

M21402 and P21202

M.A/MPhil Lecture 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. At the same time 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. He/She is then required to view the growth of settlements or of areas of culture with a historical perspective.

Updated: Course also includes a historiographical survey of the last 100 years in the field. And a focus on new, interdisciplinary concepts like cultural landscapes. And multi-source case studies of Sanchi, Mathura and Kashmir as cultural landscapes.

Topics: Historiography and Desserata. Some important concepts. Study of the distribution areas of proto-historic cultures. Evolution of the historical janapadas and mahajanapadas. Distribution of early urban centres. Trade routes. Early Indian concept of regions and of India. Cultural Landscapes. Case studies of Sanchi, Mathura, and Kashmir.

Readings:

1. BD Chattopadhyaya, *A Survey of Historical Geography of Ancient India*, Delhi, 1991.
2. Doris Meth-Srinivasan, ed., *Mathura: Cultural Heritage*, Delhi, 1989
3. BD Chattopadhyaya, *The Concept of Bharatavarsha and Other Essays*, Delhi, 2017.
4. Diana Eck, *India A Sacred Geography*, New York, 2011.
5. Sunil Khilnani, *The Idea of India*, UK, 2005.
6. Shonaleeka Kaul, *The Making of Early Kashmir: Landscape and Identity in the Rajatarangini*, Delhi, 2018.
7. Anne Feldhaus, *Connected Places: Region, Pilgrimage and Geographical Imagination in India*, US, 2004.
8. Shonaleeka Kaul, 'Early Mathura: Sacred Imagination and Diverse Traditions' in *Indian Historical Review*, 2015.

9. *Cambridge Studies in Historical Geography*, multi volumes.
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.