

## HH2011: Ancient and Medieval South Asia

This course covers the early history of South Asia, from the rise of the Indus Valley Civilization (ca. 2500 BCE) until about 1200. The course examines the major cultural, religious, and social factors that shaped the course of Indian history, introducing students to the major processes, narratives and historical interpretations. We will explore themes such as urbanization, the growth of empires and regional states, the establishment of mercantile and trade networks, and the development and transformation of Indian religions including Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. In addition to assigned secondary readings students will read select primary sources on the history, religion and culture of the Indian Subcontinent. We will also make use of literary, archaeological and visual sources in class. Prior knowledge of Indian history or culture is not required, but intellectual engagement is expected.

Assessments:

### **Participation (15%)**

In class, you will learn from each other and build up your skills in close reading, constructing convincing arguments, articulating these arguments verbally and analyzing primary sources. You are expected to regularly attend class and participation in class will be assessed for depth, frequency, and quality of your contributions to classroom discussion.

### **Weekly Primary Source Response (15%)**

Primary source analysis is a key skill that is required for historical research. Each week, please upload a 200-word **response** to the **primary sources** assigned for that week. Questions you might address include: Which themes do you see in the source? Is there anything that surprised you or that you don't understand? Who might have been the target audience for this particular source? You must upload the response on the Monday before the class (Wednesday), to give other students the opportunity to read through your argument. In our tutorials you will discuss your responses in small groups, working together to **formulate evidence-based, well-reasoned arguments** for your **interpretations** of the sources of that week.

### **Essay - Primary Source Analysis (25%)**

I will provide a list of primary sources (different extracts from sources we have looked at in class). You will submit a 1000-word essay (due Week 7) analysing one of these primary sources. You should closely analyse the source, answering the same kinds of questions we have practiced answering in class **and** draw upon other **primary and secondary sources** to **conceptualize** and **explain** it more fully. NB. This essay is not a research project but, rather, a close reading of one primary source.

## **Research Essay (50%)**

This essay is an important first step in practicing history research skills and applying them on a small-scale. You will write a 3000-word **research** essay (due Week 12). I will provide a list of topics and you should choose a topic and formulate a research proposal related to it. You must submit a 100-word research proposal (5%) detailing the question you want to research and why you think it is important, and a preliminary bibliography to your tutorial professor by Week 6 (5%). By week 10, you must have begun to write a draft of your essay – **we will do a peer-review of what you have written so far in week 10's tutorial**. In your essay you should use primary sources (eg. sources we have looked at in class) and secondary sources as well as your own ideas to answer the question you proposed. From the essay, you will be able to see possible paths in which further research is needed and raise new questions.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings/ Activities</b>
1	<b>Sources and historiography</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thomas R. Trautmann, <i>India: Brief History of a Civilisation</i>, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp.1-15.</li> <li>• Familiarise yourself with the map of South Asia</li> </ul> <p>No Tutorial</p>
2	<b>The Indus Valley or Harappan Civilization</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trautmann, <i>India</i>, pp. 16- 31.</li> <li>• Romila Thapar, <i>The Penguin History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300</i>, pp. 1-29.</li> </ul> <p>Primary Source: watch one of the following and write a response to it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.harappa.com/video/search-meluhha-story-mohenjodaro">https://www.harappa.com/video/search-meluhha-story-mohenjodaro</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.harappa.com/video/indus-valley-civilization-masters-river">https://www.harappa.com/video/indus-valley-civilization-masters-river</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.harappa.com/video/understanding-discovery-harappan-civilization">https://www.harappa.com/video/understanding-discovery-harappan-civilization</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.ted.com/talks/rajesh_rao_a_rosetta_stone_for_a_lost_language?language=en">https://www.ted.com/talks/rajesh_rao_a_rosetta_stone_for_a_lost_language?language=en</a></li> </ul>
3	<b>The Aryan Controversy</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thomas Trautmann, 'Introduction', in Trautmann, ed., <i>The Aryan Debate</i> (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. xiii-xliii.</li> </ul>

