

**(DSC-2): Medieval Societies: Global Perspectives**

**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		
<b>DSC 2</b>						
<b>MEDIEVAL SOCIETIES: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Pass</b>	<b>Should have studied Ancient Societies</b>

**Learning Objectives**

1. The objective of the course is to enable the students to have a comprehensive understanding of evolution and establishment of medieval civilization with special focus on polity, society, economy, religion and culture during medieval times. The attempt would be to study feudalism in medieval European context. The endeavor would be to trace the trajectory of origin, development and crisis of feudalism. Alongside, the course intends to acquaint the learners about the rise and spread of Islam during medieval era along with the forms of cultural pattern that shaped the popular Islamic practices like tassawuf. In addition to that, students would also be exposed to medieval China particularly with Sung, Mongols and Ming dynasties. The focus is just not on dynastic changes but also the dynamism in administrative machinery, political ideology, economy, culture and China's external relations in the period under survey. The technology of China gave way to spectacular growth in wealth, commerce, agricultural surplus, trade and monetization which finally led to cultural efflorescence.

**Learning outcomes**

After completion of the course the student shall be able to –

- Identify the medieval societies in global context especially focussing on Europe, Central Asia, India and China with clarity in.
- Analyse the rise of Islam and move towards state formation in west Asia.
- Understand the role of religion and other cultural practices in community organisation.
- What was medieval China and the science and civilization there.
- Finally the technological growth that led to cultural efflorescence during the later period. (Ming period )

## COURSE CONTENT

### UNIT I.

#### MEDIEVAL WORLD (20 Hours)

- (a) Understanding Feudalism: European and Indian
- (b) Church and nobility; Peasants and state
- (c) Feudal relationships and socio-economic changes: growth of trade and emergence of urban centres; feudal crisis
- (d) Cultural Patterns: Crystallization of hierarchies; medieval life and thought

#### Readings

1. Bloch, Marc, Feudal Society Volume I (Asha jyoti Booksellers & Publishers, First Indian Edition, 2006) Chapter 4 & 5, Part II; Chapter 11 & 12, Chapter 18 & 19
2. Bloch, Marc, Feudal Society Volume II (Ashajyoti Booksellers & Publishers, First Indian Edition, 2006) Chapter 23, Chapter 26
3. Sinha ,Arvind, Europe in Transition from Feudalism to Industrialization Manohar Publishers and Distributors, 2010
4. Le Goff, Jacques, 'Introduction: Medieval Man' in The Medieval World, edited by Jacques Le Goff, Translated by Lydia G.C. Cochrane, Parkgate Books, London, 1990
5. Anderson, P. (1988). *Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism*. London and New York: Verso, Part One/II/ Chapters 1, 2, 3 (pp. 107-142), Part Two/I/Chapters 1, 4 (pp. 147-153, 182-196).
6. Cipolla, C. (Ed.) (1972). *The Fontana Economic History of Europe Volume I, The Middle Ages*, Collins/Fontana Books, Chapter 2, pp. 71-98; Chapter 4, pp. 143-174; Chapter 5, pp.175-220.
7. Duby, G. (1978). *The Early Growth of the European Economy: Warriors and Peasants from the Seventh to the Twelfth century*, Cornell: Cornell University Press, 1978, Chapter 6, pp.157-180.

Georges Duby, (1977). "Lineage, Nobility and Knighthood: the Macconnais in the twelfth century – a revision", "Youth in Aristocratic Society", in *Chivalrous Society*, trans. Cynthia Postan. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 59-80, 112-122

Hilton, R.H. (1976). "Introduction" in R.H. Hilton, *Peasants, Knights and Heretics: Studies in Medieval English Social History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-10.

IGNOU Study Material in Hindi, MAH, प्राचीन और मध्ययुगीन समाज, MHI-01 ब्लॉक 6, 'सामंतवाद', यूनिट 20, 21, 22, 23. (website: [www.egyankosh.ac.in](http://www.egyankosh.ac.in))  
<http://www.egyankosh.ac.in/handle/123456789/44611>

Le Goff, J. (2000). "Introduction" and "Medieval Western Europe" in *History of Humanity: Scientific and Cultural Development, Volume IV, From the Seventh to the Sixteenth Century*, UNESCO, pp. 207-220.

