

## **Source of Early Indian History**

**(optional lecture course for 3<sup>rd</sup> semester MA students)**

**Four credit course**

**Course instructor: Kumkum Roy**

### **Readings/ course outline**

The course will discuss how sources have been conceptualized and used to reconstruct early Indian history. Given the vast range of sources available, and the strategies used to explore them, the discussion will revolve around a limited but representative sample of sources. The course is organized around inter-related themes—sources used to reconstruct political processes, economic activities, social norms and practices, and cultural practices. Students will be expected to read the sources/ source based works in translation, referring, where possible, to the original text.

There will be two tutorials, and one end-semester examination. Fifty percent of the evaluation will be on tutorials and participation in discussions, with the remaining fifty percent for the end-semester examination. Separate readings for the tutorials will be announced at the beginning of each semester.

### **Political ideas and institutions**

Background reading

R.S. Sharma, *Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India*.

Source based readings:

Shereen Ratnagar, *Enquiries into the Political Organization of Harappan Society*

Excerpts from R.P. Kangle, *The Kautiliya Arthashastra*, Part II, Book 2, Chapters 4 to 6

Excerpts from Patrick Olivelle, *King, Governance and Law in Ancient India: Kautilya's Arthashastra*, Book 2, Chapters 4 to 6

Excerpts from T.W. Rhys Davids and H. Oldenberg, *Vinaya Pitaka*, IX.1 to IX 4.

Translation of the Gandatindu Jataka

Translation of the Kurudhamma Jataka

### **Reconstructing Economic Histories**

Background reading

Upinder Singh, *Rethinking Early Medieval India*

The Khalimpur Copper Plate of Dharmapala Deva, *Epigraphia Indica* Vol IV, no. 34 (Ed. and tr. F. Kielhorn), pp. 243- 254.

Excerpt from R. S Pandit, *Rajatarangini*, pp. 185-196.

### **Social Norms and Practices**

Background reading

Uma Chakravarti, *Everyday Lives, Everyday Histories*

Excerpt from Patrick Olivelle, *Manu's Code of Law*, pp. 3 to 73, pp. 138-147, pp-278-288, pp 558-593.

Excerpt from Paul Wilmot, *The Great Hall*, pp. 15-30, pp. 418-483.

Excerpt from R. Parthasarathy, *The Cilappatikaram*, pp. 1-16, pp. 179-207, pp. 279-369.

Excerpt from Patrick Olivelle, *The Early Upanisads*, pp. vii-xxvii, pp.1-32, pp. 126-165.

### **Cultural practices**

Background reading

Griselda Pollock, *Differencing the Canon*.

Niharranjan Ray, *An Approach to Indian Art*

Michael Squire, *The Art of the Body*

Excerpts from A.R. Venkatachalapathy, *Love Stands Alone*, pp. xiii-xlvi, pp. 3-41, pp. 117-140, pp. 195-202.

Excerpts from Indira Viswanathan Peterson, *Poems to Siva*, pp. 1-141, pp. 349-366

Discussion on Sudeshna Guha (ed.), *The Marshall Albums*

Kumkum Roy

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