



INTRODUCTION TO WORLD LITERATURE

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IIT Madras

INTENDED AUDIENCE : Any Interested Learners

COURSE OUTLINE :

This course is an introduction to a wide range of writings produced in different nations, languages and cultural contexts. While this course cannot claim to cover all literary traditions from all time periods, it does try to introduce the learners to representative texts that are available in English language. The objective of the course is to focus on learning how great writings can intervene and engage with global cultures while remaining rooted and situated in their specific, local contexts. These discussions need to be seen as 'entry points' that would enable to learners to explore world literatures.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Dr. Merin Simi Raj is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Madras. She specializes in Postcolonial Writing, Modernity Studies and Historiography Studies. She teaches History of English Language and Literature, Indian fiction in English, Literary Criticism, World Literature and Feminist Writings.

COURSE PLAN :

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Classics: Beowulf, Don Quixote, Arabian Nights

Week 3: Indian literature: Kalidasa, Tagore, Rushdie, Kamala Das

Week 4: Literature in translation: Akutagawa's In a Grove, Borges' Garden of Forking Paths, Manto's Toba Tek Singh

Week 5: Short stories and excerpts from novels: Marquez, Borges, Calvino, Flaubert, Tolstoy

Week 6: Poetry: Dover Beach, Wasteland, Song of Lawino

Week 7: Drama: Ibsen's Doll's House, Shakespeare's Othello

Week 8: African-American literature, Toni Morrison, Achebe's Things Fall Apart, Everyday Use by Alice Walker

Week 9: English and American literature: Arnold's Dover Beach, Eliot's Wasteland, Faulkner's A Rose for Emily

Week 10: Women writers: Gilman's Yellow Wallpaper, Aphra Behn's Oroonoko

Week 11: Prose (non-fiction) and critical theory: Aristotle's Poetics, Barthes' Death of the author, Woolf's A Room of One's Own, Kolodny's Dancing through the minefield

Week 12: Contemporary writers and new genres