

# Comparative Literature

**NOTE:** The official language of instruction for the course will be English, and most of the study materials will be in English. Therefore, students must have adequate reading skill in English. The teachers, however, will make every attempt to conduct classes bilingually. Students are always encouraged to read a text in its original language and consult as many translations as possible. They will also have the option to write answers either in English or Bangla or Hindi.

## Generic Elective 1: Literature and the Other Arts

**Course Objective:** This paper aims to study the aesthetic and ideological interactions between literature and other forms of art across culture, including the techniques and technologies.

**Course Outcome:** At the end of the course, students should be able to identify various art forms and their interfaces in a creative way.

The paper will include literary and non-literary texts on the following topics (**Any two** will be offered):

- dance and literature
- theatre and literature
- music and literature
- painting/ sculpture/ architecture and literature
- literature and cinema
- literature and the electronic media
- composite forms

**Total number of primary texts (essays/ prose pieces/ poems/ films) should not exceed 6.**

### Suggested Readings:

‘Literature and the Other Arts’: Wellek and Warren’  
‘What is Art’: Rabindranath Thakur  
Bageswari lecture series (selection): Abaninandranath Thakur  
‘Kake bole Natyakala’: Sambhu Mitra  
*On Arts and Aesthetics*: Rabindranath Thakur  
*The Letters of Van Gogh*: Vincent Van Gogh (Selections)  
*On Third Theatre*: Badal Sirkar

## Generic Elective 2: Translation Studies

**Course Objective:** The course aims to illustrate terms and concepts related to the idea of Translations and also explore the politics behind the process of translation.

**Course Outcome:** At the end of the course students should be able to identify and elaborate concepts like Translation, Source Text, Target Text, different types of translation, Anubad, Rupantor and such other, and also interpret the politics within a translated text.

Translation, Source Text, Target Text, different types of translation, Anubad, Rupantor and other translation related terms in various Bhasha literatures will be discussed.

**Essays to be chosen from the following pool:**

Goethe, Dryden, Friedrich Schleiermacher, Walter Benjamin, Roman Jakobson, Octavio Paz, Sujit Mukherjee, Minakshi Mukherjee, Tejaswini Niranjana, GJV Prasad, Chelappan, A.K Singh, Susan Bassnett, Harish Trivedi, Lawrence Venuti, Umashankar Joshi, K. Ayyappa Panikar, Anisur Rahman, Lakshmi Holmstrom, Preface/Introduction to various translated works.

**Total number of primary texts (essays/ prose pieces/ poems/ films) not to exceed 6.**

**Suggested Readings:**

‘On Translation’: John Dryden  
‘The Task of the Translator’: Walter Benjamin  
‘On Linguistic Aspects of Translation’: Roman Jakobson  
*Translation and Culture: Indian Perspectives:* GJV Prasad  
*Translation as Discovery:* Sujit Mukherjee

### **Generic Elective 3: Modern Indian Literature (1910-2000)**

**Course Objective:** The aim of the course is to explore the relationships and interactions between various Indian literatures (e.g., Bangla, Odia, Hindi, Assamese, Tamil etc.) and try to show how one literary tradition cannot be understood without reference to developments in other literary traditions.

**Course Outcome:** At the end of the course students should be able to identify certain aspects of the relationships and interactions between various Indian literatures, and thereby form a wider understanding of the idea of Indian literature.

**Generic classifications, choice of texts will depend on the course coordinator**

(Rabindranath Thakur/ Premchand/ Rajshekhar Basu/ R.K Narayan/ Mahasweta Devi/ Ismat Chughtai/ Nabaneeta Dev Sen/ Ambai/ Indira Goswami/ Gopinath Mohanty/ Rajendra Yadav/ Yashpal/ Bhisam Sahani/ Takazi Sivasankara Pillai/ S.N Pendse/ Jyotirmoyee Devi/ Pratibha Basu/ Banaphul/ Basheer/ T.R Subba Rao/ Sadat Hasan Manto/ Rajindar Singh Bedi/Bharatendu Harishchandra/ Vijay Tendulkar/ Girish Karnad/ Utpal Dutta/Nabarun Bhattacharya/Badal Sirkar/Ratan Thiam/H.Kanhailal/ Tendulkar/ Mahesh Dattani/)

**Suggested Readings:**

Sisir KumarDas – *A History of Indian Literature*; K.M George (ed.) – *Encyclopedia of Indian Literature*; *Masterpieces of Indian Literature*, (NBT) 3 vols.; *Sources of Indian Traditions*, (Penguin), 2 vols

## **Generic Elective 4: Popular Literature**

**Course Objective:** The primary objective of this course is to identify and subsequently adopt a methodology to read various popular literatures across the world.

**Course Outcome:** at the end of the course, students should be able to decode the politics of the “popular” in relation with concepts like “high” and “low” art.

### **Generic classifications, choice of texts will depend on the course coordinator**

*Tintin/ Jungle Book/ Archie's/ Asterix/ Bantul the Great/ Handa Bhonda/Donald Ducks/Comics of Rius/ Mafalda/ Phantom/ Nonte Phonte/Graphic Novels/ Feluda Series/ Ghanada/ Detective Novels/ Reading the “popular” cinema, theatre, music.*

### **Suggested Readings:**

*Key Words:* Raymond Williams

*How to Read Donald Duck:* Ariel Dorfman and Armand Mattelart

*The Oxford History of World Cinema*