

DSE for BA (Hons.)**DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE (DSE): Delhi Through the Ages**

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
DSE- Delhi Through the Ages	4	3	1	0	12 th Pass	

Course Objective

This introductory course looks at watershed moments in Delhi's historical past concerning politics, urbanization, culture, and crisis to provide a background to Delhi's significance and dilemmas today.

Learning Outcome

Upon completion of this course, the student shall be able to:

- To provide a framework within which to locate and study the history of Delhi till the early modern period.
- Analyse and comprehend the challenges of Delhi through the study of the history of its political, urban, and socio-cultural developments and changes

Course Content

Unit I: The Historical Polities of Delhi:

- Indraprastha: from Earliest time to 1000CE
- Delhi in the Tomar-Chauhan period
- Sultanate Delhi
- The Mughals and Hemu-Hemchandra Vikramaditya
- Marathas, Jats, and Sikhs
- The colonial capital

Unit II: Delhi's Urbanization and its Challenges:

- Lal Kot Dhilli/Dhilika to Tughluqabad
- Delhi under the Mughals Shahjahanabad
- Delhi's modern transformation in the 20th Century

Unit III: The Syncretic and Changing Culture of Delhi:

- Ashokan Edicts and Iron Pillars; Yoginipura
Hazrat-i Delhi: Nizamuddin Auliya and Nasiruddin Chirag Delhi,
Nathpanthi Yogis, Jains and Humayun Tomb
- Dara Shikoh, Sheikh Sarmad, Mahamati Prannath and the
Establishment of Sikh Gurudwara
- Growth of Language and Literature: Brijbhasha and Urdu

- d) Delhi University

Unit IV: A City of Crises, Resilience and Transition

- a) Foreign Invasions: The Mongols, Timur, nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali
- b) Delhi in Transition: Mughals, Marathas and East India Company
- c) Delhi 1857
- d) Delhi in 1947: Partition and Rehabilitation

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Essential/recommended readings

Unit 1: This unit will seek to introduce the students to the various significant historical political formations that emerged in Delhi by focusing on the debate on Indraprastha; evidence for Lalkot Rai Pithora; the nature of the Sultanate polity and the city; the imperial design of Shahjahanabad and the British conception of the city as an imperial capital. (Teaching Time: 12 hours Approx.)

Essential Reading

- Bhardwaj, R. K. Hemu: Life and Times of Hemchandra Vikramaditya, New Delhi: R. K. Bhardwaj, 1999.
- Blake, Stephen, 1985. "Cityscape of an Imperial City: Shahjahanabad in 1739", in R.E. Frykenberg, Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society, Oxford University Press, pp. 66-99
- G. S. Sardesai, *New History of the Marathas*, Gyan Publication, 2018.
- Hardip Singh Syan, 'Debating Revolution: Early Eighteenth Century Sikh Public Philosophy on the Formation of the Khalsa,' *Modern Asian Studies*, Volume 48, Issue 4, July 2014, pp. 1096-1133.
- K Natwar Singh, *Maharaj Surajmal: 1707-1763*, Rupa Publication, 2001.
- Kumar, Sunil. (2009) 'Qutb in Modern Memory.' In: Kaul, Suvir, (ed.), *Partitions of Memory*. Delhi: Permanent Black, pp. 140-182.
- Kumar, Sunil. 2011. "Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries CE"; in Albrecht Fuess and Jan Peter Hartung. (eds.). *Court Cultures in the Muslim World: Seventh to Nineteenth Centuries*, London: Routledge, pp. 123-148.
- Mani, B.R. 1997. *Delhi: Threshold of the Orient*; (Studies in Archaeological
- Metcalf, Thomas. 1989. *Imperial Visions*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, 211-239, (Ch.7 & 39; New Delhi: The Beginning of the End)
- Nonika Datta, *Forming an Identity: A Social History of the Jats*, OUP, 1999.
- R., Mani B., and I. D. Dwivedi 2006. "Anangpur Fort: The Earliest Tomar Settlements, Near Delhi," in Upinder Singh, ed., *Delhi: Ancient History*, Social Science Press, New Delhi, pp 200-204.
- Singh, Upinder. 2006. *Ancient Delhi*, Delhi: Oxford University Press
- रणावत, मनोहर सिंह. भारतपुर महाराजा जवाहर सिंह जाट (1763-1768). जयपुर: राजस्थान हिन्दी ग्रन्थ अकादमी, 1987.