Merrington, J. (1978) "Town and Country in the Transition to Capitalism", in R.H. Hilton (Ed.), *The Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism*. London: Verso, 1978, Aakar, Delhi, 2006.

Sharma, R. S. (2001). *Early Medieval Indian Society – A Study in Feudalization*, Delhi: Orient Longman.

R.S. Sharma (1984), “How feudal was Indian Feudalism?” *Social Scientist*, Vol. 12, No. 2, pp. 16-41.

Harban Mukhia (1997), “Was There Feudalism in Indian History?” *Feudalism* in *Burton Stein ed., The State in India 1000-1700*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 86-133.

फ़ारूकी, A. (2015). प्राचीन और मध्यकालीन सामाजिक संरचनाएँ और संस्कृतियाँ, दिल्ली: मानक प्रकाशन. ब्लॉक, M. (2002). ‘सामंती समाज’, भाग-1, ग्रंथिशल्पी

## **UNIT II. Genesis Of A New Social Order And Islamic Culture (20 Hours)**

- (a) Pre-Islamic tribal society in Arabia; formation of ummah
- (b) The Caliphates – Rashidun, Ummayyads and early Abbasids (c. 632 CE to c. 800 CE)
- (c) Cultural Patterns: Adab, Akhlaq, Sufism

1. Chase F. Robinson ed., *The Cambridge History of Islam, Vol I. The Formation of the Islamic World Sixth to Eleventh Centuries*, Cambridge University Press, Chapter 4 “Pre Islamic Arabia”, pp. 153-170; Chapter 5, “The Rise of Islam, 600-705”, pp. 173-225, “Conclusion: From Formative Islam to Classical Islam”, pp. 683-695.
2. Berkey, J. (2002). *The Formation of Islam. Religion and Society in the Near East, 600–1800*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 5-12, pp.55-123.
3. Bosworth, C. E. (2000). “The Formation of Early Islamic Polity and Society: General Characteristics” in *History of Humanity: Scientific and Cultural Development, Volume IV, From the Seventh to the Sixteenth Century*, UNESCO, pp. 271-273.
4. Marshall G.S. Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam: Concise and History in a World Civilization, Vol. I- The Classical Age of Islam*, University of Chicago Press, 1974, Chapter “The Absolutism in Flower, 750-813”, pp. 280-314; Chapter “Adab: The Bloom of Arabic Literary Culture, c. 813-945”, pp. 444-472.
5. Crone, P. (1999). “The Rise of Islam in the World.” in Francis Robinson and Ira M. Lapidus (Ed.), *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 2-31.
6. Duri, A.A. (2000). “The Rise of Islam,” in *History of Humanity: Scientific and Cultural Development, Volume IV, From the Seventh to the Sixteenth Century*, UNESCO, pp. 264-267.
7. Lapidus, I.M. (1988/2002). *A History of Islamic Societies*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2002edn.), Chapters 1-5, pp. 10-77.
8. इंजीनियर, A. A. (2018). इस्लाम का जन्म और विकास. दिल्ली: राजकमल प्रकाशन
9. फ़ारूकी, A. (2015). प्राचीन और मध्यकालीन सामाजिक संरचनाएँ और संस्कृतियाँ, दिल्ली: मानक प्रकाशन.

## **UNIT III.**

### **MEDIEVAL CHINA (20 Hours)**

- (a) Dynastic change (Tang, Song, Mongols and Ming Period), Confucianism and Changing State Ideology, Administrative Machinery.
- (b) Agriculture and Trade, Technological Growth, Cultural efflorescence (Ming period)

**Essential Readings:**

1. E.O Reischauer and John King Fairbank (eds.). (1958) East Asia: The Great Tradition (Vol I).
2. Joseph Needham, (1954). Science and Civilization in China Vol 1.
3. History of Humanity Volume IV, From the Seventh to the Sixteenth Century (UNESCO series) Routledge 1994, Chapter 27, PP. 421-446.

**Suggested Readings:**

1. Jian Bozan, Shao Xunzheng and Hu Hua (eds.), A Concise History of China. Foreign Languages Press, China Publications Centre, 1981
2. Kenneth Scott Latourette, The Chinese: Their History and Culture. MacMillan Publishing Company, 1964

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