

**Proposed Course: BOS English (Jan 7, 2025), Faculty Board, Arts (Jan 9, 2025),
Committee: (Jan 16, 2025)**

MA English (Sem III) wef from MA 2025-26 (of MA 3rd Sem)

ELECTIVE PAPER – III (X)

INDIAN CLASSICAL LITERATURE - I

Course Statement / Justification

The paper introduces students to a rich and diverse literature from three classical languages of India- Sanskrit, Prakrit and Tamil. A key feature is the study of the poetics in the epics of in these languages, including their literary traditions and their representations of a pluralist society in terms of linguistic, religious, and generic diversity. The paper lays a foundation in Indian poetics, theories of representation, aesthetics, aspects of Indian theatre, and traditions of story-telling and narrative structures. Optional papers on Indian literature in subsequent semesters will reinforce the centrality of this paper in providing an understanding of key concepts related to the form and content of the Classical Indian literatures. The Course aims to

- impart students the knowledge of our ancient classical texts, rich culture and **Indian Knowledge Systems as per the guidelines of NEP 2020.**
- acquaint the students with the diverse literature and cultural heritage of the country as per the latest mandate prescribed in **UGC guidelines.**
- introduce an **interdisciplinary approach by blending the reputed literatures** of our country in different languages and in turn overcome the language barrier towards the understanding of this rich inheritance in literature.
- make the students realize the significance, relevance and appreciation of our classical texts written in **Sanskrit, Prakrit, Tamil, and other classical languages.**
- help the students and youth of this country in **preservation of cultural heritage, gaining timeless wisdom.** It would give insights into universal themes and shapes on Indian way of life.
- make the students aware of the basic concepts of Indian philosophy and their applications in their day-to-day life.

Syllabus for Semester III

MA English (Sem III) wef from MA 2025-26 (of MA 3rd Sem)

ELECTIVE PAPER – III (X)

INDIAN CLASSICAL LITERATURE - I

(ELECTIVE PAPER – III (X))

Course Objectives

The course aims to:

- familiarise students with Indian Classical Literature (mainly in Sanskrit) since the Vedic times.
- familiarise students with the specific key features of the Vedic literature, history of Vedic literature and some selected Vedic hymns.
- make students aware of the basic concepts of Indian philosophy and their applications in their day-to-day life.
- acquaint students with the literary texts and principles of aesthetic appreciation of classical literature in its various aspects.
- study significant sections of Valmiki's *Ramayana* and Vyasa's *Mahabharata* in the context of the epic battle over duties, rights and righteousness.
- examine selections from Ilango Adigal's *Cilapattikaram* / *Silappadikaram* to understand the interplay of Tamil poetics and the lifestyle of communities, negotiating ideas related to love, justice, war, governance, and conduct in private and public domains;
- study Sanskrit plays, a Nataka, and a Prakarna, to appreciate its debts to *Natyashastra* in their formal aspects;
- explore the central concerns of Sanskrit plays in relation to notions of righteousness.
- introduce students to selections elucidating Tamil and Sanskrit poetics; to help students appreciate the inter-connections between theory and practice in theatre.

Course Contents

UNIT 1

- History, Thematic and Narratological Features and Significance of Indian Classical Literature (S K De's *History of Sanskrit Literature*)
- Vak Sukta (*Rig Veda* 10.125.1-8) (Griffith's Translation)
- Nasadiya Sukta (*Rig Veda* 10.129.1-7) (Peter Peterson's Translation of *Hymns from the Rig Veda Samhita*, 2004)
- Prithvi Sukta (*Atharva Veda* 12.1.1-63) (Tr. Telanga and Choubey)

UNIT 2

- (i) Valmiki, *Ramayana*, Kishkindha Kanda, (Book 4), Cantos 1-25, (Eng Tr. Gita Press Gorakhpur.)
- (ii) Mehrotra, Arvind. K. *The Absent Traveller - Prakrit Love Poetry from the Gathasaptasati of Satvavahana Hala*, Penguin Classics, 2008. (select poems only)
- (iii) "The Eight Forms of Marriages", *Yagyavalka Smirti* (From Chapter III). *The Sacred Books of the Hindus*, Vol XXI, Tr. Rai Bahadur Srisa Chandra Vidyarnava, Allahabad: Panini Office, 1918.

