



ST. ALOYSIUS COLLEGE(AUTONOMOUS), JABALPUR

Reaccredited 'A++' Grade by NAAC(CGPA:3.58/4.00)

College with Potential for Excellence by UGC

DST-FIST Supported & STAR College Scheme by DBT

Faculty of Arts

Master of Arts (M.A.)

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

M.A. II Semester

Paper IV

Ancient Indian Literature

Course Outcomes

CO.No.	Course Outcomes
CO1	Understand the polyphony of Ancient Indian Literature.
CO2	Understand the multifaceted nature of cultural identities in various Ancient Indian literature through examination of indigenous literary traditions.
CO3	Attain knowledge about the writings of Ancient Indian authors such as Vyasa, Kalidasa, Bhasa, Ilango Adigal, et cetera.
CO4	To compare literary texts produced all across India during the ancient era and find thematic and cultural perspectives.
CO5	Develop comprehension of Sanskrit Poetics.

Credit and Marking Scheme

	Credits	Marks		Total Marks
		Internal	External	
Theory	5	40	60	100
Total	5	100		

Evaluation Scheme

	Marks	
	Internal	External
Theory	a) Class Test b) Presentation/Assignment/Quiz/Group Discussion, etc c) Appropriate weightage of attendance in class.	1 External Exams (At the End of Semester)



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Content of the Course

Theory

No. of Lectures (in hours per week): 4.5 Hrs. per week

Units	Topics	No. of Lectures
I Vedic Literature	Rigveda: Purusha Sukta (Non-detailed) Upanishads: Kena translated by Swami Sharvananda Activities: Activity: Compare the Purusha myth to other creation stories: 1-Comparative Mythology: Norse myth: Ymir Chinese myth: Pangu Hindu: Hiranyagarbha Prompt: "Why do many cultures imagine creation through the dismemberment of a cosmic being?" Purpose: Understand archetypal thinking and shared human themes in mythology. 2-The Yaksha Episode - Script and Skit: Task: Script and perform the allegorical story of the Yaksha (Chapter IV), where Agni, Vayu, and Indra confront the mystery of Brahman. Extension: Discuss the symbolism behind each deity	15
II Classical Sanskrit Poetry	Kalidasa: The Loom of Time (translated by Robert D. Kaplan) Vyasa: The Dicing, The Sequel to Dicing, The Book of the Assembly Hall, The Temptation of Karna. (non-detailed) Activities: 1-Role-Play: The Forgotten Ring: Activity: Reenact the moment of Dushyanta failing to recognize Shakuntala, then rediscovering her. Purpose: Explore the emotional complexity and use of memory/loss as a poetic device. 2-Character Hot Seat Activity: A student plays a character (e.g., Draupadi, Karna, Duryodhana), and others ask them questions about their choices. Purpose: Deepen understanding of layered motivations in epic characters.	15



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III Drama	Sudraka: Mrcchakatika (translated by Arthur W. Ryder) Bhasa: Svapnavasavadatta (Non-detailed) Activities: 1-Poster Design: Ancient Drama for a Modern Audience: Activity: Design a theatrical poster marketing The Little Clay Cart for a contemporary stage. Purpose: Encourage creative reinterpretation and thematic connection. 2-Dream and Reality Discussion: Prompt: "What is the role of illusion, disguise, and dreams in royal love?" Activity: Discuss how Bhasa uses dream imagery and dramatic irony. Purpose: Explore early dramatic narrative techniques in Sanskrit plays.	15
IV Tamil Literature	(Non-detailed Study) Ilango Adigal: 'The Book of Vanci', in Cilappatikaram (Non-detailed) Sithalai Sathanar: Manimekalai (Non-detailed) Activities: 1-Justice and Anger Discussion: Prompt: "Was Kannagi's burning of Madurai an act of justice or vengeance?" Activity: Group debate or short persuasive writing. Purpose: Engage with epic's moral complexity and its critique of kingship. 2- Wheel of Dharma Task: Design a symbolic representation (mandala, chart, or artwork) of the Buddhist teachings reflected in Manimekalai. Purpose: Introduce key ideas like ahimsa, detachment, and karuṇā (compassion).	15
V Buddhist and Jain Literature	Ashvaghosha: Buddhacharita(Non-detailed) Kundakunda: Samayasara(Non-detailed) Activities: 1-Poetic Imagery: The Four Sights Task: Create a short poem or sketch inspired by the Four Sights (old age, sickness, death, ascetic). Purpose: Explore how Buddhist awakening begins with observation of life's truths. 2-Essence vs. Action Chart Task: Create a T-chart: Left side: Things that change (body, emotions, karma) Right side: Things that remain (soul, awareness) Purpose: Visualize the core Jain distinction between dravya (substance) and guna (qualities).	15

Keywords/Tags: Individual, Journey, Destiny, Ambition, Greed, Dharma, Duty, Righteousness, Prosperity, Envy, Justice, Loyalty, Lineage, Friendship, Love, Infidelity, Injustice, Poverty, Sorrow, Illusion. Fate, Morality, Retribution, Feminism, Renunciation, Compassion, Enlightenment, Aesthetics, Poetics, Emotion, Suggestion, Literary Criticism



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References

Reference Books:

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2. Kalidasa. (1999). Shakuntala. Translated by Arthur W. Ryder. Cambridge, Ontario: Parentheses Publications Sanskrit Series
3. Iravati Karve, 'Draupadi', in Yuganta: The End of an Epoch (Hyderabad: Disba, 1991) pp. 79-105.
4. J.A.B. Van Buitenen, 'Dharma and Moksa', in Roy W. Perrett, ed., Indian Philosophy, vol. V, Theory of Value: A Collection of Readings (New York: Garland, 2000) pp. 33-40.
5. Vinay Dharwadkar, 'Orientalism and the Study of Indian Literature, in Orientalism and the Postcolonial Predicament: Perspectives on South Asia, ed. Carol A.
6. Breckenridge and Peter van der Veer (New Delhi: OUP, 1994) pp. 158-95
7. Vyasa, Krishna-Dwaipayana. The Mahabharata. Translated by K.M. Ganguli. Project Gutenberg, 2005.
8. Ryder, A. W. (1905). The Little Clay Cart (Mṛcchakatika): A Hindu Drama attributed to King Śhūdraka. Harvard University Press. 14. Bhasa, Svapnavasavadatta, edited by T. Ganapati Sastri, Motilal Banarsidass, 1978 15. Ilango Adigal. (2015). The Book of Vanci: Book III of the Cilappatikaram the Tale of Anklet. Translated by R. Parthasarathy, and edited by B. Mangalam. Worldview Publications.
9. Cāttanār, Seethalai. Manimekalai. Translated by Prema Nandakumar. Tamil University, 1989,

Suggested digital platforms/ web links

1. <https://www.wisdomlib.org/hinduism/book/rig-veda-english-translation/d/doc828866.html>
2. https://www.wisdomlib.org//concept/rigveda#google_vignette
3. <https://www.wisdomlib.org/hinduism/book/kena-upanishad-shankara-bhashya>
4. <https://ebooks.inflibnet.ac.in/engp09/chapter/sudraka-mrichhakatika/>
5. <https://www.wisdomlib.org/hinduism/essay/bhasa-critical-and-historical-study/d/doc1473548.html>

