



**Bharati College**  
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**Lesson Plan (CORE, Semester, January 2023 to )**

<b>Name of Teacher</b>	Shobhana Sinha	<b>Department</b>	History
<b>Course</b>	History Hons.	<b>Semester</b>	I
<b>Paper</b>	Social Formations and Cultural Patterns of the Ancient World	<b>Academic Year</b>	2022-23

**Learning Objectives**

The Course aims to introduce students to significant developments in world history that have shaped the complexity of human existence. To begin with, it offers a historical survey of human evolution. It details the transition from the hunting-gathering subsistence pattern to a more advanced adaptations to a sedentary farming economy.

The course content is based on the premise that the pace and nature of change differed in different parts of the world. Further, changes in social formations that facilitated the emergence of socially stratified and state-ordered societies are explained through a study of some of the early Bronze Age Civilizations. The impact of specific ecological conditions on different trajectories of growth, higher population density and social complexity, the emergence of the city and newer crafts and trade and the unfolding of cultural patterns in the early civilizations are concerns that are central to this course. This therefore, provides a sound foundation in the historical discipline, and helps in engaging in a variety of subject matters of history – social relations, economics, political formations, religion, and culture from a global perspective. Understanding the dissimilar but interlinked history of humanity is therefore the prime objective of this Course.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Trace long term changes in the relationship of humans to their landscapes, to resources and to social groups.
- Discuss that human history is the consequence of choices made in ecological and biological contexts, and that these choices are not only forced by external forces like environmental change but are also enabled by changes in technology and systems of cultural cognition.
- Delineate the significance of early food production and the beginning of social complexity.
- Analyse the process of state formation and urbanism in the early Bronze Age Civilizations.
- Correlate the ancient past and its connected histories, the ways in which it is reconstructed, and begin to understand the fundamentals of historical methods and approaches.

## Lesson Plan

Week No.	Theme/Curriculum	Any Additional Information
Week 1-3	a. Comprehending prehistory and history: issues and interpretative frameworks b. Environmental context of human evolution c. Biological evolution of hominins d. Changing Subsistence patterns: Funerary practices and art	
Week 4-7	a. Mesolithic Cultures: West Asia and Europe b. Origins of Food Production: Debates c. Features of the Neolithic based on sites in W. Asia, Mesoamerica and China	
Week 8-11	a. Ancient Mesopotamia b. Concept of Bronze Age c. Ecological Context d. State and Religion	
Week 12-15	a. Nomadic Pastoralism in West Asia b. Iron Technology and its spread	

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#### Unit IV

- 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.
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#### Additional Resources

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**Online Resources (If Any)**

- Website: [www.humanorigins.si.edu](http://www.humanorigins.si.edu) (website of the Smithsonian Museum)
- Website: [www.bradshawfoundation.com](http://www.bradshawfoundation.com)

<b>Assignment and Class Test Schedule for Semester</b>	Assignment on Biological and Cultural Evolution Assignment on Mesopotamia
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