- (iv) Kalidasa, *Abhijnanasakuntalam*, trans. M R Kale (MLBD, Delhi)

Unit 3

- i. Satakas of Bhatrihari, trans. By Rev, B. Hale Wortham. London: Trubner & CO., 1886. (*Niti Satak*)
- ii. Somadeva, *Katha Sarit Sagara*, trans, *The Ocean of Story*, Vol 1 of 1, C. H. Tawney, Forgotten Books, 2018.

Unit 4

- i. Ilango Adigal, *Cilappattikaram / Silappadikaram*, Cantos 1, 2, 7, 18, 19, trans. R. Parthasarathy (Columbia University Press, 1993; Penguin Books India, 2004).
- ii. Jayadeva, *Gita Govinda*, Song 1, 2 and 3, trans. Barbara Stoler Miller, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas Publishers, 1983.

COURSE OUTCOMES

- The students will be able to identify specific key features of the Vedic literature and progress towards analysing the history of Vedic literature with respect to their updated knowledge.
- The students will become aware of the basic concepts of Indian philosophy and can apply them in their day-to-day life.
- The students will understand representative Classical prose, poetry and plays.
- The students can co-relate the other streams of knowledge and languages with Indian Classical literature and create innovative ways and means for betterment of mankind.
- The students will develop a sense of pride and respect for their classical literature, culture and heritage.

EVALUATION PATTERN

- i. Test I (written test/assignment) – 20%
- ii. Mid-semester examination – 20%
- iii. Test II (written test/assignment) – 20%
- iv. Final (end semester) examination – 60%

[Note: For the final assessment, only the better of Test I and Test II is to be counted]

Suggested Lecture Topics and Background Prose Readings

What is a Classic?

The Indian Epic Tradition: Themes and Recensions

Classical Indian Drama: Theory and Practice

Alankara and Rasa

Dharma and *Prushartha Chatushtaya* (Four-fold goals of human life)

Different Elements of Plays (*Vastu* (Plot) and other elements)

Nayak and *Nayika Bheda* (Heroes and Heroines in Indian Poetics)

Diacritical marks as per IAST patterns

Suggested Readings

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. *Hymns of the Atharvaveda* - M. Bloomfield, Motilal Banarasidass, New Delhi.
4. *Prithvi Sukta – ek adhyayana*. B. B. Choubey, Katyayan publication, Katyayana Publication, Hoshiyarpur, Punjab.
5. Bharata Muni. *Selections from Natyasastra*. (i) Chapter 6, 'The Sentiments'; (ii) Chapter 20, 'Ten Kinds of Play'; (iii) Chapter 35, 'Characteristics of the Jester', trans. Manomohan Ghosh, Calcutta: Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1951. pp105-17; 355-74; 548-50
6. Osho. *Selections from Krishna: The Man and His Philosophy*. (i) Krishna is Complete and Whole (ii) Draupadi: A Rare Woman (iii) Action, Inaction and Non-Action (iv) Rituals, Fire and Knowledge, Delhi: Jaico Publishing House, 1991.
7. Kapoor, Kapil. *Indian Knowledge Systems* Vol. 1. New Delhi: D.K. Printworld Pvt. Ltd., 2005. pp 1-31.
8. Venkatachalapathy, R. 'Introduction', *Love Stands Alone: Selections from Tamil Sangam Poetry*. Delhi: Penguin Classics, 2013. pp XIII-XLI; 25; 45; 70; 186
9. *The New Vedic Selection – Part I, II – Ed. N. K. S. Telanga and Braj Bihari Choubey*, BhartiyaV idya Prakashan, Varanasi and Delhi, 10th Edition, 2017.
10. *Navina- Vaidika- Sancayanam*, Vols I& II, Ed. Dr. Yamuna Pathak & Dr. Umesh Prasad Sing., Chaukhamba Krushna Dasa Academy, Varanasi, 2010-
11. *Nirukta Pancadhyayi*, (Adhyayas-1,2,3,4,7), Ed. Mahamahopadhyaya Pandita Cchajjurama Shastri Vidyasagar, Meherachand Lachmandas Publications, New Delhi, 2003.
12. Shukla-Yajurveda-Samhita, With the Commentary of Uvata and Mahidhara and also with Tattvabodhini Hindi Explanation of Ramakrushna Shastri, Ed. Vasudeva Sharma, ChowkhambaVidyabhavan, Varanasi. Reprint - 2005.
13. Niruktam with the commentary "Rijvartha" of Sri Durgacharya, Ed. Mahamahopadhyaya Pandita Sri MukundaJha Sharma, ChaukhambaSamskrutaPratisthan, Delhi, 2002.

