

Nepal Sanskrit University

Beljhundi, Dang

Level : Shastri

Year : III

Course: Optional English, Paper Sixth

Full Marks : 100

Course Title: Sanskrit Literature in English- 405 (415)

Pass Marks : 40

Description

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the history of Sanskrit literature along with its diverse aspects like Sanskrit language, grammar, aesthetics and philosophy substantiated with selected Sanskrit literary texts. It inculcates critical and creative insights about history of Sanskrit Literature and literary imaginings in the students.

Objectives:

- It will acquaint students with the history of Sanskrit literature in its context
- It will familiarize students with Sanskrit authors and their texts
- Along with the Sanskrit literature it will also give comparative idea of western literature
- Students will be familiar with western scholarly perspective about Sa selected literary texts Sanskrit literature

**Course contents in detail**

**Unit I: Introduction to Sanskrit Literature( Preface)**

**30hrs.**

Kumāralāta; and the early Kāvya, Sanskrit, and Prākrit; Kālidāsa; Greek and Indian Fables; Dramas of Bhāsa; Dandin and the Avantisundarikatha; Authenticity of the Arthashastra; Philosophical Systems; Indian Origin of the Numerals; Sanskrit as a vernacular

**The Language**

Sanskrit, Prākrit, and Apabhraṅga; Origin of Sanskrit; Character and Extent of the Use of Sanskrit ;

Characteristics and Development of Sanskrit in Literature; Prākrits; Apabhraṅga

**Unit II: Belles –Letres and Poetics: Origin and Development of Kāvya Literature**

**30hrs.**

Sources of the Kāvya ; Testimony of the Rāmāyaṇa; Evidence of Patañjali and Piṅgala; Kāvya in Inscriptions

### **Açvaghōṣa and Early Buddhist Kāvya**

Açvaghōṣa's Works, Style and Language; Avadānas; AryaÇūra and later Poetry

### **Kalidasa and the Guptas**

Guptas and the Brahmin Revival; Harisena and Vatsabhatti; Kalidasa's Life; R̥tusarñhāra; Meghadūta  
Kumārasambhava; Raghuvāṇṇa; Kālidāsa's Thought, Style and Metre;

### **Bharavi, Bhatti, Kumaradasa, and Magha**

Bhāravi, Bhaṭṭi, Kumāradāsa, Māgha

### **The Lesser Epic Poets**

### **Unit III: Historical Kāvya**

**25hrs.**

Indian Historical Writing; Beginnings of History; Bilhana; Kalhana's Life and Times; Rājatarāṅgiṇī and its Sources; Kalhana as a Historian; Kalhana's Style, Minor Historical Kāvya

### **Bhartrhari, Amaru, Bilhana, and Jayadeva**

Bhartrhari, Amaru, Bilhana, Jayadeva .

### **Lyric Poetry and the Anthologies**

Secular Poetry, Religious Poetry, The Anthologies, Prakrit Lyrics .

### **Gnomic and Didactic Poetry**

Gnomic Poetry and Didactic Poetry

### **The Didactic Fable**

Origin of the Fable; Reconstruction, Subject-matter, Style and Language and Derivative Forms of the Pañcatantra; The Hitopadeça

### **The Bṛhatkathā and its Descendants**

Guṇāḍhya and the Bṛhatkathā; Bṛhatkathāçlokasaṁgraha of Budhasvāmin; Kashmirian Bṛhatkathā;  
Kṣemendra's Bṛhatkathāmañjarī; Somadeva's Kathāsaritsāgara

### **The Romantic and the Didactic Tale**

The Romantic and Didactic Tale

**Unit: IV The Great Romances**

**25hrs.**

Age and Works of Daṇḍin; Daçakumāracarita Content and Style; Subandhu The Vasavadatta; Bana's Life and Works; Harsacarita; Kadambari Bāṇa's Style

