Module 1

I. Interpreting the Delhi Sultanate:
Survey of sources: Persian tarikh tradition; vernacular histories; epigraphy

II. Sultanate Political Structures:
(a) Foundation, expansion and consolidation of the Sultanate of Delhi; The Khaljis and the Tughluqs; Mongol threat and Timur’s invasion; The Lodis: Conquest of Bahlul and Sikandar; Ibrahim Lodi and the battle of Panipat
(b) Theories of kingship; Ruling elites; Sufis, ulama and the political authority; imperial monuments and coinage
(c) Emergence of provincial dynasties: Bahamanis, Vijayanagar, Gujarat, Malwa, Jaunpur and Bengal
(d) Consolidation of regional identities; regional art, architecture and literature

Module 2

III. Society and Economy:
(a) Iqta and the revenue-free grants
(b) Agricultural production; technology
(c) Changes in rural society; revenue systems
(d) Monetization; market regulations; growth of urban centers; trade and commerce; Indian Ocean trade

IV. Religion, Society and Culture:
(a) Sufi silsilas: Chishtis and Suhrawardis; doctrines and practices; social roles
(b) Bhakti movements and monotheistic traditions in South and North India; Women Bhaktas; Nathpanthis; Kabir, Nanak and the Sant tradition
(c) Sufi literature: malfuzat; premakhayans

ESSENTIAL READINGS

Satish Chandra, Medieval India I. Peter Jackson, The Delhi Sultanate.
Catherine Asher and Cynthia Talbot, India Before Europe.
Tapan Raychaudhuri and Irfan Habib, eds, Cambridge Economic History of India, Vol. I.
K.A. Nizami, Religion and Politics in the Thirteenth Century.
S.A.A. Rizvi, A History of Sufism in India, Vol. I. Mohibul Hasan, Historians of Medieval India.

SUGGESTED READINGS

Cynthia Talbot, Pre-colonial India in Practice.
Simon Digby, War Horses and Elephants in the Delhi Sultanate. 
I.H. Siddiqui, Afghan Despotism. 