

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
B.A. DEGREE COURSE IN ENGLISH
SYLLABUS WITH EFFECT FROM 2020-2021

Title of the Course	ALLIED BEN-DSA04- BACKGROUND TO EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN LITERATURE-IV		
Category of the Course	Year & Semester Second Year & Fourth Semester	Credits 5	Subject Code BEN-DSA04
Hours:	90		
Objectives:	This paper aims at introducing basic concepts about seminal concepts from European and American histories to enable students understand the contexts and background of European and American literatures		
Course Introduction (to be considered for internal assessment only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the significance of Rome and Greek in World History? • What is the importance of European and American social and political history? • How should this course be integrated in the study of European and American literature? 		
Course Components	Unit 1:Literature And Greco-Roman Schools Of Thought 1.1 Ancient Greece – pages 22-35 1.2 Ancient Greece – pages 35-43 1.3 Making of the Roman World – pages 44-55 1.4 Making of the Roman World – pages 55-64 1.5 Hylozoism, Great chain of Being (Plato, Aristotle), Imitation [mimesis], Idealism (Kant), Platonism, Epicureanism, Skepticism, Stoicism, Cynicism, Sophism, Narcissism, Hedonism. 1.1 & 1.4 [Text – <i>The Penguin History of Europe</i> by J.M.Roberts, 1996.] 1.5 [Text - <i>A Glossary of Literary Terms</i> by M.H. Abrams & Geoffrey Galt Harpham. Eleventh Edition. Cengage,2019 (Indian Reprint)]		
	Unit 2 : The Shaping Of Europe 2.1 Western Christendom, Papacy, Charlemagne, Carolingian heritage, Mediterranean Europe, Vikings, Anglo-Saxon England – pages 120- 138 2.2 The Crusades – pages 167-171, Europe’s emerging shape – pages 178-179 2.3 The Ottomans, the end of Byzantium, Ottoman Europe – pages 209- 213, Renaissance and Printing – pages 218-221, Modernity and modern history – pages 233-238 2.4 European Reformation and Counter- Reformation - pages 260-265 2.5 Enlightenment – pages 267-271 [Text – <i>The Penguin History of Europe</i> by J.M.Roberts, 1996.]		

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BEN-DSA04	<p>Unit 3: The Discovery Of America</p> <p>3.1 The Discovery of America – European Enterprise – a new World – pages 224 - 230</p> <p>3.2 The Americas – pages 319-321</p> <p>3.3 North American Colonies –pages 324 -326</p> <p>3.4 American Revolution – First Overseas European Nation pages 344-347</p> <p>3.5 United States and European opinion – pages 347- 349</p> <p>[Text – <i>The Penguin History of Europe</i> by J.M.Roberts, 1996.]</p>
	<p>Unit 4: The History And Culture Of America</p> <p>4.1 The History and culture of the United States of America –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 1- European settlers in a new continent; Colonial America – Thirteen colonies; [pp.1-28] ▪ Plantation Slaves in the South[1641-1865], the Westward Movement, the Gold Rush[1807-1910], the Declaration and American War of Independence[1775-83]; the framing of the Constitution, Lincoln and the Civil war; Reconstruction; [pp.1-15] <p>[Text – <i>A Short History of American Literature</i> by Krishna Sen and Ashok Sengupta. Orient Blackswan, 2017]</p> <p>4.2 America and World War I [1914-18], The League of Nations;</p> <p>4.3 Prohibition up to The breakdown of Trusts (Sherman / Clayton Anti –Trust Acts-1890/1914) and the Mafia [1920-], Great Depression[1929]</p> <p>America’s role in World War II[1939- 45],</p> <p>4.4 Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement[late1940s-1968]</p> <p>4.5 American Foreign Policy-The Cold War [1945-89] and McCarthyism [late 1940s-1950s], J.F. Kennedy’s Foreign and Black rights policy, War with Vietnam [1954-73], Cuba and the Bay of Pigs Invasion [1961]</p> <p>[[Text – <i>A Short History of American Literature</i> by Krishna Sen and Ashok Sengupta. Orient Blackswan, 2017]</p>

