



SECOND SEMESTER 2022-2023

Course Handout Part II

Date: 16/01/2023

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 : M.G. Prasuna

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 Black Swan. 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.
Other material, if any, will be shared by the instructor.
3. E.V. Ramakrishnan. ***Locating Indian Literature: Texts, Traditions, Translations*** (Section 1, 3). Orient BlackSwan. 2017.

Course Plan:

| Lecture No. | Learning objectives | Topics to be covered | Chapter in the Text Book |
|-------------|--|--|---|
| 1-4 | Understand and reflect upon the concepts of World Literature and Comparative Literature | Meaning, Definition and scope of Comparative Literature. Theory, History. | Comparative literature, World Literatures and Comparative Cultural studies (part 1) |
| 5-10 | Examine the concept of Comparative Indian Literature. | Comparative Indian Literature – Past and Present. Concepts and Practices. Methodology. | Comparative literature, World Literatures and Comparative Cultural studies (part 2) |
| 11-14 | Explore comparative methodology of reading – Narratives. | Select narratives from Indian traditions. Bhakti Movement in Indian Literature. Concept of Bhakti and a brief survey of Bhakti Literature. | Studies in Comparative Literature Theory, Culture and Space (Chapters 8-13) |
| 15-20 | Apply methods of a comparative Literary study – Theoretical, formal and interpretive issues | Genres, forms, periods, movements and influence studies. Themes and Myths, literature in translation. Areas of study in a Comparative framework: thematology, genology, Historiography, reception and influence, intertextuality; interliterariness, and interdisciplinarity | Studies in Comparative Literature Theory, Culture and Space (chapters 1-7) |
| 21-25 | Examine the history of Indian English Literature | Major contributors to Indian English Literature. Literary Movements and Genres Indian fiction in historical and social context | A Concise History of Indian Literature in English (chapter 1) |
| 26-33 | Critically evaluate Partition Literature | An analysis of select partition writings. Historical and political background of partition. Cultural memories and representation of partition in literature. | The Pity of Partition. (chapter 3) |
| 34 -42 | Compare and reflect on literature across linguistic and social boundaries. Indian Diasporic writing. | Critical interpretation of selected works. | Studies in Comparative Literature Theory, Culture and Space (chapters 14-18) |

Evaluation Scheme:

| Component | Duration | Weightage (%) | Date & Time | Nature of Component |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Assignment - 1 | 30 minutes | 15 | Will be announced later | Open book |
| Mid Semester Examination | 90 minutes | 35 | 15/03 2.00 - 3.30PM | Closed Book |
| Assignment -2 | 30 minutes | 15 | Will be announced later | Open book |
| Comprehensive Exam | 180 minutes | 35 | 13/05 FN | 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 two hours after the scheduled time of test.

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.

M. G. Prasuna
INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE