

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AND JUDICIAL ACADEMY, ASSAM

PROGRAMME: B.A., LL. B (HONS.) FYIC

DETAILS OF COURSE OFFERED

EVEN SEMESTER (II) – ACADEMIC YEAR

1. DETAILS OF THE COURSE:

A. COURSE CODE: BL 401.1 (ENGLISH MAJOR IV)

B. TITLE OF THE COURSE: INDIAN CLASSICAL LITERATURE

C. COURSE CREDIT: 4 (TOTAL MARKS- 200)

B. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION: ENGLISH

C. COURSE COMPILED BY: APARAJITA DUTTA HAZARIKA

D. COURSE INSTRUCTOR: DR NUPUR SINHA

2. Course Objectives:

- This course introduces students to a selection of literatures of India in English translation. It is known that Indian Classical Literature comprises of a rich repertoire of drama, poetry, the epic narrative as well as short fictional fables. The texts shall encourage the students to familiarize themselves with some of these texts.
- This course shall also help in providing an understanding of key concepts related to the form and content of Indian literature.
- The objective shall be to acclimatize the law students with different socio-cultural discourses with the introduction of thought-provoking literary texts and aspects of cultural theory.
- It is expected that knowledge of this literature against this particular intellectual backdrop will help the students to be coherent as individuals, readers and critics, and develop reading positions that will facilitate their engagement with all the literature they will study in the Major Course.

3. Teaching Outcomes:

- The students shall familiarize themselves with the texts of Indian classical literature and learn the nuances of the different genres.
- They shall be encouraged to express various concepts through writing and they shall demonstrate their conceptual and textual understanding of the texts through writing assignments and tests.
- They shall try to comprehend the eco-socio-political-cultural context of the age that produced Indian classical literature from its early beginning till 1100 AD and appreciate the pluralistic and inclusive nature of Indian classical literature and its attributes.
- They shall try to trace the evolution of literary culture(s) in India in their contexts, themes and critical cultures.

4. DETAILED STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE (SPECIFYING COURSE MODULES AND SUB-MODULES)

MODULE I

The Indian Epic Tradition; Classical Indian Drama; Alankara and Rasa; Dharma and the Heroic

MODULE II

TEXTS:

Kalidasa, *Abhijnanasakuntalam*, trans. Chandra Rajan, in *Kalidasa: The Loom of Time*, (Penguin Classics, 1989, reprint 2000)

MODULE III

Vyasa, selections from *The Mahabharata*, from *The Mahabharata of Krishna-Dwaipayana Vyasa*, trans. K. M. Ganguli (Delhi: MunshiramManoharlal Publishers, 2012)

- a) ‘The Dicing’ and ‘Sequel to Dicing’, Book 2, Sabha Parva Section XLVI-LXXII

MODULE IV

Sudraka, *The Mrichchhakatika of Sudraka*, trans. M. R. Kale (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas Publishers, 1924, reprint 2013).

5. SUGGESTED READINGS:

1. Bharata, *Natyashastra*, tr. Manomohan Ghosh, vol. I, 2nd edn (Calcutta: Granthalaya, 1967) chap. 6: ‘Sentiments’, pp. 100–18.
2. Iravati Karve, ‘Draupadi’, in *Yuganta: The End of an Epoch* (Hyderabad: Disha,

1991) pp. 79–105.

3. 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.

4. Vinay Dharwadkar, 'Orientalism and the Study of Indian Literature', in *Orientalism and the Postcolonial Predicament: Perspectives on South Asia*, ed. Carol A. Breckenridge and Peter van der Veer (New Delhi: OUP, 1994) pp. 158–95.

5. Aristotle, *Poetics*, translated with an introduction and notes by Malcolm Heath, (London: Penguin, 1996) chaps. 6–17, 23, 24, and 26.

6. Plato, *The Republic*, Book X, tr. Desmond Lee (London: Penguin, 2007).

7. Horace, *Ars Poetica*, tr. H. Rushton Fairclough, *Horace: Satires, Epistles and Ars Poetica* (Cambridge Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005) pp. 451–73.