		<p>Primary Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tbc</li> </ul>
4	<b>Vedic Society</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trautmann, <i>India</i>, pp. 32-49.</li> <li>• A.L. Basham, <i>Origins and Development of Classical Hinduism</i> (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989), pp. 20-35.</li> </ul> <p>Primary Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Rig Veda: an Anthology: 108 Hymns</i>, trans. Wendy O’Flaherty, (Penguin, Harmondsworth, 1981), pp. 29-32; 89-93.</li> </ul>
5	<b>The Sramanas - New Religious Movements</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trautmann, <i>India</i>, pp. 48-56.</li> <li>• A.L. Basham, <i>Origins and Development of Classical Hinduism</i> (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989), pp. 36-67 (chapters 3 and 4).</li> </ul> <p>Primary Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘The Wrong Sacrifice and the Right’ (Kutadanta sutta) <i>Dialogues of the Buddha</i>, trans T.W. Rhys Davids, Oxford, 1987, pp. 173-85.</li> </ul> <p>The tutorial will also be conducted online – details tbc.</p>
6	<b>The Mauryan Empire</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thapar, <i>Early India</i>, 174-209</li> <li>• Optional: Watch Asoka (2001), dir. Santosh Sivan</li> </ul> <p>Primary Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D.C. Sircar, <i>Inscriptions of Asoka</i>, Delhi, 1957, selections</li> </ul> <p>Students to hand in topic and list of secondary sources for biographical essay.</p>
7	<b>Trade, Empire and Cosmopolis</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thapar, <i>Early India</i>, pp 245-279.</li> <li>• James Heitzman, ‘Early Buddhism, Trade, and Empire’, in G. Kennedy and G. Possehl, eds, <i>Studies in the</i></li> </ul>

	<b>tan Buddhism</b>	<p><i>Palaeoanthropology of South Asia</i>, 1984, pp. 121-37.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xinru Liu, <i>Ancient India and Ancient China</i>, chapters II and IV</li> </ul> <p>Primary Source: tbc</p>
8	<b>Brahmanic al Reformulat ions</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.L. Basham, <i>Origins and Development of Classical Hinduism</i>. (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989), pp. 98-116.</li> <li>• Wendy Doniger, <i>The Hindus: An Alternative History</i>, pp 304-324.</li> </ul> <p>Primary Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Laws of Manu</i>, tr. W. Doniger, (Penguin: Harmondsworth, 1991), pp. 74-82 and 99-104.</li> </ul>
9	<b>The Gupta Ecumene</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trautmann, <i>India</i>, pp. 72-84.</li> <li>• Daud Ali, 'Courtly Love and the Aristocratic Household in Early Medieval India.' <i>Love in South Asia: A Cultural History</i>, edited by Francesca Orsini. Cambridge UP, 2006.</li> <li>• Optional: Watch Utsav (1984, dir Girish Karnad) – based on Sanskrit play <i>Mrcchakatika</i> (The Little Clay Cart).</li> </ul> <p>Primary Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Kamasutra</i> trans Doniger and Kakar, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 7-27.</li> </ul>
10	<b>The Rise of Theistic Religions</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trautmann, <i>India</i>, pp.107-133.</li> <li>• A.L. Basham, <i>Origins and Development of Classical Hinduism</i>. (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989), pp. 82-97.</li> <li>• A.K. Ramanujan, "Three Hundred Ramayanas: Five Examples and Three Thoughts on Translation."</li> </ul> <p>Primary Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bhagavadgita</i>, selections.</li> </ul> <p><u>Tutorial:</u></p>

		Each students to bring drafts essay to tutorial for workshoping
11	<b>Political Structures in Early Medieval India</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thapar, <i>Early India</i>, pp. 326-362.</li> <li>• Ronald Inden, "The Temple and the Hindu Chain of Being," in Ronald Inden, <i>Text and Practice: Essays on South Asian History</i>, pp. 192-212.</li> </ul> <p>Primary Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Visnupurana</li> </ul>
12	<b>The 'Advent' of Islam</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C.B. Asher and C. Talbot, <i>India before Europe</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006) pp. 13-24.</li> <li>• Finbarr Flood, <i>Objects of Translation: Material Culture and Medieval "Hindu-Muslim" encounter</i>, pp tbc</li> <li>• B. D. Chattopadhyaya, 'Representing the Other? Sanskrit Sources and the Muslims', in Parashser-Sen, ed., <i>Subordinate and Marginal Groups in Early India</i> (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2004).</li> </ul> <p>Primary Source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selections on Somnath</li> </ul>
13	<b>Conclusions</b>	