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	<p>UNIT 5: Background to American Literature</p> <p>5.1 Chapter 1 -The narrative of American literature; The New world; Puritan myth; American exceptionalism; Myth of the frontier; American Dream; American Pastoralism; Multiculturalism– pages 1-28</p> <p>5.2 From the Early narratives to the Colonial Era – Chapter 2 – Puritan literature; histories and journals; Conversion narratives; Sermons; Captivity narratives; poetry;</p> <p>5.3 Literature of the 18th century; Literature and the Revolution; Emergence of the American novel; Fenimore Cooper– pages 29-58,</p> <p>5.4 Harlem Renaissance and Hippie culture</p> <p>5.5 Periods of American literature – pages 273-278</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>[5.1 to 5.4 -Text – <i>A Short History of American Literature</i> by Krishna Sen and Ashok Sengupta. Orient Blackswan, 2017]</p> <p>[5.5 -Text - <i>A Glossary of Literary Terms</i> by M.H. Abrams & Geoffrey Galt Harpham. Eleventh Edition. Cengage,2019 (Indian Reprint)]</p>
<p>Learning Outcomes:</p>	<p>At the end of this course students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and define basic terms and concepts which are needed for advanced courses in European and American literature • Write brief essays on the historical background of European and American literatures

Prescribed Texts

- i. Krishna Sen and Ashok Sengupta. (2017). *A Short History of American Literature*. Orient Blackswan.
- ii. J.M.Roberts. (1996). *The Penguin History of Europe*.
- iii. Abrams M.H. & Geoffrey Galt Harpham.(2015) *A Glossary of Literary Terms* Eleventh Edition. Cengage,2019 (Indian Reprint)]

BOOKS AND WEB RESOURCES FOR FURTHER REFERENCE

- Transcendentalism in America – pages 409-411; symbolist movement – pages 394-395; surrealism – pages 390-391; stream of consciousness – pages 378-379; [Text- *A Glossary of Literary Terms* by M.H.Abrams.]
- Mercer, B. (2019). *Student Revolt in 1968. In Student Revolt in 1968: France, Italy and West Germany*. Cambridge University Press.
- Blackman, R. (2019). *1789: The French Revolution Begins*. Cambridge University Press.
- De Graaf, J. (2019). *Socialism across the Iron Curtain: Socialist Parties in East and West and the Reconstruction of Europe after 1945*. Cambridge University Press.
- Enstad, J. (2018). *Soviet Russians under Nazi Occupation. In Soviet Russians under Nazi Occupation: Fragile Loyalties in World War II*. Cambridge University Press.
- Pergher, R. (2017). *Mussolini's Nation-Empire. In Mussolini's Nation-Empire: Sovereignty and Settlement in Italy's Borderlands, 1922–1943*. Cambridge University Press.

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- Von Bulow, M. (2016). *West Germany, Cold War Europe and the Algerian War*. Cambridge University Press.
- Cichopek-Gajraj, A. (2014). *Beyond Violence: Jewish Survivors in Poland and Slovakia, 1944–48*. Cambridge University Press.
- Walter Cohen. (2017). *A History of European Literature: The West and the World from Antiquity to the Present*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Kagan, Donald, Steven E. Ozment, and Frank M. Turner. (2007). *The Western Heritage: Since 1300*. Macmillan Publishing, New York.
- Viault, Birdsall S. (1990). *Modern European History*. McGraw-Hill.
- Lars Boje Mortensen. (2018). *European Literature and Book History in the Middle Ages, c. 600-c. 1450*. Oxford.
- Malcolm Bradbury and James McFarlane. (1978). *Modernism: A Guide to European Literature 1890-1930*. Penguin.

RECOMMENDED MOOC

- NPTEL Video Course: Lecture 1 - Introduction to the course on American Literature and Culture

<https://www.digimat.in/nptel/courses/video/109106099/L01.html>

TEDX TALKS

- Alex Gendler: History vs. Napoleon Bonaparte
https://www.ted.com/talks/alex_gendler_history_vs_napoleon_bonaparte
- TEDx Harlem: Independently organized Ted Event
<https://www.ted.com/tedx/events/3589>
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL28114BB9CAC6D70E>