14. *The Nighantu and the Niruka* (English), Ed. Laxman Sarup, Parts I-III, Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, Reprint-1985.
15. *Niruktam* - Ed. Sitaram Shastri, Parimal Publications, New Delhi, 2014
16. *Vaidika-Vanmayasyetihasa*, Acharya Jagadish Mishra, Chaukhamba Surabharati Prakashan, Varanasi.
17. Gerow, Edwin, et al. 'Indian Poetics', *The Literatures of India: An Introduction*. ed. Edward. C. Dimock et al, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974. pp 115-143
18. Chandra Rajan, in *Kalidasa: The Loom of Time*, (Penguin Classics, 1989, reprint 2000)

Prepared by:

Dr Amar Nath Kumar
 Assistant Professor
 Department of English & MEL, University of Allahabad

Syllabus for Semester IV
MA English (Sem IV) wef from MA 2025-26 (of MA 4th Sem)
ELECTIVE PAPER – III (X)
INDIAN CLASSICAL LITERATURE - II

Course Objectives

- To explore the central concerns of Sanskrit plays.
- To introduce students to selections elucidating Sanskrit and Tamil poetics; a critical overview of the theorisation of Agama, Nigama, Purana, and Thina in Tolkappiyam, juxtaposed to lyrics from Sangam poetry; the Rasa theory from *Natyashastra*,
- To help students appreciate the inter-connections between theory and practice in theatre.
- To acquaint the students with the specific key features of the Vedic literature, selected Vedic texts and history of Vedic literature.
- To make students aware of the basic concepts of Indian philosophy and their applications in their day-to-day life.
- To acquaint the students with the literary texts and principles of aesthetic appreciation of classical literature in its various aspects.

Unit 1

1. Purusha-Suktam (XXXI.1-10) – Shukla- *Yajurveda*
2. Shivasankalpa Suktam (34.1.1-6) – Shukla *Yajurveda*
3. *Kathopnishad* (Part1-2), (From *The Upanishads*, Tr. Juan Mascaro, Penguin Books)
4. *Dhammapada* (Chapters 1, 2 & 3, Tr. S. Radhakrishnan, Oxford: OUP, 1950)

Unit 2

- Selections from *Natyasastra*, (i) Chapter 6, ‘The Sentiments’; (ii) Chapter 20, ‘Ten Kinds of Play’; (iii) Chapter 35, ‘Characteristics of the Jester’, trans. Manomohan Ghosh (Calcutta: Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1951) pp.105-17; 355-74; 548-50.
- Swami Dayananda, *Satyratha Prakash* (*The Light of Truth*, Chapter 3), New Delhi: Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, 1984.
- Kautilya’s *The Arthashastra* Tr. L.N. Rangarajan (Part VI, Civil Service Regulations), Penguin Books, 1987.
- R. Venkatachalapathy, ‘Introduction’, in *Love Stands Alone: Selections from Tamil Sangam Poetry* (Delhi: Penguin Classics, 2013, pp. XIII-XLI, 25, 45, 70, 186).

Unit 3.

- (i) Vyasa, the following selections from *The Mahabharata of Krishna-Dwaipayana Vyasa*, trans. K. M. Ganguli (Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, 2012).

