



FIRST SEMESTER 2022-2023

Course Handout (Part II)

Date: 29/08/2022

In addition to part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the timetable) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : HSS F338
Course Title : Comparative Indian Literature
Instructor-in-charge : Tony Sebastian

Scope and Objective of the Course:

This course aims to acquaint technical students with literary achievements in Indian Languages and to give an integrated view of Indian Literature from a comparative perspective. The main objective is to make students understand how the literature of various Indian languages evolved over a period of time under the influence of social, political, religious and economic progress that the land has experienced through the passage of time. The selected pieces of literature would reflect the ethos of the land of its origin and the people who speak it. Students will be required to closely read and analyze texts not only in terms of genre and style, but also in terms of the historical and political contexts in which these texts were/are (re)produced. It makes learners aware of the varied range of Indian literature, and the many themes and styles, reflecting the vast differences in linguistic, regional and historical context.

The main objectives of the course are to enable learners to:

- develop an understanding of the literary achievements in Indian Languages;
- recognize the socio, political and religious aspects reflected in Indian literature;
- develop critical reading skills;
- examine literary texts from a comparative perspective;

Text books:

1. Jancy James, Chandra Mohan, Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta, Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Edited. *Studies in Comparative Literature Theory, Culture and Space*, Creative Books, New Delhi, 2007.
2. Arvind Krishna Mehrotra. Edited. *An Illustrated History of Indian Literature in English*. Orient BlackSwan. 2014.

Reference Books

1. Steven Totossy de Zepetnek, Tutun Mukherjee. *Comparative Literature, World Literatures and Comparative Cultural Studies*. Foundation Books, New Delhi. 2013.
2. Andrew Schelling, ed. *The Oxford Anthology of Bhakti Literature*. Oxford University Press. 2011.
3. E.V. Ramakrishnan. *Locating Indian Literature: Texts, Traditions, Translations* (Section 1, 3). Orient BlackSwan. 2017.
4. ---. *Indigenous Imaginaries: Literature, Region, Modernity* (Section 1, Section 3-chapters 12,13). Orient BlackSwan. 2017.

Other material, if any, will be shared by the instructor.

Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning Objectives	Topics to be Covered	Chapter in the Text Book
1-3	Introduction to Comparative Literature and World Literature	History of Comparative Literature, Definitions and Debates, Scope	RB 1 (part 1)
4-10	Introduction to Comparative Indian Literature	Comparative Indian Literature- History, Key concepts, Methodology and Practice	RB1 (part 2), RB 3 (Chapter 1,2) R4 (Chapter 1)
11-14	Explore comparative methodology of reading —close readings of Bhakti literature.	Select narratives from Indian traditions. Bhakti Movement in Indian Literature. Concept of Bhakti and a brief survey of Bhakti literature.	RB1 (chapters8-13) RB4 (Chapter 3)
15-20	Apply methods of a comparative Literary study – Theoretical, formal and interpretive issues	Genres, forms, periods, movements and influence studies. Themes and Myths. Areas of study in a Comparative framework: thematology, genealogy, historiography, reception and influence, retellings and adaptations, intertextuality; interliterariness, and interdisciplinarity Translation Studies and Comparative Literature	TB 1 (chapters 1-7) RB4 (Chapter2)
21-25	Examination of the history and major themes in Indian English Literature	Major contributors to Indian English Literature. Literary Movements and Genres Indian fiction in historical and social context. Indian English poetry, translatability	Reading material (chapter 1) RB3 (Section 3, Chapter 5)
26-33	Introduction to studies of alterity	Politics of Identity and Minority Discourses in India. The question of the 'Other' in Comparative Literature	RB3 (Chapter 5) RB4 (Chapter 5)
34 -42	Comparative Indian Literature, Postcolonial writings and the diaspora	Memory, nation and region and the question of pluralism: Comparative perspectives	TB (chapters 14-18) R4 (Chapter 12,13)

Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Assignment - 1	30 minutes	15	Will be announced later	Open Book
Assignment -2	30 minutes	15	Will be announced later	Open Book
Mid Semester Test	90 minutes	35	03/11 1.30 - 3.00PM	Closed Book
Comprehensive Exam	3 hours	35	26/12 AN	Closed Book

Chamber Consultation hours: Will be announced in the class.

Notices: Notices, if any, will be displayed on CMS.

Make-up Policy: Make-up requests will be considered only if it is genuine and if the student's request for make-up reaches the undersigned within the stipulated time.

Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy: Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.

Tony Sebastian
INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE