

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Departments of History and South Asian Studies
1986-87: Spring Semester
A. K. Narain.

Course 442 (3/4 credits)
History of Ancient India.

TR.: 12.00-1.15
Humanities: 2251.

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to give a survey of the political and cultural history of ancient India. The lectures will first provide an outline of political history and a broad chronology. They will be followed by lectures on some of the major elements of cultural history .

2. LECTURES : Twice a week. TR.

Individual conference for Honors & Grad.students.

3. LECTURE SCHEDULE : See a provisional list attached.

4. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS :

Two term papers and a final examination (which could be a take-home). First term Paper will be due on 5 March and Second term Paper on 30 April. Term Papers need not be more than 6-7 single-space typed pages.

Honors and Graduate students will be required to do a special research paper in lieu of the second term paper and Final Exam.

The Final (Take-home) exam. and Honors Paper will be due on 7 May.

5. GRADING SYSTEM:

Will be based on the performances in the two term papers (=60%) and the Final exam (40 %).

6. READING LIST :

Enclosed.

Note: some of the required/recommended books are not available at the local bookstores . Consult library/teacher.

A PROVISIONAL LECTURE SCHEDULE FOR COURSE NO. 442 : HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA:

JANUARY

20. Introductory. Land and people.
22. Historiography. sources, methods, approaches, problems, global context.
27. Pre-history, Proto-history, Traditional history.
29. Harappa culture and Indus Civilization. First urbanization. (4th-2nd millennium B.C.).

FEBRUARY

3. Indo-European problem and Non-Indo-European speaking peoples.
5. Vedic people and civilization. (15th-8th centuries B.C.).
10. Period of interaction. Monarchies and republics. Second urbanization. (6th-4th centuries B.C.).
12. Rise of Magadhan empire. Nandas and Mauryas . Chandragupta Maurya (4th-3rd centuries B.C.).
17. Ashoka and his ' Dhammajaya '. (3rd century B.C.).
19. Disintegration of Mauryan empire and a period of interaction between external and internal elements.
24. Greeks and the Sakas. Sungas and the Satavahanas.
26. The Kushan empire and the global context. (2nd-3rd centuries A.D.)

MARCH

3. The Guptas and the 'Classical Age' (4th-6th centuries A.D.).
5. Regionalism and "Feudalism".
10. North versus South . Harsha and Pulakesin. (7th century A.D.).
12. The Deccan and the South .

14 - 22 March : Spring Recess.

24. Tripartite struggle for pan-Indian supremacy : Palas , Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas .
26. Ascendency of the South. The Cholas.
31. Coming of Islam and phases of its conquest of India.

APRIL

2. India and the Outside world. Cultural expansion and interaction.
7. Social organization. Ideology and institutions.
9. Varna and Jati (caste). Ashrama idea.
14. Family. Education . Women.
16. Economy : Agriculture. Industry . Coinage.
21. Religion: Hinduism .
23. Religion : Buddhism and Jainism .
28. Religion : Tantra and Minor cults.
30. Art and Architecture .

