

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE (DSE): Introduction to Epigraphy and Numismatics

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		
Introduction to Epigraphy and Numismatics	4	3	1	0		

Learning Objectives

This course covers essential aspects of two important categories of archaeological sources namely epigraphy and numismatics. It will introduce students to explore the field of epigraphy and numismatics and equip them to understand its handling and how to use them for historical reconstruction a new. Being aware of epigraphy and its significance for historical reconstruction encourage students to learn about scripts, languages and thereby its evolution and development. Similarly, understanding of numismatics and concerned methodologies provide students ideas as to how they may infer its pertinence to debasement and fiscal history. Parameters of analysis involved in epigraphy and numismatics gives a firm background to understand and explore these potential field with promising research scopes to enrich understanding of social, cultural, political and economic history.

Learning outcomes

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

- know the nature and importance of original sources for historical reconstruction
- variations in and different types of inscriptions and coins of different historical periods
- learning of languages and scripts used in inscriptions and coins; practical experience of different physical aspects of inscriptions and coins.
- Learn classical languages and scripts of India and circulation of coins in the society.

Syllabus

Unit-I: Elements of Epigraphy

1. The decipherment of ancient scripts and the evolution of epigraphic research in India.
2. Classifying inscriptions on the basis of language, script and purport. Analyzing inscriptions: the role and potential of epigraphic evidence in historical reconstruction; modes of analysis -- quantitative methods; mapping; issues of intent, purpose, audience, context; the relationship between inscriptions and literature.

Unit-2: Development and Evolution of Epigraphy The Harappan script: basic features; claims to decipherment; the role of writing in the Harappan civilization.

1. The origins, paleographic features, and development of early historic Indic scripts, with special reference to Brahmi, Kharoshthi and Tamil-Brahmi.

Unit-II: Elements of Numismatics

1. Survey of Numismatic Studies (early 18th century to the present).

2. Methods for using coins for reconstruction of different kinds of histories of early India: economic, social, political, religious, and cultural.
3. Numismatic Terminology.

Unit-IV: Development and Evolution of Numismatics

4. Origin and Evolution of Coins – Techniques of Manufacturing.
5. Metrology of Coins: Weight Standards.
6. Survey of Early Coins (up to circa 1300 CE).

Practical component (if any) - Reading and interpreting inscriptions: A close reading and analysis of at least 6 different types of inscriptions (eg. edicts, prasastis, votive inscriptions, land grants and records of the proceedings of local bodies) belonging to different periods and regions.

Essential/recommended readings

Unit: I: This unit introduces the students to the essentials of epigraphy. It explores history of epigraphic research in India, classification of inscriptions, **(Teaching time: 12 hrs. approximately)**

- Sircar, D.C.: ed. Select Inscriptions bearing on Indian History and Civilisation, vol.1&2, 1983.
- Singh, K.S. and Manoharan S. : Language and Scripts, vol-9, 1993.
- गौरीशंकर हीराचंद ओझा: प्राचीन भारतीय लिपिमाला, 2016.
- Salomon Richard. 1999. Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and the Other Indo-Aryan Languages (South Asia Research). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hultzsch, E. 1925. Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol.1 Inscriptions of Asoka. Delhi: ASI

Unit II: This unit deals with evolution and development of early historic Indian scripts and interpretation of inscriptional data. **(Teaching time: 11 hrs. approximately)**

- Dani, A. H. Indian Epigraphy. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.1986, 1997.
- Bühler, G. Indian Palaeography ([1904], 2004). New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1904, 2004.
- Subrahmanian, N.and Venkataraman, R. 1980 Tamil Epigraphy Madurai: Ennes Publications, 1980.
- शर्मा अमिता: भारतीय अभिलेखशास्त्र, पुरालिपिशास्त्र एवं कालक्रम पद्धति, 2010.

