



MODERN INDIAN WRITING IN TRANSLATION

PROF. A. DIVYA

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

IIT Madras

INTENDED AUDIENCE : Engineering students

INDUSTRIES APPLICABLE TO : English Department

COURSE OUTLINE :

It is often argued that the best Indian literature is to be found in the various Indian languages. This course offers a choice selection of significant modern Indian literary works, produced in regional languages, from writers ranging from Tagore to Salma in English translation. These landmark works offer literary snapshots of modern Indian histories, folklore, societal structures such as class and gender, and the aspirations and struggles of men and women who have lived and live through diverse Indian spaces across the length and breadth of the country. The course offers in miniature a “salad bowl” (Ashis Nandy) of Indian literary works in translation that illustrate the complexities of Indian identities, and encourages students to probe concepts such as modernism, regionalism, the contemporary, and representations of history, class, and gender in modern Indian writing in translation.

Objectives of the Course:

- To introduce the student to the polyphony of modern Indian writing in translation.
- To understand the multifaceted nature of cultural identities in the various Indian literatures through indigenous literary traditions.
- To compare literary texts produced across Indian regional landscapes to seek similarities and differences in thematic and cultural perspectives.
- To explore images in literary productions that express the writers sense of their society.
- Wherever possible a comparative study of the original and the translated texts to see the process of negotiation that constructs, and is constructed in, the English language translation.
- To encourage the students to explore texts outside of the suggested reading lists to realize the immense treasure trove of translated Indian literary works.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Divya A is an Assistant Professor in English Literature in the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India. Divya's research interests primarily revolve around explorations in the fields of gender, domesticity, spatiality, urbanism, and the interplay between the visual and the literary arts. After obtaining her Master of Studies degree in Early Modern English Literature from the University of Oxford, Divya completed her PhD in Nineteenth-Century English Fiction at Nanyang Technological University. She has published on Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell, Wilkie Collins, and the Pre-Raphaelites. Her current research project traces and maps the British colonial visual culture of Nineteenth-Century India.

COURSE PLAN :

Week 1: Introduction, Rabindranath Tagore, “The Hunger of Stones” [Bengali]

Week 2: Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, “The Blue Light” [Malayalam]

Week 3: Anna Bhau Sathe, “Gold from the Grave” [Marathi]

Week 4: Manto, “Toba Tek Singh” [Urdu]

Week 5: Gulzar, “Crossing the Ravi” [Hindi]

Week 6: Amrita Pritam, “Stench of Kerosene” [Punjabi]

Week 7: Perumal Murugan, “The Man Who Could Not Sleep” [Tamil]

Week 8: Girish Karnad, Nagamandala [Kannada]

Week 9: Girish Karnad, Nagamandala (continued)

Week 10: Sundara Ramaswamy, Tamarind History [Tamil]

Week 11: Sundara Ramaswamy, Tamarind History (continued)

Week 12: Indian Poetry in Translation