
DSC 3: Indian Classical Literature

Credit: 4 (3 Theory+1 Tutorial/Internal Assessment)

Course objective:

- To offer students a foundational understanding of Indian classical literary tradition.
- The paper introduces students to a rich and diverse literature from two classical languages of India, Sanskrit and Tamil.

Course outcome:

- Students will be able to gain knowledge of the aesthetic and cultural values that serve as the groundwork for later developments in Indian philosophical and social change.

Course Content:

UNIT I:

1. Vyasa. Selections from *The Mahabharata*, from *The Mahabharata of Krishna-Dwaipayana Vyasa*, trans. K. M. Ganguli (Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, 2012).

- a) ‘The Dicing’ and ‘Sequel to Dicing’, Book 2, Sabha Parva Section XLVI-LXXII
- b) ‘The Temptation of Karna’, Book 5, Udyog Parva, Section CXL-CXLVI.
- c) ‘Krishna’s Peace Proposal’, Book 5, Udyog Parva, Section LXXXIX-CXXXI

UNIT II:

2. Kalidasa. *Abhijnanasakuntalam*, trans. Chandra Rajan, in *Kalidasa: The Loom of Time*. Penguin Classics, 1989, reprint 2000.

UNIT III:

3. Ilango Atikal. ‘The Book of Vanci’, *Cilappatikaram*. trans. R. Parthasarathy (Columbia University Press, 1993; Penguin Books India, 2004).

SUGGESTED READINGS:

1. Bharata Muni. Selections from *Natyasastra*. (i) Chapter 6, ‘The Sentiments’; (ii) Chapter 20, ‘Ten Kinds of Play’; (iii) Chapter 35, ‘Characteristics of the Jester’, trans. Manomohan Ghosh, Calcutta: Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1951. pp105-17; 355-74; 548-50
2. Osho. Selections from *Krishna: The Man and His Philosophy*. (i) Krishna is Complete and Whole (ii) Draupadi: A Rare Woman (iii) Action, Inaction and Non-Action (iv) Rituals, Fire and Knowledge, Delhi: Jaico Publishing House, 1991.