UNIT I
ROYALTY, COURT AND ELITE CULTURE
1. Courtly ceremonies and etiquettes under the Sultans, Vijayanagar kings and the Mughals
2. Architecture and paintings
3. Court histories and bardic literature
4. Women in Medieval courts and politics

UNIT II
RELIGIOUS IDENTITIES AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIONS
1. Medieval Islamic views of India and Hindus
2. Representations of Muslims in Sanskrit and vernacular literature
3. The process of Islamisation and Hinduisation in Medieval India; Islamic culture in Indian environment
4. The growth of ‘composite culture’, religious ‘syncretism’: Akbar’s world view and Dara Shikoh’s synthesis, *Suh-i-Kul* and *Wahdat ul Wujud*

UNIT III
SUFI AND BHAKTI MOVEMENTS
1. Growth of *sufi silsilahs*, *sufis* and the state, *sufi* shrines and their socio-political role
2. Nathpanthi movement; growth of *Nirguni* monotheistic and *Saguni bhakti*, *bhaktas* and the Medieval state
3. Women *bhaktas* and the nature of their devotion
4. Nature of *bhakti-sufi* Interaction

UNIT IV
GROWTH OF REGIONAL LITERARY CULTURES
1. *Bhakti* based regional literary cultures
2. *Malfuz* literature and Sufi biographies
3. *Hindavi-sufi* romance narratives
4. Rise and growth of Urdu language
Readings

UNIT I
1. Europe after the collapse of Rome (fifth till tenth century) -
   (a) Collapse of the Roman Empire; the Byzantine Empire; Spread of Christianity in Medieval Europe.
   (b) Growth of Feudalism: Interactions of the Germanic tribes with settled peoples, Features of Feudalism.
2. Arabia (sixth till ninth century) -
   (a) The Arab World in the sixth century: economic and political institutions, society.
   (b) Trade and its Influence, Crisis within the tribal structure, Rise of Islam and initial stages of its spread.
   (c) The Early Abbasid Caliphate.
3. China: (from sixth to the tenth century) -
   (a) Sui (589-616 AD) and Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD): unification of China, emergence of centralized state systems.
   (b) Trade and the reopening of the Silk Route. Cultural developments, technological innovations, emergence of woodblock printing, the printing of the book and literary practices.

UNIT II
4. Feudalism from eleventh to thirteenth century -
   (a) Dynamics of change in feudal Europe: technology, demography, markets
5. Arabised West Asia and Africa (seventh to the twelfth century) -
   (a) Emergence of non-Arab states, disintegration of the Caliphate.
   (b) Political and economic changes: theory of kingship, Iqtas and Agrarian relations.
6. China: (tenth to fourteenth century) -
   (a) State, nomadic invasions and sinification
   (b) Trade, commerce and urbanisation, “Medieval Economic Revolution”.

UNIT III
7. Economic and social changes in Europe (fourteenth and fifteenth centuries) -
(a) Crisis in the feudal mode of production and decline of feudalism.
8. Economic and social changes in West Asia (twelfth to the fifteenth century) -
   (a) The rise and development of the Ottoman Empire.
9. Economic and social changes in China (twelfth to the sixteenth century)-
   (a) Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 AD), rise of urban centres, markets, new crops especially rice, neo-Confucianism, “Xenophobia”, rise in population, absolute and per capita growth.

UNIT IV
10. Intellectual and economic interactions between Europe and Asia:
   (a) Scientific and intellectual exchange.
   (c) Feudal culture.
   (d) Medieval cities.

Reading List
Medieval Europe:

Medieval West Asia:
11. Zakaria, Rafiq. The Struggle within Islam. The Conflict between Religion and Politics. USA.

Medieval China:
UNIT I
EARLY MEDIEVAL POLITIES IN THE 11TH CENTURY
1. The Rajput states in western and central India: An overview.
2. The Regional states in Peninsular India: An overview.
3. Historiography of the Early Medieval Period- Part I: Dark Age, regional states vis-à-vis the empire, centralization versus fragmentation, the emergence of a region.
4. Historiography of the Early Medieval Period- Part II: debate on feudalism, theory of segmentary state, concept of integrative polity.

UNIT II
THE DELHI SULTANATE (1206-1526): POLITICAL EXPANSION AND CONSOLIDATION
1. Sources for the Study of Delhi Sultanate; historiography of Turkish invasions and conquest.
2. Territorial expansion and consolidation: administrative measures of Iltutmish, Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
3. Rebellions and disintegration; relations with rural chiefs.
4. Political structure of regional Sultanates; the Lodis (1451-1526).

UNIT III
THE DELHI SULTANATE (1206-1526): FORMS OF POLITICAL LEGITIMIZATION AND CONTROL
1. Theory of Kingship and forms of political legitimization; relations with ulama and sufis.
2. Iqta System and the changing composition of the ruling class.
3. Architecture as representation of power and hierarchy: the Qutb Complex and the settlement of Mehrauli; urban settlements of Delhi.

UNIT IV
VIJAYANAGAR KINGDOM AND SOUTH INDIA
1. Sources for the study of medieval south Indian History.
2. Emergence and growth of Vijaynagar Empire (1336-1565); Vijaynagar-Bahmani relations, disintegration of Vijaynagar Empire.
3. Interpreting the nature of Vijaynagar state- Nayankara system and Amaram.

Reading List
1. Mohammad Habib and K.A. Nizami, eds., A Comprehensive History of India, Volume V (The Delhi Sultanate), New Delhi, Peoples’ Publishing House, 1970. (Also in Hindi and Urdu)
4. IGNOU reading materials for B.A. Program- EHI -03 and EHI-04. (Also in Hindi).
7. Burton Stein, Peasant, State and Society in Medieval South India, Delhi, OUP, 1980.
8. Sunil Kumar, The Emergence of the Delhi Sultanate, Delhi, Permanent Black, 2008.
9. Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui, Authority and Kingship under the Sultans of Delhi (13th-14th centuries), Delhi, Manohar, 2006.
10. Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui, Composite Culture under the Sultanate of Delhi, Primus Books, Delhi, 2012.