

ABECC Course for B.A (H) Semester III

History of Delhi: From Ancient to Modern Times

This course offers a survey of Delhi from early to modern times. It will focus on various stages in the development of Delhi and its settlements. The course will discuss Delhi's past through archaeological remains found in the city, cultural and political narratives and religious history.

UNIT I

ANCIENT

1. Stone Age and Pre-Historic settlements in Delhi area
2. Archaeology and Legends; The Purana Qila excavations and the Mahabharata Legends, Painted Grey Ware sites
3. The Ashokan rock edict at Srinivaspuri, Bahapur, Delhi-Meerut and Delhi-Topra Pillars, The Mehrauli Iron Pillar, and the worship of ancient images in modern village shrines

UNIT II

MEDIEVAL

4. Medieval Cities of Delhi: From Qila Rai Pithora to Shahjahanabad
5. Daily life in Medieval Delhi
6. Sufism and Sufi Shrines

UNIT III

MODERN-I

7. Literary Culture of Delhi: Emergence of Rekhta and the culture of Mushaira
8. From the battle of Patparganj to the Ghadar 1857
9. Delhi after 1857

UNIV IV

Modern-II

10. The making of New Delhi
11. National Movement in Delhi
12. Partition and its aftermath

References:

1. A.K Sharma, Prehistoric Delhi and Its Neighbourhood, New Delhi, 1993
2. B.R Mani, Delhi: The Threshold of the Orient, Studies in Archaeological Excavations, New Delhi, 1997
3. Ebba Koch, "The Delhi of Mughals Prior to Shahjahanabad as Reflected in the Patterns of Imperial Visits" in Ebba Koch, Mughal Art and Imperial Ideology, Delhi, 2001
4. Mohammad Habib, Introduction to Elliot and Dawson's History of India, Vol-II, in Khaliq Ahmad Nizami, ed., Politics and Society During the Early Mughal Period, Aligarh, 1974
5. Narayani Gupta, Delhi Between Two Empires 1803-1931: Society, Government, Urban Growth, New Delhi, 1981
6. Pavan Varma, Ghalib, The Man and His Times, New Delhi, 1998
7. R. E Frykenberg, Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society, Delhi, 1997 (relevant chapters)
8. Sunil Kumar, "Qutub and Modern Memory" in Sunil Kumar, The present in Delhi's Past, The Three Essays Collective, Delhi, 2002
9. Upinder Singh, Ancient Delhi, New Delhi, 1999
10. Urvashi Butalia, The Other Side of Silence, Zubaan, 1998
11. Vernique Dupont, Emma Tarlo and Dennis Vidal (eds.) Delhi: Urban Spaces and Human Destinies, Delhi, 2002