



Indraprastha College for Women

University of Delhi

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2026

Course Name:	B.A (H) History
Paper Title:	Social Formations and Cultural Patterns of the Ancient World- I
Unique Paper Code:	2312101102
Semester:	I
Faculty(s):	Ms Bhawna
Year:	2026

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
1	The basic aspects of World prehistory particularly with reference to the debate on the biological and cultural evolution of Humans	1	Understanding Prehistory
		2	Continued
		3	Biological and Cultural Evolution of Humans: lithic and other technologies
		4	Continued
		5	Continued
		6	Continued
		7	Continued
		8	Continued
		9	Continued
		10	Continued
		11	Changing subsistence patterns; funerary practices and art
		12	Continued
		13	Continued
		14	Continued
2	The transition to Food Production-primarily the debate on the origins of food production; discussion on the Neolithic sites in different parts	15	Mesolithic Cultures: West Asia and Europe

	of the world to understand the 16process of beginning of food production and variations in neolithic cultures		
		16	Continued
		17	Continued
		18	Continued
		19	Origins of Food Production: Debates
		20	Continued
		21	Continued
		22	Continued
		23	Continued
		24	Features of the Neolithic based on sites from West Asia, Europe, Mesoamerica
		25	Continued
		26	Continued
		27	Continued
3	To Contextualize the beginning of the urban settlements, appearance of complex society with reference to some of the early civilisations of the world	28	Concept of ‘Bronze Age’, ‘Civilisation’, ‘Urban Revolution’ and ‘State’ and Ecological Context of early civilizations
		29	Continued
		30	Continued
		31	Continued
		32	Continued
		33	Continued
		34	Continued
		35	Continued
		36	Kingship, religion and state, Social and economic complexity: Class, Gender
		37	Continued
		38	Continued
		39	Continued
		40	Continued
		41	Continued
4	The Nomadic culture in West Asia in the third and second Millennium BCE and the use and spread of the iron technology	42	Nomadic Pastoralism in West Asia in the third and second Millennium BCE
		43	Continued
		44	Continued
		45	Continued
		46	Continued

		47	Iron technology and its spread
		48	Continued
		49	Continued
		50	Continued

Unit	Contents/Syllabus
I	Evolution of Humans and Hunting-Gathering Cultures 1. Understanding Prehistory 2. Biological and Cultural Evolution of Humans: lithic and other technologies 3. Changing subsistence patterns; funerary practices and art
II	Transition to Food Production 1. Mesolithic Cultures: West Asia and Europe 2. Origins of Food Production: Debates 3. Features of the Neolithic based on sites from West Asia, Europe, Mesoamerica / China
III	The Bronze Age Note: Rubrics b, and c are to be based on any one case study: 1. Ancient Mesopotamia (Sumerian and Akkadian period)/Egypt (Old Kingdom)/China (Shang dynasty). 2. Concepts: 'Bronze Age', 'Civilization', 'Urban Revolution' and 'State' Ecological context of early civilizations 4. Kingship, religion and state; Social and economic complexity: Class, Gender
IV	Nomadic Cultures in Transition 1. Nomadic Pastoralism in West Asia in the third and second millennium BCE 2. Iron technology and its spread
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers
1.	Carr, E.H. (1961/1991). "The Historian and his facts", in E.H. Carr, What is History? Penguin Modern Classics (2ndEdn.), pp.7-30. * Bogucki, P. (1999). The Origins of Human Society. Wiley-Blackwell 1999, Chapter 2, pp. 2977. * V.G. Childe, What Happened in History? Great Britain: Pelican, 1942, reprint 1971, pp. 13-32. * Fagan, B.M. and N. Durrani. eds. (2019). The People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Pre-history. (15thedn.). New York: Routledge, Chapters 2-5, pp. 22-134. * Website: www.humanorigins.si.edu (website of the Smithsonian Museum) * फारूकी , अमर.प्राचीन और मध्यकालीन सामाजिक संरचनाएँ और संस्कृतियाँ. 2015.
2.	* Price, T.D. (1991). "The Mesolithic of Northern Europe", Annual Review of Anthropology Vol. 20, pp.211-233. * Shea, J. J. and D.E. Lieberman. (2009). eds. Transitions in Prehistory. Essays in Honour of Ofer Bar-Yosef. Oxbow Books, pp. 185-222 * Zvelebil, M. (1989). "Economic Intensification and Postglacial Hunter-Gatherers in North Temperate Europe." in C. Bonsall, (Ed). The Mesolithic in Europe. Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press 1989, pp. 80-88.

	* Cohen M. (2009). 'Introduction. Rethinking the Origins of Agriculture'. October 2009, Current Anthropology. 50 (5), pp.591-595. * Fagan, B.M. and N. Durrani. (2019). The People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Prehistory. New York: Routledge (15th Ed.), Chapters 8, 9, 10, 12, pp. 178-218, 228-245. * Flannery, K.V. (1973). "Origins of Food Production", Annual Review of Anthropology, 2 (1973), pp.271-310.
3.	* Childe, G. (1950). "The Urban Revolution, "The Town Planning Review, Vol. 21, No. 1, April 1950, pp. 3-17. * Redman, C.L. (1978). The Rise of Civilisations. From Early Farmers to Urban Society in the Ancient Near East. San Francisco: W.H. Freeman, Chapter 2, 6, 7, pp. 16-49; 188-213; 214-243. * Scarre, Christopher and Brian M. Fagan. (2008). Ancient Civilizations (3rd edn.), New Jersey: Pearson/Prentice Hall, pp. 3-12, and pp. 26-47. * Redman, C.L. (1978). The Rise of Civilisations. From Early Farmers to Urban Society in the Ancient near East. San Francisco: W.H. Freeman, Chapters 8, pp. 244-322. * Roux, Georges (1992). Ancient Iraq, UK: Penguin, Chapters 1, 5, 6, 8, 9; pp. 1-16; pp. 66-103; 122-160.
4.	Schmidt, Conrad. (2018) "Pastoral Nomadism in Third Millennium BC Eastern Arabia,"* Paleorient,, Vol 44, No. 1, pp.105 -118. * Sherratt, A. "Sedentary Agriculture and nomadic pastoral populations." in History of Humanity: from the third millennium to the seventh century BCE, vol. II, (Ed.) S.J. de Laet. London: Routledge, pp. 37-43. * Villard, P. (1996). "The beginning of the Iron Age and its Consequences", in History of Humanity (Scientific and Cultural Developments) Vol. II. From the Third Millennium to the Seventh Century B.C. Paris, London: Routledge: UNESCO.

Paper Components			
Credits	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
4	3	1	NA
Assessment Scheme			
S.No.	Component	Marking Scheme	Total Marks
1	Internal Assessment - Assignment/Quiz/Project/Presentation - Class Test - Attendance		30
		12	
		12	
		6	
2.	Continuous Assessment (Tutorial) - Activity 1 - Activity 2 - Attendance		40
		20	
		15	
		5	
3.	Practical Continuous Assessment		NA

	- End Term Written/Practical Exam - Viva		
4.	End Semester Examination		90