UNIT – I
ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE EARTH
1. Development of archaeology as a discipline
2. Practicing Archaeology: Methodological Issues
3. Archaeology and popular perception
4. Uses and Abuses of Archaeology
5. Indian Archaeology: Trends and debates

UNIT – II
CASTE AND CLASS IN EARLY INDIA
6. Understanding caste and class in Early India: An interdisciplinary approach
7. Development of Varna hierarchy as reflected in early and later Vedic texts
8. Transition from tribe to caste
9. Proliferation of castes
10. The origins of untouchability

UNIT – III
CREATION OF THE BRAHMANICAL RELIGIOUS TRADITION
11. Religious beliefs and practices as reflected in early Vedic texts
12. Religion of the later Vedic texts
13. Protest and dissent against Vedic orthodoxy
14. Development of Puranic and Transcendent religion
15. Origins and propagation of the idea of bhakti

UNIT – IV
HETERODOX RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS IN EARLY INDIA
16. What is “orthodox” and “heterodox” in Early India?
17. The ascetics, mendicants and renouncers of the Vedas and Upanishads
18. Shramanic sects and issues raised by them
19. Origin and the development of Buddhism up to AD 800
20. Origin and the development of Jainism up to AD 800

Reading List: