



Code	Subject Title	Cr. Hrs	Semester
HIS-203	Ancient India	3	III
Year	Discipline		
2	History		

1. Brief Description:

The course deals with the pre-Muslim period of Indo-Pakistan history. It deals with the Indus Valley Civilization and its landmarks and then also focuses on the origin and development of three important religions of the world: Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism. It also discusses religio-political history and social conditions of the people of this period.

2. Aims & Objectives:

After studying this course, students will be able to:

- Appreciate the achievements of one of the oldest civilization of the world—Indus Valley—and its relevance to today's world.
- Understand the socio-political and religious conditions of the people.
- Develop a background for the later developments in India.

3. Contents:

- ❖ Sources of early Indian History.
- ❖ Indus Valley Civilization, Special study of Moenjodaro and Harrapa.
- ❖ The Aryan occupation of India, their origin and migration, their society, religion and culture.
- ❖ Early Vedic civilization and culture
- ❖ The Epic age, The historical value of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.
- ❖ The Caste system, origin and growth, merits and demerits.
- ❖ Jainism. Life and teachings of Mahavira; spready of Jainism, Jain Art and culture.
- ❖ Buddhism. Hindu society before Gautama Budhha, life and teachings of Gautma Buddha, Causes of its spread and decline. Buddhist Art and culture.
- ❖ Greek invasion and its impact upon the sub-continent, Greek Art and culture, special study of The Gandhara Art.
- ❖ The Mauryan Empire and its administrative system.
- ❖ Asoka and the growth of Budhism.
- ❖ The Kushana power, Kanishka, Economic conditions and Art, Causes of Downfall.
- ❖ The Gupta Empire, (Chandra Gupta, Sumandra Gupta), Golden Age, Art, Literature and science, Hindu Renaissance.
- ❖ Harsha Vardhana, Character and administration
- ❖ The Huns, their origin and invasion of India.
- ❖ Rise of Hindu Shahia power, social, cultural and economic conditions and institutions of Hinduism.

4. Basic Readings:

- Basham , A.L. The Wonder that was India.
 Smith, V.A. Ancient History of India

5. Additional Readings:

- Bapat, P.V. 2500 Years of Buddhism
 Bury, J.B. & S.A. Cook(eds.) The Cambridge Ancient History
 Havell, E.B. The History of Aryan Rule in India.
 Hutton, J.H. The Caste in India



Keay, John	<u>India Discovered: Recovery of the Lost Civilization</u>
Mackay, Ernest	<u>Indus Civilization</u>
Mukerjee, R.K.	<u>Men and Thought in Ancient India</u>
Paul-Masson, Oursel	<u>Ancient India and Indian civilization</u>
Piggott, Stuart	<u>Prehistoric India.</u>
Rapson, E. J.	<u>The Cambridge History of India, Vol. I</u>
Sarkar, J.N.	<u>India through the Ages.</u>
Smith, V.A.	<u>Asoka</u>
Sreen, T.R. and S.R. Baksi	<u>Ancient Culture and Civilization</u>
Stein, Burton.	<u>A History of India</u>
Trainor, Kevin	<u>Buddhism The Illustrated Guide</u>
Tripathi, R.S.	<u>History of Ancient India</u>
Veda Vyasa	<u>Ancient India</u>
Wheeler, Sir Mortimar	<u>Indus Valley Civilization</u>
