

P22404

M.Phil Seminar Course: HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

Instructor: Dr. Shonaleeka Kaul

This course provides an understanding of the regional bases in the growth of early Indian culture and the pattern of inter-communication between them and encourages research students to undertake first hand studies. The student is required to familiarize himself/herself with ancient geographical names and boundaries to be able to place historical events and processes in their proper geographical setting; he/she is also required to analyse early Indian perceptions regarding the distribution of janapadas and mahajanapadas. He/She is then required to view the growth of settlements or of areas of culture with a historical perspective.

Updated: Students are encouraged to understand trends in the historiography of the last 100 years in the field. And to focus on new, interdisciplinary concepts like cultural landscapes. And multi-source case studies of Sanchi, Mathura and Kashmir as cultural landscapes. They are required to study any site relevant to their research in this light.

Topics: Historiography. Some important concepts. Study of the distribution areas and evolution of historical cultures. Distribution of early urban centres. Trade routes. Early Indian concept of regions and of India. Case studies of Sanchi, Mathura, Kashmir, and sites relevant to student research.

Readings:

1. BD Chattopadhyaya, *A Survey of Historical Geography of Ancient India*, Delhi, 1991.
2. Diana Eck, *India A Sacred Geography*, New York, 2011.
3. Sunil Khilnani, *The Idea of India*, UK, 2005.
4. Shonaleeka Kaul, *The Making of Early Kashmir: Landscape and Identity in the Rajatarangini*, Delhi, 2018.
5. BD Chattopadhyaya, *The Concept of Bharatavarsha and Other Essays*, Delhi, 2017.
6. Anne Feldhaus, *Connected Places: Region, Pilgrimage and Geographical Imagination in India*, US, 2004.

7. Shonaleeka Kaul, 'Early Mathura: Sacred Imagination and Diverse Traditions' in *Indian Historical Review*, 2015.
8. *Cambridge Studies in Historical Geography*, multi volumes.
9. Doris Meth-Srinivasan, ed., *Mathura: A Sacred Geography*, Delhi, 1989
10. Julia Shaw, *Buddhist Landscapes in Central India: Sanchi Hill and Archaeologies of Religious and Social Change, c. 3rd century BC to 5th c. AD*, London, 2007.
11. Spate & Learmonth, *India and Pakistan: A General and Regional Geography*, London, 1967.
12. B. Subbarao, *The Personality of India*, Baroda, 1958.
13. B.C. Law, *Historical Geography of Ancient India*, Paris, 1954.
14. A. Ghosh, *The City in Early Historical India*, Simla, 1972.
15. D.C. Sircar, *Cosmography and Geography in Early Indian Literature*, Calcutta, 1967 and *Studies in the Geography of Ancient & Medieval India*, Delhi, 1971.
16. S.B. Chaudhuri, *Ethnic Settlements in Ancient India*, Calcutta, 1955.
17. P. Gupta, *Geography from Inscriptions*, Delhi 1973.
18. H.D. Sankalia, *Historical and Cultural Geography and Ethnography of Gujarat*, Poona, 1949.
19. B. Morrison, *Political Centres and Cultural Regions in Early Bengal*, University of Arizona Press 1970.
20. S.M. Ali, *The Geography of the Puranas*, Delhi 1966.