course-1	5	1	0	6	75
<b>CC2</b>		<b>C2T:</b> Early Historic India ( proto history to 6 <sup>th</sup> century B.C)	Core Course-2	5	1	0	6	75
<b>GE1</b>		TBD	Generic Elective-1				4/5	75
							2/1	
<b>AECC</b>		English	AECC (Elective)	1	1	0	2	50
<b>Semester Total</b>							<b>20</b>	<b>275</b>

**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 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C)**

**Credits 06**

### **C2T: Early Historic India (proto history to 6<sup>th</sup> 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*