

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

Title Of The Course	Core Course BEN-DSC10:WORLD CLASSICS IN TRANSLATION		
Category of the Course	Year & Semester Third Year & Fifth Semester	Credits 4	Subject Code
Hours:	75		
Objectives:	This paper aims at introducing students to a few seminal classics of the world to expose them to classical literary styles and perspectives and gain an understanding of early human experiences from different parts of the world.		
Course Introduction (to be considered for internal assessment only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is World Literature? • The significance of translation in reading classics • Historical and Cultural past of Greek and Rome. • The influence of World Literature • A Review of world renowned classical writers 		
Course Components	<p>Unit 1: Prose 1.1 Introduction to Greek Classical Literature 1.2 'On Ancient Tamil Poetics' -- A.K.Ramanujan</p> <p>Unit-2: Poetry 2.1 "Megha Duta or the Cloud Messenger" - Kalidasa (Argument and Lines 01-48) 2.2 "The Gate of Hell" : Canto III (<i>Inferno</i>) - Dante Alighieri - 2.3 "The Burning of the Books" - Bertolt Brecht 2.4 "Lot's Wife" - Anna Akhmatova 2.5 "Returning to Live in the Country" - Tao Yuanming</p> <p>Unit-3: Drama 3.1 <i>Oedipus Rex</i> - Sophocles</p> <p>Unit-4: Short Story 4.1 "The Blizzard" - Alexander Pushkin 4.2 "The Convert" - Guy de Maupassant 4.3 "The Empty Drum" - Leo Tolstoy 4.4 "A Christmas Tree and a Wedding" - Fyodor Dostoyevsky</p> <p>Unit-5: Fiction 5.1 <i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> - Alexander Dumas</p>		
Learning Outcomes:	At the end of this course students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Possess an understanding of a few world classics ➤ Acquire historical and cultural knowledge of the past ➤ Develop critical thinking by being exposed to original ideas and philosophies ➤ Write about early literature, writers and their literary styles 		

Prescribed Texts and Web Sources

- 1.1 *The Odyssey* by Homer -Penguin Classics
- 1.2 Indian Literary Criticism, G.N. Devy. Orient Black Swan (pg 346-374)
- Unit 2: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems>
- 2.1 The Mégha Dúta, Or, Cloud Messenger: A Poem, in the Sanscrit Language. Calcutta: Trans.by Horace Hayman Wilson-1813. Google Books:
<https://archive.org/details/mghadtaorcloudm00wilsgoog/page/n136/mode/2up>
- 2.2 to 2.4 Texts and their Worlds- II - K.Narayana Chandran, Foundation Books, 2005
- Unit 3: The Theban Plays by Sophocles - Penguin Classics
- 4.1 <https://www.thefreshreads.com/the-blizzard/>

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- 4.2 Masterpieces of World Fiction: Selected Stories by Guy De Maupassant
- 4.3 Selected Stories by Leo Tolstoy (Masterpieces of World Fiction)
- 4.4 <https://www.berfrois.com/2013/12/two-christmas-short-stories-fyodor-dostoyevsky/>
- 4.5 <https://www.poetrynook.com/poem/returning-live-country>

FURTHER READING (to be considered for internal assessment tasks only)

- *Odyssey - Book I* - Homer
- The Inferno by Dante Alighieri, translated by Robert Hollander
- Don Quixote by Miguel Cervantes, translated by Edith Grossman
- Les Miserables by Victor Hugo, translated by Julie Rose
- Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy, translated by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky
- A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen, translated by Michael Meyer
- Stung with Love: Poems and Fragments of Sappho by Sappho, translated by Aaron Pochigian
- Antigone by Sophocles, translated by E.H. Plumtre
- Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert, translated by Margaret Mauldon
- Herman Hesse: Siddhartha
- Dostoevsky: Notes from Underground
- Maxim Gorky - "One Autumn Night"

BOOKS & WEB SOURCES FOR FURTHER REFERENCE

- *World Literature Reader: A Reader* - edited by Theo D'haen, César Domínguez, Mads Rosendahl Thomsen
- *Reading World Literature: Theory, History, Practice* - edited by Sarah Lawall
- *A History of Western Literature* –J.M.Cohen
- *1789: The French Revolution Begins.*- Blackman, R. Cambridge University Press.
- *A History of European Literature: The West and the World from Antiquity to the Present.* - Walter Cohen Edinburgh University Press
- *Modernism: A Guide to European Literature 1890-1930.*Malcolm Bradbury and James McFarlane. Penguin.
- <https://www.britannica.com/art/Greek-literature/Classical-period-5th-and-4th-centuries-bc>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/inferno-canto-iii-divine-comedy-dante-alighieri-4098791>
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sophocles>
- <https://www.britannica.com/art/French-literature/The-reaction-against-reason>
- <https://www.britannica.com/art/Russian-literature>

RECOMMENDED MOOC

- NPTEL: Introduction to World Literature <https://nptel.ac.in/courses/109/106/109106147/>
- edX- Harvard University: Modern Masterpieces of world Literature <https://www.edx.org/course/modern-masterpieces-of-world-literature>

TED TALKS

- Why Read the Classics? Valdir Chagas | TEDxYouth@ACS <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ss36LZ5xoPA>
- What if everyone had a classical education? | Rebekah Hagstrom | TEDxMahtomedi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0m5yDZCy2pE>