

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
&
South Asian Studies

FALL 1983-84
Course 442 (3/4 credits)

TR 9:55-11:10
Humanities
Prof. A. K. Narain

HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA

Course Description:

This course is designed to give a survey of the political and cultural history of the sub-continent of India from the earliest times to circa 12th century A.D. An attempt is made to cover this vast span of time and space by presenting an outline of history in terms of main personalities and dynasties, of political theory and administration, of social organization in terms of governing ideas and institutions, of religious systems, and of art and architecture.

Lectures: Twice a week. TR

Honors available. Honors students may meet by appointment for individual guidance.

Lecture Schedule: See the attached list.

Written Assignments and Exams: Two term papers and a final examination (which could be a take-home). First term paper will be due by October 18. Second term paper will be expected by November 29. Term papers need not be more than 8 typed pages. Honors student will be required to do a special research paper in lieu of the final exam.

Grading System: Based on the performances in the two term papers (60%) and the final examination (40%).

Required and Recommended Readings: See the attached list.

LIST OF REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- George Kurien: India, A General Survey, National Book Trust, India, Delhi.
- A. L. Basham: The Wonder that was India, Grove Press, Inc., New York, or another paperback edition). There are other paperback editions of this also.
- A. L. Basham: (ed.) The History & Culture of India, Oxford University Press
- Romila Thapar: A History of India, vol. I, (a Pelican original)
- D. D. Kosambi: Ancient India (perhaps out of print but used copies in hardcover or paperback edition may be available.)
- Romila Thapar: Ancient Indian Social History, Orient Longmans.
- B. G. Gokhale: Ancient India, History & Culture, Asia Publishing House,
- William McNeill & Jean W. Sedlar: Classical India (Readings in World History, volume 4), Oxford University Press
- Benjamin Rowland: The Art and Architecture of India, Buddhist-Hindu-Jain (Pelican History of Art Series)

NOTE: Some of the books listed above are out-of-print and not available in Madison bookstores. They may be borrowed from the U.W. Library or check about them with me for alternate readings.

FOR REFERENCE:

- R. C. Majumdar and A. D. Pusalkar (eds.), The History and Culture of the Indian People, first four volumes.
- C. C. Davies, An Historical Atlas of the Indian Peninsula

NOTE: For more bibliographical information use the general bibliography as well as chapter-wise bibliographical notes on sources as given by Thapar, A History of India, vol. I. There is also a long bibliography at the end of Elder's Lectures in Indian Civilization.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND SOUTH
ASIAN STUDIES.

Semester I, 1983-84

LECTURE SCHEDULE

A. K. Narain

Course: 442

Day & Time: TR 9:55-11:10

Room: Humanities _____

<u>August</u>	<u>LAND, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGES</u>
30	Introduction
<u>September:</u>	<u>SOCIETY AND CULTURE</u>
1	Society: Ideology and institutions
6	Varna and Ashrama systems
8	Family: Women
13	Religion: Hinduism
15	Religion: Buddhism and Jainism
20	Religion: Tantra and Folk elements
22	Art
27	Art
29	Architecture (Temples)
<u>October</u>	<u>POLITICAL HISTORY</u>
4	Historiography: Sources, methods, problems and world context.
6	Indus Valley Civilisation: First urban settlements.
11	Vedic civilisation: The Indo-European problems and traditions.
13	Second urban growth: Republics and monarchies of 6th century B.C.
18	Rise of Magadhan Empire (6th-4th century B.C.)
20	Ashoka (3rd century B.C.) and unification of Indian sub-continent.
25	Disintegration of Mauryan Empire: external and internal forces.
27	The foreign elements in the political and cultural history of India.
<u>November:</u>	<u>POLITICAL HISTORY</u>
1	The rise of South.
3	The nomadic movements in Central Asia and their impact on India.
8	The Kushanas and their empire (2nd-3rd century A.D.).

- 10 Emergence of centrifugal tendencies in the body politic of India.
- 15 The Guptas and the Classical Age of India (4th-6th century A.D.).
- 17 Harsha and Pulakesin: North vs. South.
- 22 Deccan and the South: Their conflicts.
- 24 Tripartite struggle for supremacy: Regional kingdoms.
- 29 The great period of the South

December

POLITICAL HISTORY

- 4 Regional kingdoms in the N. West, East, S. East, etc.
- 6 Rise of Islam: Two phases of conquests: Sind and N. West.
- 8 India and the outside world: Cultural interactions: South East Asia.
- 13 India and the outside world. Cultural interactions: Central Asia, China, etc.