



GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Program Name: Bachelor of Architecture

Level: UG

Branch: Architecture

Subject Code: BA01050051

Subject Name: History of Culture

w. e. f. Academic Year:	2026-27
Semester:	1 st
Category of the Course:	Professional Core Courses (PCC)

Prerequisite:	Students should have a basic curiosity about human origins, natural history, and early civilizations. No specific prior academic knowledge is required. General awareness of world history and cultural studies will be beneficial.
Rationale:	This course introduces learners to the genesis of the universe, the evolution of mankind, and the formation of human cultures and civilizations. It helps architecture students understand the deep connection between natural evolutionary processes and the origins of built form. The course traces the journey from the emergence of the universe to early human shelters, group living, and the formation of river valley civilizations. By understanding eco-systems and eco-cultures, students develop sensitivity towards the cultural, social, and environmental factors that shape architecture and design. This course will broaden the intellectual horizon of architecture students and enable them to approach design with a deeper understanding of human heritage.

Course Outcome:

After Completion of the Course, Student will able to:

No	Course Outcomes
01	Recall the natural evolutionary process of the universe and mankind, including Big Bang Theory and Charles Darwin's Theory, and their connection to pre-historic architecture.
02	Understand the significance of early tool-making innovations and their role in shaping human behaviour and early built environments.
03	Analyse the development of early human shelters, cave dwellings, and mortuary structures of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods.
04	Comprehend the social, cultural, and architectural characteristics of early Neolithic settlements such as Catal-Huyuk and Jericho.
05	Evaluate the formation of river valley civilizations Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, and Chinese and their contribution to the evolution of architecture and culture.

Teaching and Examination Scheme:

Teaching Scheme (in Hours)			Total Credits L+T+ P	Assessment Pattern and Marks				
L	T	P	C	Theory		Tutorial / Practical		Total Marks
				ESE (E)	PA / CA (M)	PA/CA (I)	ESE (V)	
2	0	0	2	50	50	0	0	100

Course Content:

Unit No.	Content	No. of Hours	% of Weightage
1.	Unit I: Emergence of Universe and Mankind 1.1 Natural Human Evolutionary Process	6	20



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	<p>1.1.1 The Big Bang Theory – origin of the universe 1.1.2 Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution 1.1.3 Evolutionary timeline: from cosmos to conscious being</p> <p>1.2 Tools as an Extension of Man 1.2.1 Early tool-making – Palaeolithic tool culture 1.2.2 Tools as the first human technology – connection to universal scales 1.2.3 How tool-making innovation gave birth to pre-historic architecture</p> <p>1.3 Universe–Mankind–Architecture Continuum 1.3.1 Understanding scale: from cosmos to human body to shelter 1.3.2 Introduction to the individual and the universal: unity and diversity 1.3.3 Values of self and the world around – foundations of culture</p>		
2.	<p>Unit II: Beginning of Human Shelter</p> <p>2.1 Role of Shelter in Human Evolution 2.1.1 Why shelter? – Survival, safety, and social bonding 2.1.2 Transition from nomadic to settled living</p> <p>2.2 Palaeolithic Shelters 2.2.1 Cave dwellings – types, characteristics, examples 2.2.2 Rock shelters and open-air campsites 2.2.3 Cave paintings and their cultural significance</p> <p>2.3 Mesolithic Shelters 2.3.1 Transitional shelter forms of the Mesolithic period 2.3.2 Temporary and semi-permanent structures</p> <p>2.4 Early Mortuary Structures 2.4.1 Significance of mortuary architecture in prehistoric cultures 2.4.2 Megalithic structures: Dolmens, Menhirs, Cromlechs, Stonehenge 2.4.3 Connection between mortuary architecture and the emergence of religion and philosophy</p> <p>2.5 Formation of Group Living 2.5.1 From individual shelter to group habitation 2.5.2 Social organization in early communities 2.5.3 Role of geography, climate, and resources in settlement patterns</p>	12	40
3.	<p>Unit III: Eco-systems and Eco-cultures</p> <p>3.1 Beginnings of Society and Settlements – Neolithic Period 3.1.1 Agricultural revolution and its impact on settlement 3.1.2 Formation of permanent villages and towns 3.1.3 Emergence of social hierarchy and governance</p> <p>3.2 Early Urban Settlements 3.2.1 Catal-Huyuk – spatial organization, house form, wall paintings 3.2.2 Jericho – one of the earliest walled towns, social structure</p> <p>3.3 River Valley Civilizations 3.3.1 Mesopotamia – Sumerian culture, 3.3.2 Egypt – Nile civilization, symbolism 3.3.3 Indus Valley Civilization – Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, 3.3.4 Chinese Civilization – Yellow River culture, and tradition</p> <p>3.4 Traditions, Culture and Architecture 3.4.1 Relationship between eco-system, culture, and built form 3.4.2 Progressive development through different ages to Contemporary times 3.4.3 Comparative study of civilizations – similarities and differences</p>	12	40



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	Total	30	100
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Suggested Specification Table with Marks (Theory):

Unit No.	Unit Title	Distribution of Theory Marks						Total
		R Level	U Level	A Level	N Level	E Level	C Level	
I	Emergence of Universe and Mankind	3	4	3	0	0	0	10
II	Beginning of Human Shelter	6	8	6	0	0	0	20
III	Eco-systems and Eco-cultures	6	8	6	0	0	0	20
Total		15	20	15	0	0	0	50
%		30	40	30	0	0	0	100

*Where R: Remember; U: Understanding; A: Application, N: Analyze and E: Evaluate C: Create (as per Revised Bloom's Taxonomy)

References/Suggested Learning Resources:

(a) Books:

S. No.	Title of Book	Author	Publication
1	The Ascent of Man	Jacob Bronowski	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), London
2	The Making of Man	David Leakey	Michael Joseph Ltd., London
3	Atma Bodh	Chinmaya Mission	Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, Mumbai
4	Prana Upanishad	Chinmaya Mission	Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, Mumbai
5	Aittariya Upanishad	Chinmaya Mission	Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, Mumbai
6	Vedanta and Modern Physics	Ram Krishna Mission	Advaita Ashrama, Kolkata
7	The Turning Point	Fritjof Capra	Simon & Schuster, New York
8	The Tao of Physics	Fritjof Capra	Shambhala Publications, Boston
9	Space, Time & Architecture	Siegfried Giedion	Harvard University Press, Cambridge

(b) Open-source Software and Website:

1. <https://nptel.ac.in/courses/109107082> (History of Architecture, IIT Roorkee)
2. <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-history> (Khan Academy – Art & Architecture History)
3. <https://www.coursera.org/learn/architectural-imagination> (Architectural Imagination – Harvard / edX)

Suggested Course Practical List: NA

List of Laboratory / Learning Resources Required: NA

Suggested Project List:

- a) Conduct a study and documentation of local cultural traditions, folk art, or heritage sites.
- b) Prepare a visual timeline from Big Bang to the earliest civilizations with architectural references.
- c) Comparative study of two river valley civilizations with focus on settlement patterns and built form.

Suggested Activities for Students:

- a) Visit a local museum, or heritage monument and document findings with photographs, sketches, and a report.



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- b) Prepare a material board or mood board representing the culture and architecture of a selected ancient civilization.
- c) Group discussion and presentation on the connection between natural evolution and architectural beginnings.

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