Unit II: This unit will briefly explore significant periods of urbanization in Delhi and some of the challenges faced during these developments. It will trace the early urbanization of Delhi from Lal Kot to Tughluqabad, the changes during the Mughal Period, Marathas and Sikhs in Delhi and finally, the transformation of Delhi in the 20th Century, focusing on migration and displacement. (Teaching Time: 12 hours Approx.)

Essential Readings:

- Ali, Athar. 1985; Capital of the Sultans: Delhi through the 13th and 14th Centuries, in R.E. Frykenberg, ed., *Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 34-44
- Carr, Stephen. *The Archaeology and Monumental Remains of Delhi*. Reprint ed. New Delhi: Aryan Books International, 2002. Originally published in Ludhiana: Mission Press; Calcutta: Thacker, Spink & Co., 1876.
- Chenoy, Shama Mitra. (1998). *Shahjahanabad, a City of Delhi, 1638-1857*. New Delhi: Munshiram Manohar Lal Publishers.
- Datta, V N. 1986.; Punjabi Refugees and the Urban Development of Greater Delhi, ; in Robert Frykenberg(ed), *Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History Culture and Society*. Delhi: OUP, 442-462.
- Gupta. Narayani. (1993). "The Indomitable City," in Eckart Ehlers and Thomas Krafft, eds., *Shahjahanabad / Old Delhi: Tradition and Change*. Delhi: Manohar, pp. 29-44.
- Hasan, Nurul, S. (1991). "The Morphology of a Medieval Indian City: A Case Study of Shahjahanabad", In Indu Banga (ed.). *The City in Indian History*, Delhi: Manohar, pp. 87-98.
- Rezavi, Syed Ali Nadeem, (2010). "The Mighty Defensive Fort': Red Fort at Delhi Under Shahjahan -- Its Plan and Structures as Described by Muhammad Waris." *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* 71, pp. 1108-1121.
- Shokoohy, Mehrdad. 2007. *Tughluqabad: a paradigm for Indo-Islamic Urban Planning and its architectural components*. London: Araxus Books.
- Tarlo, Emma. 2001. *Welcome to History: A Resettlement Colony in the Making*. Manohar Publishers and Distributors, 51-69.
- Welch, Anthony and Howard Crane. (1983). "The Tughluqs: Master Builders of the Delhi Sultanate": *Muqarnas*, vol. 1 pp. 123-166.

Unit III: This unit will touch upon some episodes in the past of Delhi that show the historical shaping and reshaping of a syncretic culture over time, with a focus on the names of Delhi, beliefs about the Iron Pillar, Ashokan Edict, the emergence of Sufi tradition in Sultanate Delhi, Mughal architecture, Urdu language and literature in the 18th - 19th Century Delhi Renaissance and the emergence of Delhi University. (Teaching Time: 9 Hours Approx.)

Essential Reading:

- Richard J. Cohen, "An Early Attestation of the Toponym *Ḍhillī*," *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 109 (1989), pp. 513-519.
- Singh, Upinder. 2006. *Ancient Delhi*, Delhi: Oxford University Press