**The later Romances and the Campūs**

Romances and Campūs

**The Aims and Achievement of Sanskrit Poetry**

Aims, Training and Achievement of the Poet; West and Indian Literature; Fables and Marchen of Greece and India; Translations of the Paficatantra; Cukasaptati; Romance in Greece and India Hexameter and Indian Metre

**Theories of Poetry**

Beginnings of Theory on Poetry; Early Schools of Poetics; Doctrine of Dhvani; Critics and Supporters of the Doctrine of Dhvani

**SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE**

Origin and Characteristics of the Scientific Literature; Origin of the Cāstras; Characteristics of the Scientific Literature

**Lexicography and Metrics**

The Origin and Characteristics of Sanskrit Lexicography; Extant Lexica; Treatises on Metre; Metres of Classical Poetry

**Grammar**

Beginnings of Grammatical Study; Pāṇini and his Followers; Later Schools, Grammars of Prākṛit

**Unit V :Philosophy and Religion**

**40hrs.**

Beginnings of Indian Philosop; Pūrvamīmāṃsā; Vedānta: (a) The Doctrine of Non-duality and Illusion (b) Rāmānuja (c) Other Commentators; Theology and Mysticism; Logic and Atomism; Sāṃkhya and Yoga Schools; Buddhism; Jainism; Carvakas or Lokayatas; Historians of Philosophy; Greece and Indian Philosophy .

**Sanskrit texts with English translation**

*Bhagavadgita 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter 15*

*Isāvāsyopanisad*

Jimata.  
ala

Meghadutam

Svapnavāsavadatta

Nārada and Sanatkumār discourse from Chāndogya Upanisad

**Prescribed Texts :**

Keith, Arthur Berriedale. *A History of Sanskrit Literature*. Oxford University Press, 1966 .

*Bhagavadgita* . Translated by S. Radhakrishnan. OUP.

Kalidasa. *Meghaduta*. Translated by Colin John Holcombe, *The Cloud Messenger*. Santiago, Chile : Ocaso Press, 2008.

Bhasa. *Svapnavāsavadattam*. Translated by A C Woolner & Lakshman Sarup, *The Vision of Svapnavasavadatta*, Cambridge, Ontario, 1999.

*Ishāvāsyopanisad*. Translated by Swami Lokeshwarananda . Madras : Sri Ramakrishna Math

*Chāndogya Upanisad* . Translated by Swami Swāhananda . Madras : Sri Ramakrishna Math

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Nepal Sanskrit University

Optional English Courses

Shastri III Year

Course Title : Drama & Novel

Full Marks 100

Code: Opt. English ~~404~~ (414)

Pass marks: 40

Course Description: The purpose of the course is to develop a range of important critical thinking skills, insights and creativity, enhance communication skills, historical and social contexts, and understanding human condition through dramas and novels. Students will explore dramas and novels from the classical to contemporary times and engage themselves with the relevant trends, themes and ideas played out and narrated through the texts.

Unit I: Classical to Renaissance 30hrs.

- Aeschylus. *Prometheus Bound*
- Seneca. *Thyestes*
- Shakespeare. *Twelfth Night*

Unit II: Restoration to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century 20hrs.

- Moliere. *The Schools for Wives*
- William Congreve. *The Mourning Bride*

Unit III: Modern Drama 30hrs.

- Henrik Ibsen. *A Doll's House*
- Susan Glaspell. *Trifles*
- Samuel Beckett. *Waiting For Godot*

Unit IV : Novels: Victorian to Modern 40hrs.

- Thomas Hardy. *Tess of the d'Urberville*
- George Orwell. *Animal Farm*
- Octavia E. Butler. *Parable of the Sower*
- Arundhati Roy. *God of Small Things*

Unit V : Contemporary Novels 30hrs.

- Elif Shafak. *The Forty Rules of Love*
- Sarah Green. *Gift in Green*
- Gene Kim, Kevin Behr and George Spafford. *A Phoenix Project*

**Evaluation Scheme**

Drama 60%; Novel 40%

**Note : Students are required to consult all the texts prescribed above.**

Ashwini  
29-12-20

