

Course Type: Generic Elective (GE)

Course Title: Delhi Through the Ages: The making of its early Modern History

Course Objective:

The objective of the paper is to explore the city of Delhi from its early history to the eighteenth century. The city grew into one of the largest cities in the world and was the capital of some of the great empires. As capital Delhi profited from continuous immigration, state patronage and vibrant cultural life. The city was not merely dependent upon its rulers for cultural and political sustenance. The course also focuses on Sufis, litterateurs and merchants who also gave the city its unique character and resilience in the face of political turbulence.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course the student shall be able to:

- To acquaint students with the history of Delhi till the early modern period.
- Analyse the processes of urbanization as shaped by political, economic and social changes

Course Content:

Unit I: Delhi's Early History: Indraprastha, Ashokan Edicts, Mehrauli Iron Pillar, Lalkot

Unit II: From Settlements to Cityscape - Understanding the 13th and 14th Century Cities of Delhi.

Case Study Any Two:

1. Dehli-i Kuhna's Masjid-i Jami
2. Siri
3. Ghiyaspur-Kilukhari
4. Tughulqabad
5. Firuzabad

Unit III: 16th to 17th Century Delhi:

1. Humayun's Garden Tomb
2. Morphology of Shahjahanabad

Unit IV: 18th Century Delhi - Understanding political and social changes

Essential Readings:

Unit 1: This unit will introduce students to the early history of Delhi, focusing on Indraprastha ancient edicts and pillars and the Tomar and Chauhan constructions. (Teaching Time: 3 Weeks)

- Richard J. Cohen, "An Early Attestation of the Toponym Dhillī", *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 109 (1989), pp. 513-519.
- Singh, Upinder. (2006). *Ancient Delhi*, Delhi: Oxford University Press
- Mani, B.R. (1997). *Delhi: Threshold of the Orient*; (Studies in Archaeological Investigations), Aryan Books International

Unit 2: This unit will study the cities of Sultanate Delhi in the 13th and 14th centuries. It will discuss the various reasons for the shift of capitals and the changing character of the city. Case studies of any two of these cities will be undertaken. Students will be encouraged to plan field trips related to the themes and readings. (Teaching Time : 4 Weeks)

- Ali, Athar. (1985). "Capital of the Sultans: Delhi through the 13th and 14th Centuries", in R.E. Frykenberg, ed., *Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 34-44
- Kumar, Sunil. (2019) "The Tyranny of Meta-Narratives; Re-reading a History of Sultanate Delhi", in Kumkum Roy and Naina Dayal. (Ed.). *Questioning Paradigms, Constructing Histories: A Festschrift for Romila Thapar*, Aleph Book Company, pp 222-235.
- Kumar, Sunil. (2011). "Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries CE" in Albrecht Fuess and Jan Peter Hartung. (eds.). *Court Cultures in the Muslim World: Seventh to Nineteenth Centuries*, London: Routledge, pp. 123-148
- Kumar, Sunil. (2009) 'Qutb in Modern Memory'. In: Kaul, Suvir, (ed.), *Partitions of Memory*. Delhi: Permanent Black, pp. 140-182.
- Jackson, Peter. (1986). 'Delhi: The Problem of a Vast Military Encampment', in: R.E. Frykenberg (ed.). *Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture, and Society*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1986), pp.18-33.
- Haidar, Najaf. (2014). 'Persian Histories and a Lost City of Delhi', *Studies in People's History*, vol. 1, pp. 163–171
- Aquil, R. (2008). "Hazrat-i-Dehli: The Making of the Chishti Sufi Centre and the Stronghold of Islam." *South Asia Research* 28: 23–48.
- Welch, Anthony and Howard Crane. (1983). "The Tughluqs: Master Builders of the Delhi Sultanate": *Muqarnas*, vol. 1 pp. 123-166.
- Welch, Anthony. (1993). *Architectural Patronage and the Past: The Tughluq Sultans of India: Muqarnas*, Vol. 10, Essays in Honor of Oleg Graber, pp. 311-322, Published by Brill. <https://www.jstore.org/stable/1523196>

Unit 3: This unit will explore the structure and meanings of Humayun's Garden Tomb and morphology of the imperial city of Shahjahanabad, in the 16th and 17th centuries (Teaching time: 4 weeks)

- Chandra, Satish. (1991). "Cultural and Political Role of Delhi, 1675-1725", in R.E. Frykenberg, *Delhi through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 106-116.
- Blake, Stephen, (1985). "Cityscape of an Imperial City: Shahjahanabad in 1739", in R.E. Frykenberg, *Delhi Through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society*, Oxford University Press, pp. 66-99.

- Hasan, Nurul, S. (1991). "The Morphology of a Medieval Indian City: A Case Study of Shahjahanabad", In Indu Banga (ed.). *The City in Indian History*, Delhi: Manohar, pp. 87-98.
- Gupta, Narayani. (1993). "The Indomitable City," in Eckart Ehlers and Thomas Krafft, eds., *Shahjahanabad / Old Delhi: Tradition and Change*. Delhi: Manohar, pp. 29-44.
- Koch, Ebba. (1994). "Diwan-i' Amm and Chihil Sutun: The Audience Halls of Shah Jahan". *Muqarnas*, vol. 11, pp. 143-165.
- Lowry, Glenn D. (1987). *Humayun's Tomb: Form Function, and Meaning in Early Mughal Architecture*. *Muqarnas*, Vol. 4, pp. 133-148
- Dickie, James (Zaki, Yakub), (1985). *The Mughal Garden: Gateway to Paradise*, *Muqarnas*, Vol. 3, pp. 128-137.
- Koch, Ebba. (1997). 'Mughal Palace Gardens from Babur to Shahjahan (1526-1648), *Muqarnas*, pp. 143-165.
- Rezavi, Syed Ali Nadeem, (2010). "The Mighty Defensive Fort': Red Fort at Delhi Under Shahjahan -- Its Plan and Structures as Described by Muhammad Waris." *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress 71*, pp. 1108–1121.

