

U.G. 1st Semester

Paper: HST101C (Core) History of India [Earliest Times to 3rd Century BC]

Credits: 5 = 4 + 1 + 0 (64 Lectures)

Course Objective:

The course will primarily focus on –

- Giving a comprehensive understanding about the significance of sources in reconstructing early Indian history.
- To discuss about the stone age culture and the beginning of first urbanization in the Indian subcontinent i.e. the Harappan civilisation.
- To analyse the political, socio-economic and cultural transition following the end of the Harappan civilisation and the beginning of second urbanization in the Gangetic valley.

Course Outcome:

The course will give the students an understanding of the developments in early Indian history beginning with the sources and the socio- economic as well as political changes associated with the emergence of different cultures in the Indian subcontinent.

Total No. of Lectures: 64

Unit-I: Introducing Indian History	12
1.1 Understanding diverse sources-literary and archaeological sources	
1.2 Historical interpretations of Early India	
Unit-II: Geography and ecology of early India	13
2.1 Palaeolithic Cultures-Sequences and distribution, Stone implements and their developments	
2.2 Mesolithic Cultures-Regional distributions, Developments in technology and Economy, Mesolithic Art.	
2.3 Neolithic Age, Development in Technology and Food Production. Neolithic sites and their distribution, Chalcolithic Communities.	
Unit 3: The Harappan Civilization	13
3.1 Origin, extent and settlement patterns.	
3.2 Urban Patterns, Networks of Trade, Craft and Techniques	
3.3 Religious practices and Script	
3.4 Harappan Decline: Change in Urban pattern or Environmental Crisis	

Unit 4: Cultural transitions 2000-600 BCE

13

- 4.1 Literary and Archaeological evidence.
- 4.2 Polity: transition from chieftainship to kingship,
- 4.3 Agriculture : pastoralism to agricultural expansion,
- 4.4 Religions as reflected in the Rig Veda and later Vedic literature
- 4.5 Society-social stratification, women question (Critic of Altkerian paradigm)
- 4.6 The Aryan Question

Unit 5: Polity and Religion

13

- 5.1 Use of Iron and its socio-economic implications,
- 5.2 Urban Centers, Crafts, Money, Guilds
- 5.1 Rise of territorial states: Janapadas and Mahajanapadas
- 5.2 Development of the Magadhan Empire, the Persian and Mecedonian invasions
- 5.3 Religious movements in North India-Jainism and Buddhism - social dimensions of early Jainism and Buddhism.

ESSENTIAL READING:

1. Upinder Singh: *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*, 2008, Pearson Longman
2. Romilla Thapar: *Early India*, 2004, University of California Press
3. Ranabir Chakravarty: *Exploring Early India up to AD 1300*, 2010, Macmillan

FURTHER READING:

1. Raymond Allchin and Bridget Allchin, 1997: *Origins of Civilization: The Prehistory and Early Archaeology of South Asia*, Viking
2. Dilip Kumar Chakrabarti : *The Oxford Companion to Indian Archaeology; The Archaeological Foundations of Ancient India, Stone Age to AD 13th Century*, 2006, Oxford University Press
3. R.S. Sharma : *Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions In Ancient India*, 1996, Motilal Banarsidass

Paper: HST102C (Core)
Early Social Formations and Cultural Patterns
Credits: 5 = 4+1+0 (64 Lectures)

Course Objectives - The Course will help the students to

- learn about Human evolution & Prehistory
- Examine the various aspects of a history of Civilizations
- Interpret Ancient Civilizations in the global context

Course Outcome - Upon completion of this Course, the students would

- Be aware of Early Social Formations as a field of study in history
- Be able to understand how humans developed over different ages
- Develop the capacity to recognize different salient features inherent in a Bronze Age Civilization.

Total No. of lectures: 64

I.	<u>Background to civilization:</u>	12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Evolution• Palaeolithic culture• Mesolithic culture• Neolithic culture	
II.	<u>A History of Civilizations :</u>	12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changing vocabulary• Involvement of all social sciences in the study of Civilization• The continuity of Civilizations	
III.	<u>Bronze Age Civilization</u> {with reference to any one of Egypt(Old Kingdom) / Mesopotamia(up to Akkadian Empire) / China(Shang dynasty)}	12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State structure/Polity• Social stratification• Economy• Religion	
IV.	<u>Iron age</u>	12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debates on advent of Iron and its implications	

- Concept
- Frameworks and Themes
- Origins of Eurasian Pastoralism & Horse domestication

ESSENTIAL READINGS

Burns, Edward McNall and Ralph, Philip Lee . *World Civilizations: Their History and Their Culture*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company Inc , 1974.

