

GENERIC ELECTIVE (GE): Ideas and Institutions in Indian History

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		
Ideas and Institutions in Indian History	4	3	1	0		

Learning Objectives

This course intends to introduce students to the complex relations that have historically existed between ideas and institutions. It aims to inquire into fundamental categories like the state, religion, economy and society as they have evolved over time. Students will be able to thereby trace the long term trajectories that have shaped the history of India.

Learning outcomes

Course Outcome:

The interdisciplinary nature of this course will introduce both history and non-history students to some of the long term processes that have shaped Indian history. It will help students develop their analytical abilities by introducing them to a wide range of themes and sources.

Course Content

- Unit I: In The State's Purview: Ideas and Institutions
- Unit II: On Religion and Dharma: Debates, Identities and Communities
- Unit III: The Economic Setup: Structures and Processes
- Unit IV: Social Practices and Institutions: Varna, Jati, and Tribe
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Unit I: In The State's Purview: Ideas and Institutions

The focus of this unit will be an examination of political formation in the Indian subcontinent over the longue duree. Issues and aspects relating to power, authority, governance and its legitimation will be analysed.

Essential Readings:

- R. S. Sharma. 1996. *Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas.

- S. Kumar, “Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries” in Jan Peter Hartung and Albrecht Fuess, eds., *Court Cultures in the Muslim World*, London: SOAS/Routledge Studies on the Middle East, pp. 123-148.
- J. F Richards. 1998. *Kingship and Authority in South Asia*, Delhi: Oxford University Press,
- H. Kulke, 1997. *The State in India 1000-1700*, Delhi: Oxford University Press
- C.A.Bayly.1990. *Indian Society and the Making of the British Empire (The New Cambridge History of India)*
- A.Farooqui. 2023. *The Establishment of British Rule in India, 1757-1813*. New Delhi: Tulika Books
- N. Hussain, 2019. *The Jurisprudence of Emergency: Colonialism and the Rule of Law* Ann Arbor : University of Michigan Press

Unit II: On Religion and Dharma: Debate, Identities and Communities

The subject matter of this unit is the domain of the ‘other world’ in this world – essentially, the sphere of religion, spirituality, and matters of faith. The term dharma encapsulates it closely, and the paper will seek to understand its myriad connotations over time. Through a text-based elucidation and discussion, students will be encouraged to probe the debates and religious identities that have evolved uniquely in South Asia, and the institutions that have helped articulate and formalize communities formed thereof.

Essential Readings:

- M.Biardeau. 1989. *Hinduism: The Anthropology of a Civilization*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- P.Olivelle, 2016 *A Dharma Reader: Classical Indian Law*. Columbia University Press
- W. Halbfass 1991. *Reflection and Tradition* Delhi: Motilal Banarasidas (Chapters 2-4, 8-10)
- V. Eltschinger. 2015 *Caste and Buddhist Philosophy* Delhi: Motilal Banarasidas (Chapter 1)
- M. Devadan, 2016. *A Pre-History of Hinduism* Berlin: De Gruyter Open Ltd
- S. Kumar “Assertions of Authority: a Study of the Discursive Statements of Two Sultans of Delhi—‘Ala al-Din Khalaji and Nizam al-Din Auliya”, in *The Making of Indo-Persian Culture: Indian and French Studies*, ed. Muzaffar Alam, Francoise ‘Nalini’ Delvoye, and Marc Gaborieau, Delhi: Manohar, pp. 37-65
- A. Truschke. 2015. *Culture of Encounters* New York : Columbia University Press
- M. Alam. 2021. *The Mughals and the Sufis* Ranikhet: Permanent Black
- K. Jones. 2006. *Socio-Religious Reform Movements* New York : Cambridge University Press
- V. Geetha. 1998. *Towards a Non Brahmin Millennium: From Jyothee Thas to Periyar* Calcutta : Samya.

Unit III: The Economic Setup: Structures and Processes

The economic setup of any area provides the basis and matrix in which other socio-cultural forms germinate. How were economic relations transacted, and which were the core principles and ideas that provided the structures and exchanges for the economic functioning of India in pre-modern times? Trade, money economy, operation of guilds, labour relations, economic measures and taxation as well as deindustrialization, commercialization of agriculture will be issues within the ambit of Unit III.

Essential Readings:

- N.Lahiri. 1992. *The Archaeology of Indian Trade Routes Up to c.200 BC: Resource Use, Resource Access and Lines of Communication*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- R.Chakravarti, ed.2004. *Trade in Early India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- B.P.Sahu & B.D.Chattopadhyay ed.1997. *Land, System and Rural Society in Early India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- J.Deyell.1990. *Living Without Silver: The Monetary History of Early Medieval North India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- R.S.Sharma. 2000.*Pracheen Bharat Ka Arthik evam Samajik Itihas*. Delhi: Directorate of Hindi Medium Education, University of Delhi
- T.Raychaudhuri & I.Habib.ed. 1982. *Cambridge Economic History of India, Vol. I, 1200-1750*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- D.Kumar.ed. 2000. *Cambridge Economic History of India, Vol. II*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- T.Roy. 2011. *The Economic History of India 1857-1947*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- Agarwal, Ankit; Development of Economic Organisations and their role in Human Empowerment during the Gupta Period' published in History Today 13, a journal of the Indian History and Culture Society, 2012, pp.14-21 (ISSN No. 2249-748x)

Unit IV: Social Practices and Institutions: Varna, Jati, and Tribe

Unit IV will cover perhaps the most pervasive of the social ideas that manifest as identities and are further perpetuated through institutions, both orthodox and heterodox. In the process, issues self-identity and 'othering', hierarchies and inequalities, and marginalized social entities will be brought to light.

Essential Readings:

- A.Parasher-Sen ed. 2004. *Subordinate and Marginalized Groups in Early India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- S. Jaiswal, 1998. *Caste: Origin, Function and Dimensions of Change*, New Delhi: Manohar Publishers & Distributors.
- जायसवाल, सुबीरा. (२००४), वणर्-जातिव्यवस्था: उद्भव, प्रकायर् और रूपांतरण (अनुवादक: आदित्य नारायणिसंह). नई िदल्ली: ग्रंथिशल्पी. पृष्ठ१५-४३.

- S. Guha, 1999. *Environment and Ethnicity in India, 1200-1900*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- T. Trautmann. 1997. *Aryans and British India* Berkeley: University of California Press
- V. Rodrigues, *The Essential Writings of B.R. Ambedkar* New Delhi: Oxford University Press 2005. pp. 1-44; 47-53; 191-205; 219-239; 383-407.

Suggested Readings:

- A. Hildebrandt. 2011, *Dharma: Its Early History in Law, Religion, and Narrative*. New York: Oxford University Press
- H. Kulke and B.P. Sahu ed. 2022. *The Routledge Handbook of the State in Premodern India* Routledge India
- Rajat Ray. ed. 1994. *Entrepreneurship and Industry in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- P. Parthasarathy, 2011, *Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia did not: Global Economic Divergence, 1600-1850*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press