Unit 4: This unit will discuss the developments in Shahjahanabad in the 18th century. The 'decline' in the authority meant turbulence in the city, but it also empowered new groups of people and created a cultural and social dynamism that was embraced by some and seen as a challenge by others. (Teaching Time: 4 Weeks)

- Alam, Muzaffar. (2013) "Introduction to the second edition: Revisiting the Mughal Eighteenth Century" in *The Crisis of Empire in Mughal North India: Awadh and the Punjab 1707-1748*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. xiii-lxiv
- Ataulloh. (2006-2007). "Mapping 18th Century Delhi: the cityscape of a pre-Modern sovereign city" *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, vol. 67 pp. 1042-1057.
- Chenoy, Shama Mitra. (1998). *Shahjahanabad, a City of Delhi, 1638-1857*. New Delhi: Munshiram Manohar Lal Publishers.
- Raziuddin Aquil, (2017) "Violating Norms of Conduct" in *The Muslim Question: understanding Islam and Indian History*, Delhi: Penguin Random House, pp. 133-156.

Suggested Readings:

- Anthony Welch, 'A Medieval Centre of Learning in India: The Hauz Khas Madrasa in Delhi', *Muqarnas*, 13 (1996): 165-90;
- Anthony Welch, 'The Shrine of the Holy Footprint in Delhi', *Muqarnas*, 14 (1997): 116-178;
- Asher, Catherine B. (2000). "Delhi Walled: Changing Boundaries" in James D. Tracy, *City Walls: The Urban Enceinte in Global Perspective*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 247-281.

- Bayly, Christopher Alan. (1986). "Delhi and Other Cities of North India during the 'Twilight'", in *Delhi through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture, and Society*, edited by Robert Eric Frykenberg, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 221–36.
- Blake, Stephen P. (1991). *Shahjahanabad: The Sovereign City in Mughal India, 1639-1739*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Chandra, Satish. (1991). "Cultural and Political Role of Delhi, 1675-1725", in R.E.Frykenberg, *Delhi through the Ages: Essays in Urban History, Culture and Society*, Delhi:Oxford University Press, pp. 106-116.
- Hasan, Zafar. (1922). *A Guide to Nizamu-d Din*. New Delhi: Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India #10
- Habib, Irfan. (1978). 'Economic History of the Delhi Sultanate -- an Essay in Interpretation', *Indian Historical Review* vol. 4, pp. 287-303.
- Flood, Finbarr B. (2008). "Introduction" in Finbarr B. Flood, *Piety and Politics in the Early Indian Mosque*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. xi-lxxviii
- Matsuo, Ara. (1982). "The Lodi Rulers and the Construction of Tomb-Buildings in Delhi". *Acta Asiatica*, vol. 43, pp. 61-80.
- Moosvi, Shireen. (1985) "Expenditure on Buildings under Shahjahan—A Chapter of Imperial Financial History." *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, vol. 46 pp. 285–99.
- Page, J.A. (1926). *An Historical Memoir on the Qutb*. New Delhi: Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India #22
- Page, J.A. (1937). *A Memoir on Kotla Firoz Shah, Delhi*. New Delhi: Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India #52
- Shamsur Rahman Faruqi, (2001). "A True Beginning in the North" and "A Phenomenon called 'Vali'" in *Early Urdu Literary Culture and History*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 109-126, 129-142.
- Shokoohy, Mehrdad. (2007). *Tughluqabad: a paradigm for Indo-Islamic Urban planning and its architectural components*. London: Araxus Books.
- Singh, Upinder. ed., (2006) *Delhi: Ancient History*, Delhi: Social Science Press
- Flood, Finbarr B. (2003). "Pillars, Palimpsests, and Princely Practices: Translating the past in Sultanate Delhi" *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics*, No. 43, Islamic Arts, pp. 95-116.
- Anand Taneja, 'Saintly Visions: Other histories and history's others in the medieval ruins of Delhi' *IESHR*, 49 (2012).
- Pinto, Desiderios. J. (1989). "The Mystery of the Nizamuddin Dargah: the Account of Pilgrims", in Christian W. Troll, ed., *Muslim Shrines in India*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 112-124.

Teaching Learning Process:

Classroom teaching is supported by group discussions or group presentations on specific themes/readings. Given that the students enrolled in the course are from a non-history background,

adequate emphasis shall be given during the lectures to what is broadly meant by the historical approach and the importance of historicising various macro and micro-level developments/phenomena. Interactive sessions through group discussions or group presentations shall be used to enable un-learning of prevailing misconceptions about historical developments and time periods, as well as to facilitate revision of issues outlined in the lectures. Supporting audio-visual aids like documentary films and power point presentations, and an appropriate field- visit will be used where necessary.

Assessment Methods: Students will be regularly assessed for their grasp on debates and discussions covered in class. Two written submissions; one of which could be a short project, will be used for the final grading of the students. Students will be assessed on their ability to explain important historical trends and thereby engage with the historical approach.

Internal Assessment: 25 Marks

Written Exam: 75 Marks
Total: 100 Marks

Keywords: History, settlements, cityscape, morphology, social empowerment, Delhi, Urbanisation