Clark, J Desmond (ed). *Cambridge History of Africa*, Vol. I. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982.

Childe, V. Gordon. *What Happened in History*. New York: Penguin books, 1946.

Clark, Grahame. *World Prehistory: In New Perspective*. Cambridge University Press, 1977.

Braudel, Fernand. *A History of Civilizations*. New York: Penguin, 1995.

Fagan, Brian M & Durrani, Nadia. *People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Prehistory* . Oxford : Routledge,1998.

Farooqui, Amar. *Early Social Formations*. Delhi : Manak Publications Pvt. Ltd, **2002**.

Finley, Moses I. *The Ancient Economy*. Oakland: University of California Press, 1973.

Hawkes, Jacquetta . *The first great civilizations;: Life in Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley and Egypt*. New York: Knopf ,1973.

Roux, Georges. *Ancient Iraq*. London: Penguin Books Ltd, 1993.

Shaoyi, Bai . *An Outline History of China*. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 1982 .

Saggs, H. W. F. *The Greatness that was Babylon*. New York: Hawthorn Books, 1962.

Trigger, B. G.; Kemp, B. J.; O'Connor, D.; Lloyd, A. B. *Ancient Egypt: A Social History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

Koffler, Sandy (ed).. *History of Mankind : A global view of cultural & scientific development*. Paris: UNESCO, 1963.

Wenke, Robert J & Olszewski, Deborah . *Patterns in Prehistory: Humankind's First Three Million Years*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Barfield, Thomas J . *The Nomadic Alternative*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1993.

Roy H Behnke. *The Herders of Cyrenaica: Ecology, Economy, and Kinship among the Bedouin of Eastern Libya* . University of Illinois, 1980.

Paper: HST103M (Modular Elective)
Introduction to Pre-modern Assam

Credits: 4 = 4+0+0 (64 Lectures)

- This course intends to acquaint students with the political and socio-cultural developments in the Brahmaputra Valley.
- The focus of the study will be on the various forces and factors which are responsible for the growth of Assamese culture.

Total no. of lectures- 64

Unit-1 :	State Formation in early and Medieval Assam	16
1.1	Kamrupa State, Polity and Administrator	
1.2	Formation of the Ahom State : Expansion and Consolidation	
1.3	State Formation : Chutiya, Dimasa, Koch	
Unit-2 :	Understanding Socio-Economic Structures	16
2.1	Caste System, Social Classes and Occupational Groups of Early Assam	
2.2	Social Organisation in Medieval Assam, Nobility, Paiks, Slaves	
2.3	Agricultural Development in early and Medieval Assam	
2.4	Trade and Commerce Hills and the outside world	
Unit-3 :	Understanding Religious and Cultural Practices	16
3.1	Saivism, Shaktism, Buddhism, Vaishnavism	
3.2	Neo-Vaishnavite Movements in Assam, Social and Cultural Institutions, Satra Institution and Performing Arts	
Unit-4 :	Art and Architecture	16
4.1	Architectural Sites of early Assam : Guwahati, Tezpur and Goalpara	
4.2	Medieval Architecture, Maidams, Ranghar, Karenghar, Namghar, Satra	

ESSENTIAL READINGS :

1. Barpujari, HK. : (ed) *The Comprehensive History of Assam, Vol.I, II and III*, 1992, Publication Board, Assam
2. Choudhury, P.C. *History of Civilization of the People of Assam to the Twelfth Century A.D.*, 1959, Gauhati
3. Lahiri, Nayanjot : *Pre-Ahom Assam*, 1991 , Munshiram Manoharlal
4. Guha, Amalendu : *Medieval and Early Colonial Assam*, 1991, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences
5. Bhuyan, SK : *Anglo Assamese Relations*, 1974, Lawyers Book Stall
6. Devi, L : *Ahom Tribal Relations*, 1968, Assam Book Depot