**Sanskrit Literature – A Critical History**

**Programme(s) in which it is offered: MA (Sanskrit)**

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| --- | --- |
| **Course Category**: Core  | **Schedule of Offering**: Odd |
| **Course Credit Structure:** 4 | **Course Code:SKT7111** |
| **Total Number of Hours: 60** | **Contact Hours Per Week:4** |
| **Lecture:** 45 Hours | **Tutorial:** 15 Hours |
| **Practical:** 0 Hours | **Medium of Instruction: Sanskrit & English** |
| **Date of Revision:** | **Skill Focus:** Employability |
| **Short Name of the Course: SLACH** | **Course Stream *(Only for Minor Courses)*:** |
| **Grading Method:** Pass/Fail, Regular | **Repeatable:** Credit |
| **Course Level:** Intermediate | **Course Instructor: Dr. L. Sampath Kumar** |

**Course Description**

This a core course for MA Sanskrit students. A taste for learning the history of the various stages of Sanskrit literature starting from the *Itihāsa*-s to the 16th century CE is desirable.

**Course Introduction**

This course aims to give students exposure to the range of texts and genres available in Sanskrit *kāvya*. Deviating from a strictly linear history of the various stages of Sanskrit literature, the course will use a genre-based scheme of studying Sanskrit literature, to understand the development of each narrative mode. The course will discuss selections of Sanskrit literature from the *itihāsa*-s to the sixteenth century CE.

One of the aims of the course is to underscore the importance of literature and literary studies being the bedrock of Sanskrit studies. Starting with the theories of the origins of *kāvya* literature, the course will go through the epics, early narrative literature, the early nāṭaka and *mahākāvya* literature, and sub-genres such as *sandeśa-kāvya*, *gadya-kāvya*, *campū,* and satirical and allegorical texts. There will be extensive use of selections from relevant texts to create familiarity and appreciation of the linguistic and literary style as well as knowledge of the rhetorical particularities of each genre, text and poet.

Further, the place of literature (kāvya) and literary criticism (kāvyaśāstra) in the scheme of disciplines, and its relation with other fields will be mapped out in the course of the class.

**Course Objective**

-To get the student acquainted with the general landscape of Sanskrit literature

-To create a detailed knowledge of the various genres and their stylistic elements

-To develop the tools for appreciation and analysis of classical literary material

-To understand the development and evolution of various stages of *kāvya* literature

**Course Outcome**

The student will

- Display an in-depth knowledge in the selected genres of classical Sanskrit Literature

- Identify the characteristics of literary texts

- Effectively describe the ideas related to the literary creations

- Analyse the structure of the literary works using correct terminology

**PO-CO Mapping**

**PO-CO Mapping Matrix**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CO/PO Mapping | PO1 | PO2 | PO3 | PO4 | PO5 | PO6 |
| CO1 | ✓ |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| CO2 |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |
| CO3 |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| CO4 |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |
| CO5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Prerequisites and other constraints**

- A general familiarity with Sanskrit language and literature is desirable

- A willingness to read a range of diverse texts

- An appreciative attitude towards literature and literary criticism will help

- An interest in developing the skills to identify patterns in discursive and literary styles

- General interest in literature of any language

**Pedagogy**

The class will be driven by lectures on the specifics of each genre, augmented by guided reading from selected texts. Group discussions and assignments will be used to raise topics left out in the lectures. One group assignment for the section on performative genres will be to stage a theatrical production.

**Suggested Reading:**

A course packet will be put together, consisting of selections from the relevant texts. The readings for each module have been indicated. The below book is recommended as a main text for the course.

*Saṁskṛta-sāhityasyetihāsaḥ* - Rāmacandra Miśra – Chaukhambha Publishers. 2010

De, S. K. "History of Kavya Literature." *A History of Sanskrit Literature: Classical Period. Ed. SN Dasgupta. Calcutta: University of Calcutta* (1947).

**Evaluation Pattern**

**Evaluation Matrix**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Continuous InternalAssessment (CIA) Components\* | Component Type | Weightage Percentage | TotalMarks | Tentative Dates | Course Outcome Mapping |
| Class Participation | 30% | 15 | At the end of each module  | 1,2,3,4 |
| Assignments | 30% | 15 | 1. Before Mid Term2. After Mid Term | 3,4 |
| Mid-Sem | 40% | 20 | As per university schedule | 1,2,3,4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| CIA Marks | 100% | 50 |  |  |
| ESE  | 50% | 50 | As per university schedule | 1,2,3,4 |

 **Module Sessions**

**Module 1 – From itihāsa to kāvya (6 hours)**

* 1. An introduction to the universe of *kāvya* literature 01
	2. The origin and salient features of epic genres 01
	3. Readings from Rāmāyaṇa, Mahābhārata 01
	4. Narrative literature – Hitopadeśa, Bṛhatkathā 01
	5. Aśvaghoṣa and the Rāmāyaṇa 01
	6. Early epigraphs and Sanskrit literature 01

**Readings –**

Chapters X, XIII, XV in Warder, A.K. *Indian Kavya Literature: Volume II.* 1974.