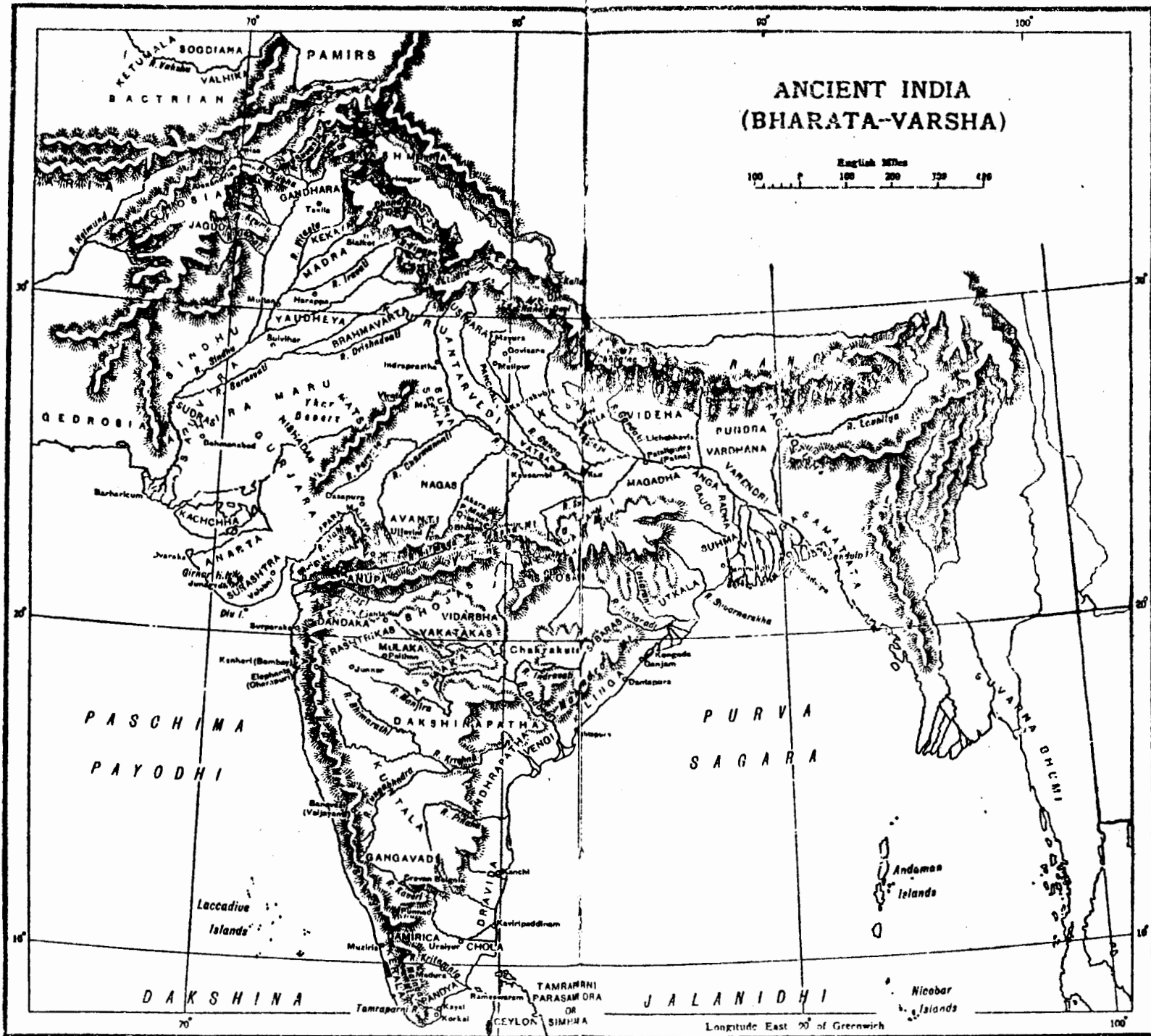
MAY

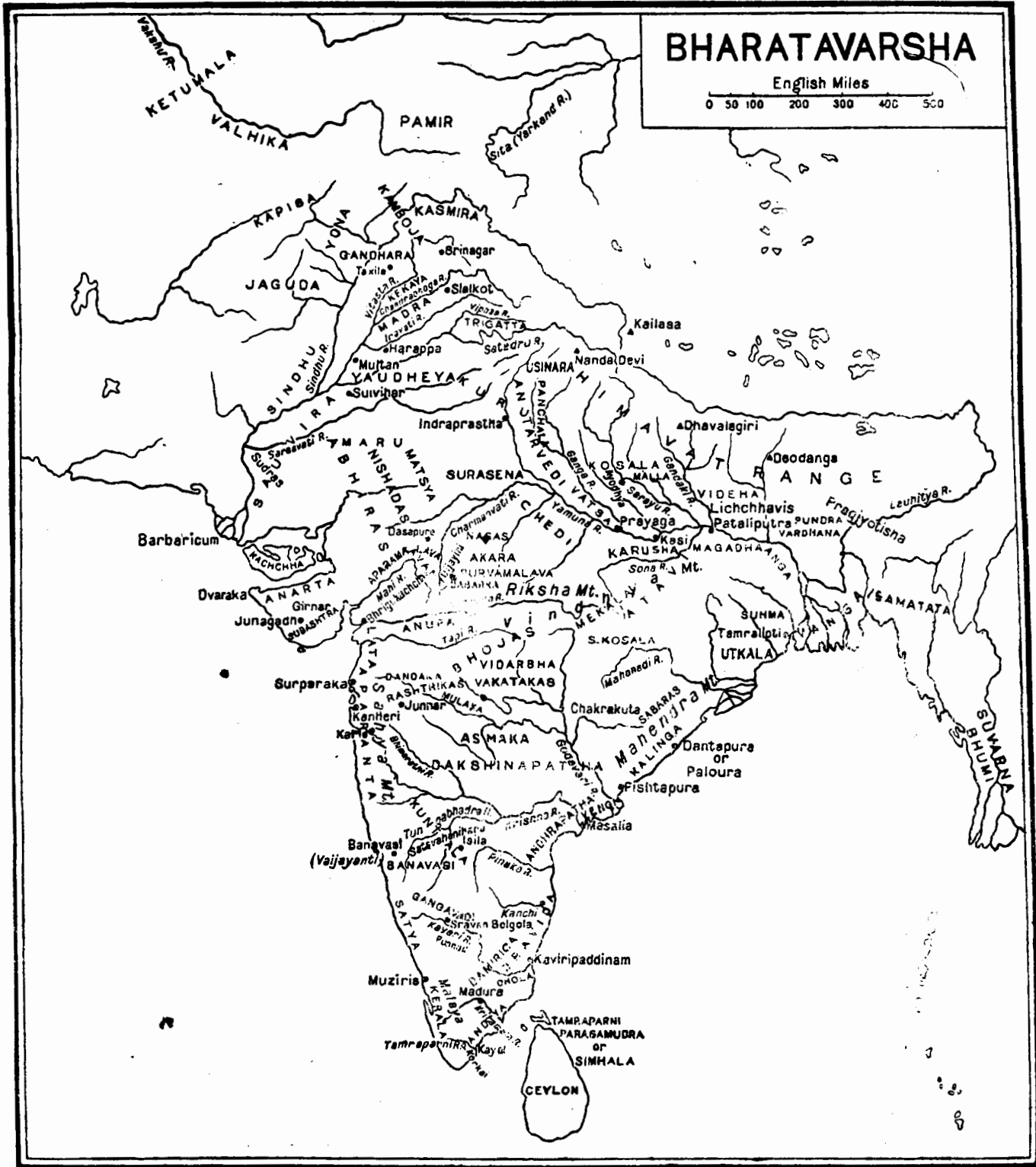
5. Art and Architecture .
7. Overview and questions .

SUNDAY , 10 MAY : FINAL EXAMINATION .

LIST OF REQUIRED/ RECOMMENDED BOOKS

1. Romila Thapar, A History of India , vol. 1 (Pelican).
2. -----, Ancient Indian Social History .
3. -----, Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas
4. J.W.Elder (Ed.), Lectures in Indian Civilization
5. A.L.Basham (Ed), A Cultural History of India
6. A.L.Basham , The Wonder that was India
7. R.S.Sharma , Perspectives in Social and Economic History
Early India
8. -----, Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in
Ancient India
9. G.M.Bongard-levin, Mauryan India
10. D.D.Kosambi, Ancient India
11. B.G.Gokhale, Ancient India, History & Culture.
12. K.M.Panikkar, A Survey of Indian History
13. K.A.Nilkantha Sastri, A History of South India
14. William Th. DeBary, Sources of Indian Tradition . , 2 Vols.
15. William McNeil & Jean Sedlar, Classical India
16. R.C.Majumdar and A.D.Pusalkar (Eds.), The History & Culture
of the Indian People (First Four Vols.).
17. C.C.Davies, AN Historical Atlas of the Indian Peninsula .
18. J.E.Schwartzberg, A Historical Atlas Of South Asia .





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