

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Departments of History and South Asian Studies
1987-88: Spring Semester
A. K. Narain

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

TR: 1:00-2:15
Humanities: RM 2115

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 1 March and Second term Paper on 21 April.
Term Papers need not be more than 10 double-spaced 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 5 May.

5. GRADING SYSTEM:

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

6. READING LIST:

See the enclosed list.

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

19. Introductory. Land and people.
21. Historiography: sources, methods, approaches, problems, global context.
26. Pre-history, Proto-history, Traditional history.
28. Harappa culture and Indus Civilization. First urbanization. (4th-2nd millennium B.C.).

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

12 - 20 March: Spring Recess

22. Tripartite struggle for pan-Indian supremacy: Palas, Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas.
24. Ascendency of the South. The Cholas.
29. Coming of Islam and phases of its conquest of India.
31. India and the Outside world. Cultural expansion and interaction.

APRIL

5. Social organization. Ideology and institutions.
7. Varna and Jati (caste). Ashrama idea.
12. Family. Education. Women.
14. Economy: Agriculture. Industry. Coinage.
19. Religion: Hinduism.
21. Religion: Buddhism and Jainism.
26. Religion: Tantra and Minor cults.
28. Art and Architecture (I).

MAY

3. Art and Architecture (II).
5. Overview and questions.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON
Department of History
TEXTBOOK REQUIREMENTS FOR SPRING SEMESTER 1988

Professor NARAIN

History 442

Name of Course HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA

Estimated Enrollment 30

REQUIRED TEXT:

Author ROMILA THAPAR Publisher PELICAN
Title A HISTORY OF INDIA, VOL. 1

Author J.W. ELDER ed. Publisher KENDALL/HUNT
Title LECTURES IN INDIAN CIVILIZATION

Author A.L. BASHAM ed. Publisher GROVE PRESS
Title THE WONDER THAT WAS INDIA

Author MCNEIL/SEDLAR Publisher OXFORD
Title CLASSICAL INDIA

Out of Print

Author GEORGE KURIYAN Publisher NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA
Title INDIA: A GENERAL SURVEY

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Author ROMILA THAPAR Publisher ORIENT LONGMANS
Title ANCIENT INDIAN SOCIAL HISTORY

Author ROMILA THAPAR Publisher OXFORD
Title ASOKA AND THE DECLINE OF THE MAURYAS

Author A.L. BASHAM ed. Publisher OXFORD
Title A CULTURAL HISTORY OF INDIA

Author R.S. SHARMA Publisher MOTILAL, NEW DELHI
Title ASPECTS OF POLITICAL IDEAS
AND INSTITUTIONS IN ANCIENT INDIA

Out of Print

Author R.S. SHARMA Publisher MUNSHIRAM, NEW DELHI
Title PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY IN EARLY INDIA

Author R.S. SHARMA Publisher MACMILLAN
Title MATERIAL CULTURE AND SOCIAL FORMATIONS IN ANCIENT INDIA

Out of Print

Author G.M. BONGARD-LEVIN Publisher STERLING PUB., NEW DELHI
Title MAURYAN INDIA

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Author K.A. NILKANTHA SASTRI Publisher OXFORD
Title A HISTORY OF SOUTH INDIA

Author WILLIAM TH. DE BARY Publisher COLUMBIA
Title SOURCES OF INDIAN TRADITION (2 VOLUMES)

Author MAJUMDAR/PUSALKAR Publisher BOMBAY
Title THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE
(First Four Volumes)

Author J.E. SCHWARTZBERG Publisher CHICAGO
Title A HISTORICAL ATLAS OF SOUTH ASIA

Out of Print

Author ROY C. CRAVEN Publisher OXFORD
Title A CONCISE HISTORY OF INDIAN ART