- ‘The Dicing’ and ‘Sequel to Dicing’, Book 2, Sabha Parva Section XLVI-LXXII
- ‘The Temptation of Karna’, Book 5, Udyog Parva, Section CXL-CXLVI.
- Vyasa, Ved. *Shrimad Bhagawad Gita*, Chapter III, Karmayoga, Gita Press, Gorakhpur.

(ii) Vishakhadatta, *Mudrarakshasa*, trans. (*Mudrarakshasa or The Signet Ring*) K. H. Dhruva, The Oriental Book Supplying Agency, Poona.

(iii) Vatsayana, *Kamasutra*, Book 1, Chapter 2 (“Achieving the three ends: Dharma, Artha, Kama) trans. A. N. D. Haksar, Penguin Books, 2011.

Unit 4

(i) *Hitopadesa*. (only *The Book of Good Counsels: From the Sanskrit of the Hitopadesa*, Tr. by Edwin Arnold, Pharos Books, 2023.)

(ii) *Harshacharita* of Banabhatta (Chapter 1, Tr P V Kane)

COURSE OUTCOMES

- The students will be able to identify specific key features of the Vedic language and subject matter, and progress towards analysing the history of Vedic literature.
- The students will become aware of the basic concepts of Indian philosophy.
- The students will understand representative Classical prose, poetry and plays.
- The students will be able to co-relate other streams of knowledge and languages with Indian Classical literature.
- The students will develop a sense of pride and respect for their classical literature, culture and heritage.

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Suggested Readings:

1. Bharata, *Natyashastra*, tr. Manmohan Ghosh, vol. I, 2nd edn. Calcutta: Granthalaya, 1967.
2. 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.
3. A.V. Kieth, *History of Sanskrit Literature*. Oxford: OUP, 1920.
4. A.K. Warder, *Indian Kavya Literature*, 8 Volumes. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas, 2011

5. Iravati Karve, 'Draupadi', in *Yuganta: The End of an Epoch* (Hyderabad: Disha, 1991) pp. 79–105.
6. *The New Vedic Selection* – Part I, II – Ed. by N. K. S. Telanga and Braj Bihari Choubey, Bhartiya Vidya Prakashan, Varanasi and Delhi, 10th Edition, 2017.
7. *Navina-Vaidika-Sancayanam*, Vols I& II, Ed. Dr. Yamuna Pathak & Dr. Umesh Prasad Singh, Chaukhamba Krushna Dasa Academy, Varanasi, 2010.
8. *Nirukta Pancadhyayi*, (Adhyayas-1,2,3,4,7), Ed. Mahamahopadhyaya Pandita Chajjurama Shastri Vidyasagar, Meherachand Lachmandas Publications, New Delhi, 2003.
9. *Shukla-Yajurveda-Samhita*, With the Commentary of Uvata and Mahidhara and also with *Tattvabodhini* Hindi Explanation of Ramakrushna Shastri, Ed. Vasudeva Sharma, Chowkhamba Vidyabhavan, Varanasi. Reprint. 2005.
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12. *Niruktam*, Ed. Sitaram Shastri, Parimal Publications, New Delhi, 2014
8. *Vaidika-Vnmayasyetihasah*, Acharya Jagadish Mishra, Chaukhamba Surabharati Prakashan, Varanasi.
13. *Ṛk Sukta Shati*. H. D. Velankar, Bhartiya Vidya Prakashan, Mumbai, 1972.
14. *Ṛk Sukta Vaijayanti*. H.D. Velankar, Vaidik Samsodhan Mandal, Pune, 1965.
15. Balogh, Daniel. *A Textual and Intertextual Study of the Mudraraksasa*, 2015.
16. Roy, Vijay Kumar, ed. *Spiritual Poetry of India in English Translation*, Delhi: Alfa Publications, 2012.
17. *The Upanishads*: Translated by Charles Johnston, 1896.
18. *Ten Principal Upanishads*. Purohit Swami and W. B. Yeats. London: Faber & Faber, 1937.

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 Assistant Professor
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