Course 442 (3/4 credits)  
History of Ancient India  

TR: 1:00-2:15  
Humanities: RM 2115

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to give a survey of the political and cultural history of ancient India. The lectures will first provide an outline of political history and a broad chronology. They will be followed by lectures on some of the major elements of cultural history.

2. LECTURES: Twice a week. TR.

Individual conference for Honors & Grad. students.

3. LECTURE SCHEDULE: See a provisional list attached.

4. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS:

Two term papers and a final examination (which could be a take-home). First term Paper will be due on 1 March and Second term Paper on 21 April. Term Papers need not be more than 10 double-spaced typed pages.

Honors and Graduate students will be required to do a special research paper in lieu of the second term paper and Final Exam.

The Final (Take-home) exam and Honors Paper will be due on 5 May.

5. GRADING SYSTEM:

Will be based on the performances in the two term papers (=60%) and the Final exam (40%).

6. READING LIST:

See the enclosed list.

Note: some of the required/recommended books are not available at the local bookstores. Consult library/teacher.
A PROVISIONAL LECTURE SCHEDULE FOR COURSE NO. 442: HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA:

JANUARY
26. Pre-history, Proto-history, Traditional history.

FEBRUARY
2. Indo-European problem and Non-Indo-European speaking peoples.
18. Disintegration of Mauryan empire and a period of interaction between external and internal elements.
25. The Kushan empire and the global context. (2nd-3rd centuries A.D.).

MARCH
1. The Guptas and the 'Classical Age' (4th-6th centuries A.D.).
3. Regionalism and "Feudalism".
10. The Deccan and the South.

12 - 20 March: Spring Recess
29. Coming of Islam and phases of its conquest of India.

APRIL
5. Social organization. Ideology and institutions.
7. Varna and Jati (caste). Ashrama idea.

MAY
3. Art and Architecture (II).
5. Overview and questions.
REQUIRED TEXT:

Author ROMILA THAPAR Publisher PELICAN
Title A HISTORY OF INDIA, VOL. 1

Author J.W. ELDER ed. Publisher KENDALL/HUNT
Title LECTURES IN INDIAN CIVILIZATION

Author A.L. BASHAM ed. Publisher GROVE PRESS
Title THE WONDER THAT WAS INDIA

Author MCNEIL/SEDLAR Publisher OXFORD
Title CLASSICAL INDIA

Author GEORGE KURIYAN Publisher NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA
Title INDIA: A GENERAL SURVEY

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Author ROMILA THAPAR Publisher ORIENT LONGMANS
Title ANCIENT INDIAN SOCIAL HISTORY

Author ROMILA THAPAR Publisher OXFORD
Title ASOKA AND THE DECLINE OF THE MAURYAS

Author A.L. BASHAM ed. Publisher OXFORD
Title A CULTURAL HISTORY OF INDIA

Author R.S. SHARMA Publisher MOTILAL, NEW DELHI
Title ASPECTS OF POLITICAL IDEAS AND INSTITUTIONS IN ANCIENT INDIA

Author R.S. SHARMA Publisher MUNSHIRAM, NEW DELHI
Title PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY IN EARLY INDIA

Author R.S. SHARMA Publisher MACMILLAN
Title MATERIAL CULTURE AND SOCIAL FORMATIONS IN ANCIENT INDIA

Author G.M. BONGARD-LEVIN Publisher STERLING PUB., NEW DELHI
Title MAURYAN INDIA
Author K.A. NILKANTHA SASTRI Publisher OXFORD
Title A HISTORY OF SOUTH INDIA

Author WILLIAM TH. DE BARY Publisher COLUMBIA
Title SOURCES OF INDIAN TRADITION 2 VOLUMES

Author MAJUMDAR/PUSALKAR Publisher BOMBAY
Title THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE
(First Four Volumes)

Author J.E. SCHWARTZBERG Publisher CHICAGO
Title A HISTORICAL ATLAS OF SOUTH ASIA

Author ROY C. CRAVEN Publisher OXFORD
Title A CONCISE HISTORY OF INDIAN ART