

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC Elective (DSE): Sources and the Practice of History – II

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		
Sources and the Practice of History-II	4	3	1	0		

Learning Objectives

This course is a sequel to its counterpart in the previous semester and trains the student in the close reading, analysis and contextualization of primary historical sources. It consists of primary texts of different genres from Indian history. Historians know what they do because they are trained to read and interpret texts and material finds from past. This paper initiates students into the study of “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 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. Students will be confronted with the challenges of historical interpretation and reconstruction of a variety of concepts, perspectives and experiences including those relating authority, gender, social categorization, caste, ecology, emotions, and art. A study of these themes will prepare students to specialise further in the discipline.

Each of the texts has been provided with a standard translated version and a few secondary readings around it, which are indicative of historical contexts and inferences drawn from them in Indian history writing.

Learning outcomes

- Upon completion of this course student should be able to identify:
- The importance of the primary texts for broader historical understandings
- To gain an understanding of several themes such as authority, society, gender, caste, ecology and culture.
- Trace the emergence and trajectories of institutions, ideologies and concepts.

Syllabus

Unit I: Arthashastra,

Unit II: Meghaduta

Unit III: Divyavadana

Unit IV: Rajatarangini

Essential/recommended readings

Unit 1: Arthashastra (12 Lectures)

- Translation: R.P. Kangle, (transl.) The Kautiliya Arthashastra, Part I: Sanskrit Text with a Glossary; The Kautiliya Arthashastra, Part II: An English Translation
- Thomas Trautmann, (transl.) Arthashastra: The Science of Wealth, Penguin, 2012
- Heesterman JC (1985) The Inner Conflict of Tradition Essays in Indian Ritual, Kingship, and Society, (Chapter 9, "Kautilya and the Ancient Indian State")
- Olivelle, Patrick (1 January 2004). "Manu and the Arthasāstra, A Study in Śāstric Intertextuality", Journal of Indian Philosophy Journal of Indian Philosophy, 32 (2–3):281–291.

Unit 2: Meghaduta (12 Lectures)

- Translation: M.R. Kale, (transl.), The Meghaduta of Kalidasa, Motilal Banarsidass, (1January2008)
- Daniel H.H. Ingalls, 'Kalidasa and the Attitudes of the Golden Age', Journal of the American Oriental Society, Vol. 96, No.1 (Jan.-Mar., 1976), pp. 15-26.
- Ram Gopal, Kalidasa: His Art and Culture, Concept Publishing Company, 1984.
- Simona Sawhney, 'Who is Kalidasa? Sanskrit poetry in modern India', Postcolonial Studies, Vol. 7, Issue 3, 2004, pp. 295-312.

Unit -3 Divyavadana (12 Lectures)

- Translation: E.B.Cowell and R.A. Neil, The Divyavadana : A Collection of Early Buddhist Legends, Gyan Publishing House, 2021
- Kalpana Upreti, 'Institutional and Ideological Usage of Dana in Divyavadana', Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, Vol.50, 1989, pp.88-95.
- Kalpana Upreti, India A Reflected in Divyavadana, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd, 1995

Unit 4: Rajatarangini (12 Lectures)

- Translation: A. Stein, (transl.) Kalhana's Rajatarangini: A Chronicle of the Kings of Kashmir: 3 Volumes – vols. 1 and 2 in English, vol. 3 in Sanskrit (1892), Motilal Banarsidass, 5th edition (1 January 2017).
- Thapar, Romila. 'Historical Ideas of Kalhan as Expressed in the Rajatarangini', in Mohibul Hasan (ed.) Historians of Medieval India, Delhi, 1968.
- Rangachari, Devika, 'Kalhana's Rajatarangini: A gender Perspective ' The Medieval History Journal, 5(1), 2002, pp. 37-75.

- Roy, Kumkum, 'The Making of a Mandala: Fuzzy Frontiers of Kalhana's Kashmir' in idem., ed., *The Power of Gender and the Gender of Power: Explorations in Early Indian History*, OUP, 2010.

Practical component (if any) - NIL

Suggested Readings:

- Translation: Rangarajan, L.N., (transl.) Kautilya: The Arthashastra, Penguin Classics, 1992
- Translation: Olivelle, Patrick, (transl.) King, Governance and Law in Ancient India: Kautilya's Arthashastra, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Shiv Subramaniam, 'How a Philosopher Reads Kalidasa: Vedantadesika's Art of Devotion', *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, 49(1), 2021, pp. 45-80.
- Agnihotri, Manisha, *Life and Times of Two Shikhandis in the Mirror of History*, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 2025, Part -II (for Divyavadana) , pp. 41-8
- Agnihotri, Manisha, *Do Shikhandiyon Ka jeevancharitra Avam Unka Kaal: Itihaas ke Darpan Mein*, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 2025, Dvitiya Khand (for Divyavadana), pp. 43-93.
- Translation: Rajatarangini: The Saga of the Kings of Kashmir by Ranjit Sitaram Pandit, (English Translation) The Indian Press, Allahabad, 1935. (South Asia Books; Reprint edition, 1 December 1990) (Sahitya Academy, Government of India, New Delhi).
* Translation: Rajatarangini (with Hindi Commentary by Ramtej Shastri Pandey), Chaukhamba Sanskrit Pratishthan, 2015
- Kaul, Shonaleeka, 'Seeing the Past: Text and Questions of History in Kalhana's Rajatarangini', *History and Theory*, Vol. 53, Issue 2, 2014, pp.194-211.
- Bronner, Yigal, 'From Conqueror to Connoisseur: Kalhana's Account of Jayapida and the Fashioning of Kashmir as a Kingdom of Learning', *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 2013.
- Zutshi, Chitrlekha, ed., *Kashmir's Contested Past: Narratives, Sacred Geographies and the Historical Imagination*, OUP, 2014

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