

UGCF- 2022
SEMESTER- VII
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
CATEGORY I
B.A. HONOURS HISTORY

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE (DSC): Reading Sources in Indian History: An Introduction to Literary Traditions I

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Reading Sources in Indian History: An Introduction to Literary Traditions I	4	3	1	0		

Learning Objectives

Historians know what they do because they are trained to read and interpret texts and material finds from past. This paper initiates students into an early interface with 'primary' sources - from times far removed from our own. While this assorted list cannot be representative of the vast extant literary corpus, it is meant to give the readers a glimpse of it. Each of the texts have been chosen carefully with a view to familiarise the students with varied kinds of texts, and the diverse set of problems they pose for the historian trying to use them. It is also intended to apprise the students of the ways in which historians interpret and deploy these textual resources along with other similar or dissimilar sources to create a meaningful narrative about the past. Additionally, they should also be able to appreciate the need for and legitimacy of more than one way of reading the same source.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this course, the students shall be able to

- Contextualize the source in its own time, space, and genre
- Understand the issues that arise in the process of using a source for the reconstruction of history

Syllabus

Unit I: Vedic to Puranic Source: *Rgveda* (10th *Mandala*); *Yajnavalkya Smriti* (section on *Acharya*); *Matsyapurana* (ch.93-97)

Unit II: Buddhist text: *Vajrasuchi* of Asvaghosa

Unit III: Tamil Sangam text (*Akam* poetry)

Unit IV: Medieval Sources: *Lekhapaddhati* (2 documents); Chachnama (Ch. 1); Amir Khusrau's *Nuh Siphir*.(Description of India)

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit I: Vedic to Puranic (teaching time: approx. 4 weeks)

- *Rgveda*, ed. Satvalekar, Paradi, 1985
- J. Gonda, *Vedic Literature*, Leiden, 1975
- *A Treatise on Yajnavalkya*, by Patrick Olivelle, Murty Collection, 2019. .
- Kane, P V: History of the Dharmashastras. Motilal Banarsidass.
- Taluqdar Of Oudh (trans.), *The Matsya Puranam*, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers (repnt.), Delhi
- Jaya Tyagi, *Contestation and Compliance: Retrieving Women's 'Agency' from Puranic Traditions*, OUP, 2014.
- R. C. Hazra, *Studies in the Puranic Records on Hindu Rites and Customs*, Motilal Banarsidass (new edn.), Delhi, 1988.

Unit II: Buddhist text: *Vajrasuchi* (teaching time: approx.. 2 weeks)

- Sujitkumar, Mukhopadhyaya, ed & tr, *The Vajrasuchi of Asvaghosa*, Shantiniketan, 1960
- Ramesh, Bhardwaj, *Vajrasuchi of Asvaghosa and the concept of varna jati*, Delhi, 2007
- Law, B.C, *Asvaghosa*, Calcutta, 1946

Unit III: Tamil Sangam poems (*Akam*) (teaching time: approx. 2 weeks)

- K. Ramanujam (trans.), *The Interior Landscape: Love Poems from a Classical Tamil Anthology*, OUP, Delhi, 1994. (Published online by Cambridge University Press on 23 March, 2011)
- George Hart (trans.), *The Poems of Ancient Tamil: Their Milieu and Their Sanskrit Counterparts*, OUP India, 2000.
- V. Palampal, *Studies in the History of the Sangam Age*, Kalinga Publications, Tamil Nadu, 1998.

Unit IV: Medieval Sources: teaching time: approx. 6 weeks)

This unit is meant to familiarise students with a variety of sources of the medieval period and how they have been interpreted by historians.

- *Lekhapaddhati: Documents of State and Everyday Life from Ancient and Early Medieval Gujarat*, Aligarh Historians' Society Series, translated by Pushpa Prasad, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- L.D. Barnett, 'Review of *Lekhapaddhati*, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain, and Ireland*, 1926-10-01 (4), pp. 771-773.
- The Chachnama: Ancient history of Sind; Tr. Sani Husain; 2008, Los Angeles.
- Yohanan Friedmann, "The Origins and Significance of the Chach Nama", in Yohanan Friedmann, ed., *Islam in Asia*, vol. I, South Asia (Boulder: Westview Press, 1984), pp. 23-37.
- Mohammad Wahid Mirza, *Nuh Siphir of Amir Khusrau*, Oxford University Press, 1949, Introduction (pp. xvii-xxxviii).
- Sunil Sharma, *Amir Khusraw: The Poet of Sultans and Sufis*, Oneworld Publications, May 2005, Introduction, pp. 37-92 & Chapter-4.
- Ansari, Zoe (ed.). *Life, Times & Works of Amir Khusrau Dehlavi*. New Delhi: National Amir Khusrau Society, pp. 74-82, 200-214, 241-322.

Suggested Readings:

- Irfan Habib, 'Persian Book Writing and Book Use in the pre printing age', *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, Vol. 66 (2005-2006), pp. 514-537.
- R.S Sharma, *Material Culture and Social Formation in Ancient India*, Macmillan, 1983
- V. Nath, *The Puranic World: Environment, Gender, Ritual, and Myth*, Manohar, Delhi, 2009.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, from time to time.