Unit: III: This unit introduces the students to the essentials of numismatics. It explores history of numismatics research in India, methods of using coins for reconstruction of history, **(Teaching time: 11 hours approximately)**

- Sircar. D. C. Studies in Indian Coins. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas Publisher. 1968.
- Elliot, Walter. Coins of South India. Delhi: Bharatiya Kala Prakashan, 2005.
- Cunningham, Alexander. Coins of Ancient India: From the Earliest Times Down to the Seventh Century A.D. Delhi: ASI, 1996.
- Allan, John: Catalogue of the Coins of Ancient India in the British Museum (1936, Indian Reprint 1975)

Unit IV : This unit deals with familiarizing students with the origin and evolution of coins, metrology of coins and survey of early coins. **(Teaching time: 11 hours approximately)**

- Mukherjee, N. The Techniques of Minting Coins in Ancient and Medieval India. 1997. वासुदेव उपाध्याय: भारतीय सिक्के, 1948.
- Gupta, P. L. Kuṣāṇa coins and history. Delhi: D.K. Printworld. 1994.
- Sharma, I.K.: Coinage of the Satavahana Empire 1980.
- Tylecote, R.F.: Metallurgy in Archaeology: Readings for various Coin Series 1962.
- Chattopadhyay, Bhaskar: The Age of the Kushanas: A Numismatic Study 1967.
- Pokharna, Premalata : Coins of North India (500-1200 AD): A Comprehensive Study on Indo-Sassanian Coins, Unique Traders, Jaipur, 2006.

Suggestive readings:

- Hultzsch, E. 1925. Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol.1 Inscriptions of Asoka. Delhi: ASI
- Diskalkar D. B.: Selections from Sanskrit Inscriptions, 1977.
- वासुदेव उपाध्याय: भारतीय सिक्के, 1948
- Cribb, Joe : “Investigating the Introduction of Coinage in India – A Review of Recent Research”, JNSI, Vol.XLV, 1983, pp.80-107.
- Chakraborty S.K. : Study of Ancient Indian Numismatics 1931.
- Guillaume, Olivier : Analysis of Reasonings in Archaeology: The Case of GraecoBactrian and Indo-Greek Numismatics 1990
- Deyell, John S. : Living Without Silver: The Monetary History of Early Medieval North India, OUP, Delhi, 1990.
- Jha, Amiteshwar and Dilip Rajgor : Studies in the Coinage of the Western Kshatrapas (1994)
- Altekar A.S.: Coinage of the Gupta Empire (1957)
- Chattopadhyay, Bhaskar : The Age of the Kushanas : A Numismatic Study (1967)
- Ray, S.C.: Stratigraphic Evidence of Coins in Indian Excavations and Some Allied Issues (1959)
- Gupta, P.L. and T.R. Hardekar : Ancient Indian Silver Punch-Marked Coins (1985)
- Casey, P. John : Understanding Ancient Coins : An Introduction for Archaeologists and Historians (1986)
- Tiwari, J.N. & P.L. Gupta : “A Survey of Indian Numismatography”, JNSI, Vol.XXIII, 1961, pp.21-48
- Mitchiner, Michael : The Origins of Indian Coinage (1973)
- Dasgupta, K.K. : A Tribal History of Ancient India – A Numismatic Approach (1974)
- Mahadevan, Iravatham. 2003. Early Tamil Epigraphy: From the Earliest Times to the Sixth Century AD. Chennai: Centre for the Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies, Harvard University.
- Ojha, G. H. (1918] 1993) The Palaeography of India. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.
- Pollock, Sheldon. ([2006] 2007) The Language of the Gods in the World of Men: Sanskrit, Culture, and Power in Premodern India. New Delhi: Permanent Black.
- Ramesh, K. V. 1984. Indian Epigraphy, vol. 1. Delhi: Sundeep Prakashan
- Subrahmanian, N. and Venkataraman, R. 1980. Tamil Epigraphy Madurai: Ennes Publications.

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