

INDIAN CIVILIZATION

FALL 2020 — TTH 3:05-4:20

Instructor: Rich Freeman

Meets Curric Modes/Areas: CCI, EI, W, CZ & SS

Who are the people who gave rise to Indian civilization, and where did they come from? What is the nature of this civilization, and how did it persist through the rise and fall of various kingdoms and the religious developments of Vedicism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism? From the earliest urban centers of the Indus Valley, through the major classical and medieval kingdoms, down to the advent of Islamic cultures, this seminar draws on the archeological, literary, linguistic, art-historical, and anthropological evidence to explore the history and diversity of Indic peoples, and to chart their complex social, religious, and caste organization into the flourishing states and empires that made up premodern India. The course will highlight the flows and interactions of peoples, technologies and ideas both within the Indic cultural sphere, and between this sphere and wider world of Asia, the Middle East and Europe. It is paired with an optional, half-credit **Digital India Lab**, where students can explore and develop other resources or topics of interest to enrich the class-experience.

History 219S/CulAnth 215S/AMES 157S
Place: West Duke 108A