- Alam, Muzaffar. 2013; Introduction to the second edition: Revisiting the Mughal Eighteenth Century"; in *The Crisis of Empire in Mughal North India: Awadh and the Punjab 1707-1748*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. xiii-lxiv
- Aquil, R. 2008.; Hazrat-i-Dehli: The Making of the Chishti Sufi Centre and the Stronghold of Islam, *South Asia Research* 28: 23-48.
- Basu, Aparna. 1986; The Foundations and Early History of Delhi University ; in Robert Frykenberg ed, *Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History Culture and Society*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp 401-430
- Haidar, Najaf. 2014; Persian Histories and a Lost City of Delhi,' *Studies in People History*, vol. 1, pp. 163-171
- Hardeep Puri, *DELHI UNIVERSITY: Celebrating 100 Glorious Years*, Delhi, 2022
- Koch, Ebba. (1994). "Diwan-i'Amam and Chihil Sutun: The Audience Halls of Shah Jahan". *Muqarnas*, vol. 11, pp. 143-165.
- Lowry, Glenn D. 1987. Humayun's Tomb: Form, Function, and Meaning in Early Mughal Architecture. *Muqarnas*, Vol. 4, pp. 133-148
- Naim, C. M. 2004. Ghalib's Delhi: A Shamelessly Revisionist Look at Two Popular Metaphors in Urdu Texts and Contexts: The Selected Essays of C. M. Naim, Delhi: Permanent Black, pp. 250-279.
- Pinto, Desiderios. J. (1989). "The Mystery of the Nizamuddin Dargah: the Account of Pilgrims," in Christian W. Troll, ed., *Muslim Shrines in India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 112-124.
- Sahajo Bai. *Sahaj Prakash: The Brightness of Simplicity*. Edited and translated by Harry Aveling and Sudha Joshi. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2001.
- Shamsur Rahman Faruqi. *A Long History of Urdu Literary Culture, Part 1: Naming and Placing a Literary Culture in Sheldon Pollock ed. Literary Cultures in History: Reconstruction from South Asia*, University of California Press, 2003, pp. 803-863.
- Sunil Kumar, *The Pir's Barakat and the Servitor's Ardour: The Contrasting History of the two Sufi Shrines in Delhi* in Mala Dayal ed. *Celebrating Delhi*, Penguin, 2010.
- Verma, Pavan K. (2008). *Ghalib: The Man, the Times*, Penguin India.
- साहा, रंजीत. महामति प्राणनाथ. नई दिल्ली: साहित्य अकादेमी, नवीनतम उपलब्ध संस्करण.

Unit IV: This unit will examine a few exceptional periods of crisis in the history of Delhi and how these phenomena shaped the city over time. (Teaching Time: 12 hours Approx.)

Essential Readings:

- Abhishek Kaicker, *The King and the People: Sovereignty and Popular Politics in Mughal Delhi*, OUP, 2020.
- Amar Farooqui, *Zafar and the Raj (Anglo-Mughal Delhi C. 1800-1850)*, Primus Books, Delhi, 2013.
- Chandra, Satish. 1991; Cultural and Political Role of Delhi, 1675-1725";, in R.E. Frykenberg, *Delhi through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 106-116.

- G. S. Sardesai, *New History of the Marathas*, Gyan Publication, 2018.
- Jackson, Peter. 1986. 'Delhi: The Problem of a Vast Military Encampment,' in: R.E. Frykenberg (ed.), *Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture, and Society*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1986), 18-33.
- K R Qanungo, *History of the Jats: A Contribution to the History of Northern India*, Gyan Books, 2017
- Lahiri, Nayanjot. 2003; Commemorating and Remembering 1857: The Revolt in Delhi and its Afterlife ; *World Archaeology*, vol. 35, no.1, 35-60.
- Liddle Swapna, *The Broken Script: Delhi Under the East India Company and the Fall of the Mughal Dynasty 1803-1857*, Speaking Tiger Books, 2022.
- Ojha, Archana, Impact of Mongol Invasions on the Delhi Sultanate, *Proceedings of Indian History Congress*, no. 52, 1991, pp. 245-248.
- Pandey, Gyan. 2001. *Remembering Partition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University • Press. (Chapter 6: Folding the National into the Local: Delhi 1947-1948, pp. 121-151.
- Sarkar, Jadunath. *Scindia as Regent of Delhi*. Kolkata: M. C. Sarkar & Sons, 1925.
- Sonawani, Sanjay. *The Unsung Hero: Yashwantrao Holkar*. Pune: Pushpak Prakashan, 2022
- Spear, TGP. *Twilight of the Mughals*. Alam, Muzaffar. 2013, "Introduction to the second edition: Revisiting the Mughal Eighteenth Century" in *The Crisis of Empire in Mughal North India: Awadh and the Punjab 1707-1748*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. xiii-lxiv
- T. S. Shejwalkar, *Panipat: 1761*, Gyan Publication House, 2025.
- घनश्याम होलकर. महाराजा यशवंतराव होलकर. चेन्नई: Notion Press, 2023.
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Suggested Readings