(Itihāsa, Valmiki, Aśvaghoṣa)

Brockington, John L. *The Sanskrit Epics*. Vol. 12. Brill, 1998.

Hiltebeitel, Alf. "Aśvaghoṣa’sBuddhacarita: The first known close and critical reading of the Brahmanical Sanskrit epics." *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 34, no. 3 (2006): 229-286.

Diskalkar, D. B. *Selections from Sanskrit inscriptions 2nd cent. to 8th cent. AD*. 1977.

**Module 2 – Śravyakāvya I – the Mahākāvya and padya-kāvya (10)**

2.1. Features of a Mahākāvya, the pañca-mahākāvya-s 01

2.2. Kālidāsa, Bharavi, Māgha and Śrīharṣa 04

2.3. Kumāradāsa’s Jānakī-haraṇam and Abhinanda’s Rāmacarita 02

2.4. Later mahākāvyas - Veṅkaṭanātha, Sukumāra 02

2.5. Khaṇḍa-kāvya-s 01

**Readings –**

Kāvyādarśa of Daṇḍi, 1st chapter

Trynkowska, A. (2000). Mallinātha and Classical Indian Theoreticians of Literature on Descriptions in the Mahākāvya. *Cracow Indological Studies*, *2*.

 Chapter 6 in ‘Epic and Lyrical Poetry’ Warder, A.K. ‘*Indian Kāvya Literature’* Vol 1

संस्कृतसाहित्येतिहासः - Relevant chapter

**Module 3 - Śravyakāvya II - The gadya-kāvya and campū (8)**

* 1. Features of *gadya-kāvya* and *campū* 02
	2. Selections from Bāṇa & Subandhu 02
	3. Daṇḍi’s *Daśakumāra-carita* 01
	4. *Nalacampū* of Trivikrama and Soḍḍhala’s Udayasundarīkathā03

**Readings-**

De, Sushil Kumar. "The Akhyayika and the Katha in Classical Sanskrit." *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 3, no. 03 (1924): 507-517.

De, Sushil. Kumar.*The Champu*. [The Journal of the Ganganatha Jha Research Institute](http://www.southasiaarchive.com/Content/sarf.120072?f0=All&q0=campu&o0=and&pf=1700&pt=1953&sf=r&sd=d&sid=515424612&us=True&rc=true) (1943).

Chapter 7 ‘*Biography and Novel, including Campū and the short story’* in Warder, A.K. ‘*Indian Kāvya Literature’* Vol 1

संस्कृतसाहित्येतिहासः - Relevant chapter

**Module 4 – Dṛśyakāvya - Nāṭaka and other theatrical genres (11)**

* 1. The elements of nāṭaka-s and such performed genres 01
	2. Kālidāsa 02
	3. Bhāsa 02
	4. Śūdraka, Bhavabhūti 02
	5. Bhaṭṭa-nārāyaṇa, Viśākhadatta 02
	6. The Caturbhāṇī 02

**Readings -**

Keith, Arthur B. *The Sanskrit drama in its origin, development, theory & practice*. MLBD

Chapter 5 ‘The Drama’ in Warder, A.K. ‘*Indian Kāvya Literature’* Vol 1

Janaki. S.S, *Caturbhāṇī - Literary Study*, Indologica Taurinensia, Vol 2 (1974). pp 81-106.

संस्कृतसाहित्येतिहासः – Chapter on *nāṭaka*

**Module 5- Stotra-kāvya-s, lyric kāvya-s and others (10)**

5.1. Jayadeva’s *Gītagovinda* and its successors02

5.2. Veṅkaṭanātha’s*Pāduka-sahasram* 01

5.3. Līlāśuka’s *Kṛṣṇakarṇāmṛta* 01

5.4. Nīlakaṇṭha Dīkṣita’s *Śivalīlāṛṇāva* 02

5.5. Sanskrit Poetesses [Madhuravāṇi, Gaṅgādevi, Rāmabhadrāmba] 02

5.6. *Citra-kāvya-s and śāstra-kāvya-s* 02

**Readings –**

Miller, Barbara Stoler. "Gita-Govinda of Jayadeva" (MLBD: 1984/ OUP: 1977). – Introduction

Narang, S. P. (1969). *Bhaṭṭi-Kāvya: a study*. MLBD. Introduction.

Bronner, Yigal. *Extreme poetry: The South Asian movement of simultaneous narration*. Delhi: Permanent Black. 2010. [Introduction, sections on yamaka-kāvya-s]

संस्कृतसाहित्येतिहासः – Sections on *stotra-kāvya-s* and poetesses

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