

INDIAN PREHISTORY

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE -9 (DSC-9) – Indian Prehistory

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical / Practice		
Indian Prehistory- DSC-9	04	03	Nil	01	Passed 12 th	NIL

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives of this course are as follows:

- The course aims to understand the evolutionary perspective of human prehistoric society in India with the help of archaeological cultural remains.
- To learn tool typology and its classification for the reconstruction of prehistoric societies.

Learning Outcomes

By studying this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the landscape of Indian archaeological sites and their relevance in studying prehistoric Indian societies.
- Identify the tools, appreciate the tool typology and classify it appropriately

Syllabus of DSC-9

Unit-1: Understanding culture (12 Hours)

Technique of tool manufacture and estimation of their relative efficiency; Classification of tools: primary and combination fabrication techniques; Typology and cultural nomenclature

Unit-2: Methods of climatic reconstruction (8 Hours)

palynology, paleontology, soil pH estimation.

Unit-3: Prehistoric India (10 Hours)

Pleistocene chronology of India: A critical assessment

Unit-4: Character, distribution and interpretation of habitat and economy of (15 Hours)

Lower Palaeolithic; Middle Palaeolithic; Upper Palaeolithic; Mesolithic culture; Art, ritual and belief

Practical (30 Hours)

Identification of tools:

- (a) Handaxe varieties, chopper/chopping tools
- (b) Cleaver varieties
- (c) Side scraper varieties
- (d) Knives
- (e) Burins

Identification of lithic technology:

- (f) End scrapers
- (g) Borers
- (h) Microlithic tools
- (i) Bone tools

References

Renfrew Colin and Bahn Paul, Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice. New York: Thames & Hudson, 6th Edition, 2012.

Fagan Brian M. and Nadia Durrani, In the Beginning: An Introduction to Archaeology, London: Routledge, 14th Edition 2014.

Chakrabarti, Dilip K. India - An Archaeological History: Paleolithic Beginnings to Early History. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Additional Resources:

Allchin, Bridget and Allchin, Raymond F. The Rise of Civilization in India and Pakistan. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Odell, G.H. Stone Tools: Theoretical Insights into Human Prehistory, New York: Plenum press, 1996.

Moloney and Shott, M.J. Lithic Analysis at the Millennium, New York: Routledge, 2016.

Teaching Learning Process

The process of learning will involve acquisition of domain knowledge and understanding of skills required for conducting research in Indian archaeology. Process will involve lectures,

assignments, class-room discussions, practicals and appropriate inference of results and practical file preparation.

Keywords: Geochronology, India archaeology, Cave paintings

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.