- Anand Taneja. *Saintly Visions: Other Histories and History's Others in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi*; IESHR, 49 (2012).
- Anthony Welch, 'The Shrine of the Holy Footprint in Delhi', *Muqarnas*, 14 (1997): 116-178; • Asher, Catherine B. 2000. "Delhi Walled: Changing Boundaries"; in James D. Tracy, *City Walls: The Urban Enceinte in Global Perspective*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 247- 281.
- Bayly, Christopher Alan. (1986). "Delhi and Other Cities of North India during the "Twilight,"" in *Delhi through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture, and Society*, edited by Robert Eric Frykenberg, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 221-36.
- Blake, Stephen P. 1991. *Shahjahanabad: The Sovereign City in Mughal India, 1639- 1739*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Farooqui, Mahmood. 2013. *Besieged: Voices from Delhi, 1857*. Delhi: Penguin. (Dateline pp. xix-xxvii; In the Name of the Sarkar, pp 407-432.)
- Flood, Finbarr B. 2003. "Pillars, Palimpsests, and Princely Practices: Translating the past in Sultanate Delhi; *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics*, No. 43, Islamic Arts, pp. 95-116.

- Flood, Finbarr B. 2008. "Introduction"; in Finbarr B. Flood, *Piety and Politics in the Early Indian Mosque*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. xi-lxxviii
- Frances W. Pritchett, *A Long History of Urdu Literary Culture*, Part 2: *Histories, Performances, and Masters* in Sheldon Pollock ed. *Literary Cultures in History: Reconstruction from South Asia*, University of California Press, 2003, pp. 864-911.
- Habib, Irfan. 1978. 'Economic History of the Delhi Sultanate -- an Essay in Interpretation', *Indian Historical Review*, vol. 4, pp. 287-303.
- Hasan, Zafar. 1922. *A Guide to Nizamu-d Din*. New Delhi: *Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India*,
- Mann, Michael. 2005. *Turbulent Delhi: Religious Strife, Social Tension and Political Conflicts, 1803-1857* ; *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, vol.28, no.1, pp. 5-34
- Page, J.A. 1926. *A Historical Memoir on the Qutb*. New Delhi: *Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India* No,22 Page, J.A. 1937. *A Memoir on Kotla Firoz Shah*, Delhi. New Delhi: *Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India* #52
- Pilar, Maria Guerrieri, (2017). 'The Megacity of Delhi: Colonies, Hybridisation and Old New Paradigms,' in *Rethinking, Reinterpreting and Restructuring Composite Cities* edited by Gülsün Sağlamer, Meltem Aksoy, Fatima Erkök, Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp. 18-33
- Pinto, Desiderios. J. (1989). 'The Mystery of the Nizamuddin Dargah: the Account of Pilgrims,' in Christian W. Troll, ed., *Muslim Shrines in India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 112-124.
- Russell, Ralph. 1998. "Ghalib: A Self Portrait," in Ralph Russell, *Ghalib: The Poet and His Age*. Delhi: OUP. Also available at: http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealc/pritchett/00ghalib/texts/txt_ralphrussell_1972.pdf
- Shamsur Rahman Faruqi, (2001). "A True Beginning in the North" and "A Phenomenon called 'Vali'" in *Early Urdu Literary Culture and History*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 109-126, 129-142.
- Singh, Upinder. Ed., (2006) *Delhi: Ancient History*, Delhi: Social Science Press
- Upinder Singh, *Discovering Ancient in Modern Delhi*. In Mala Dayal ed. *Celebrating Delhi*, Penguin, 2010.
- Vazira, Fazila Yacoobali Zamindar. (2007). *The Long Partition and the Making of South Asia: Refugees, Boundaries, Histories*. New York: Columbia University Press. (Chapter I: Muslim Exodus from Delhi.)

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