

Centre for Comparative Literature,

Bhasha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati

M.A in Comparative Literature

Syllabus for Academic Year 2015-16

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Preamble:

Comparative Literature is a method of studying literary and cultural texts. It aims at facilitating the ways of studying literature not only across linguistic and cultural borders, but also in relation to other art forms and social sciences. Keeping this goal in mind the following courses have been designed.

A student who opts for an M.A degree in Comparative Literature will take sixteen courses across four semesters. The first two semesters have been structured to expose the students to certain basic concepts essential to study literature, CL methodology and contemporary approaches to literature. Each of these semesters comprises of four core courses. The third semester will have three core courses and one optional course. The fourth semester will have two core and two optional courses. Four broad categories of optional courses are listed below, under which specific options will be offered in the third and fourth semesters. Exact title of these courses, along with the reading list, will be announced prior to the commencement of that semester. All optional courses will be cross-listed, so that students of any other department/ Institute can also attend these classes (subject to university approval). In the fourth semester students will write a term paper where they will be expected to apply comparative literature methodology learnt in the first three semesters.

Out of the thirteen core courses, four will be language courses, where a selection of Indian and/or non-Indian languages will be offered to each batch. Students will have to choose any one out of that pool in their very first semester, and will continue with that for the next three semesters. The pool of languages being offered and respective capping, if any, will be announced after the MA admission process is complete. There will be orientation classes right after the admission to help the students choose a language.

There will be approximately 80 contact hours per course per semester; **four credits per course**. Evaluation will be on the basis of end-semester examinations (80%), and internal assessments (20%) which will be conducted throughout the semesters (Mode of examination as per VB Rules).

Semester I

CL/MA Core 1: Introducing Literary Studies, Concepts and Events

The course will introduce comparative literary studies and certain concepts and events important to understand literary or cultural texts. The outline of the course will be as follows. Apart from the prescribed texts, there will be special lectures on other aspects of literature and linguistics.

Section A: Literary Studies: This section will enable the student to develop basic understanding of Literature, and the process of construction of a literary field with examples from literature. (For example Orality/ Literature/ Performance).

Suggested Readings:

Ong, Walter J. "Orality-Literacy Studies and the Unity of the Human Race."

Rilke, R.M. :*Letters to a Young Poet*

Sartre, Jean Paul: 'What is Literature'

Sayed, S.A: 'Being seen through Literature' (Visva Bharati Quarterly)

Thakur, Rabindranath: 'Visvasahitya'

Section B: Concepts and tools of Comparative Literature: This section will familiarize students with basic concepts and tools of Comparative Literature. Concepts will include (but not restricted to) the following:

Comparative Indian Literature, Indian Comparative Literature, Indian Literatures, National Literature, History, World Literature, Kavya, Genology, Thematology, Historiography, Literary History, Literary Periodization

Ten (10) concepts will be discussed.

Suggested Readings:

Das, Sisir Kumar. "Comparative Literature in India: A Historical Perspective."

Das, Sisir Kumar. "Why Comparative Indian Literature?"

Das, Sisir Kumar. 'Prologue', *A History of Indian Literature (1800-1910), Western Impact: Indian Response.*

Majumdar, Swapan. *Comparative Literature, Indian Dimensions.* (Preface and the Appendix)

Damrosch, David Melas, Natalie & Buthelezi, Mbongiseni (Eds). *The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature.*

Events: Trajectories of Comparative Literature: This section will discuss briefly the major events in the development of Comparative Literature. For example,

1. Rabindranath's Lecture Series on Comparative Literature
2. Buddhadeva Bose's 'Comparative Literature in India'
3. State of the Discipline Reports of ACLA (www.stateofthedisipline.acla.org)
4. Comparative Literature in World Languages in Ed. Totösy de Zepetnek Steven and Tutun Mukherjee – *Companion to Comparative Literature, World Literatures and Comparative Cultural Studies*.
5. 'Round Table on Spivak's 'Death of a Discipline' in *Literary Research/RL*

Suggested Readings:

Agarwal, Purushottom. 'Modernity and Public Sphere in Vernacular'.

(<http://www.globalsouthproject.cornell.edu/modernity-and-public-sphere-in-vernacular.html>)

Bose, Buddhadev. 'Comparative Literature in India.' *JJCL* 45,

Dev, Amiya. "Comparative Literature in India." In *Comparative Literature and Comparative Cultural Studies* Ed. Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek.

Dev, Amiya. *The Idea of Comparative Literature in India*.

Mohan, Chandra & Figueira, Dorothy (Eds.) *Aspects of Comparative Literature: Current Approaches*.

Singh, Avadesh Kumar. 'The Future of Comparative Literary Studies'

CL/MA/ Core 2: Language Course I(Cross-listed)

The students will have option of selecting **ONE** Indian or non-Indian language from the pool of options offered to that particular batch. The syllabus and reading list for this course will be made available to the students by the respective language department. Please refer to Appendix 1 for a pool of syllabi.

CL/MA/ Core 3: Comparative Literature Methodology I

The objective of this course is to introduce the methodological tools of Comparative Literature and to enable students to read 'text/s' through a detailed study of a particular mode, for instance lyric or narrative.

Essays (Max: 5)

Das, Sisir Kumar. 'The Idea of Literary History'.

Dev, Amiya. "Literary History from Below." In *Comparative Literature: Theory and Practice*. Ed. Amiya Dev and Sisir Kumar Das.

Emeneau, M.B. 'India as a Linguistic Area'.

Majumdar, Swapan. *Comparative Literature, Indian Dimensions*.

Pollock, Sheldon. *Literary Cultures in History*. Introduction.

Ramanujan, A.K. *The Relevance of South Asian Folklore*. (Selections)

Tötösy de Zepetnek, Steven. *Comparative Literature: Theory, Method, Application*. (Selections)

Lyrics (Max: 15)

Poets/Collections will be selected from the following pool:

Sappho, Pindar, Horace, Vedic Hymns, Theragatha, Therigatha, Gatha-sat-sai, Sanskrit court poetry, Catullus, Spenser, Petrarch, Ronsard, Wyatt, Medieval Indian Bhakti and Sufi lyrics, Sor Juana, Sidney, Donne, Browning, Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats, Bharati, Rabindranath, Iqbal, Cristina Rosetti, Hopkins, Rilke, Yeats, Nicolas Guillen, Ceaser Vallejo,

Suggested Readings:

Behdad, Ali & Thomas, Dominic eds. *A Companion to Comparative Literature*.

Chakraborty Dasgupta, Subha. Ed. *Genealogy*.

Chanda, Ipshita. Ed. *Historiography*.

Bandyopadhyay, Sibaji. Ed. *Thematology*.

Fokkema, Douwe. *Issues in General and Comparative Literature*.

Notz-Bogumil, Sieghild. 'Comparative Literature: Methodology and Challenges in Europe with Special Reference to the French and German Contexts'. In *Quest of a Discipline: New Academic Directions for Comparative Literature*, ed. Rizio Yohannan Raj.

Prawer, S.S. *Comparative Literary Studies: An Introduction*.

Weisstein, Ulrich. *Comparative Literature and Literary Theory: Survey and Introduction*. Trans. William Riggan.

Roy, Niharranjan. *Bangalir Itihas*

CL/MA/ Core 4: Approaches to Literature I

This course will discuss certain theoretical approaches to literature as propagated in India and outside. The first section will deal with theoretical essays, while the second section will use literary texts to explain the theoretical approaches.

SECTION A: Any one of the following clusters will be offered:

From Ancient Indian Literary Theory to modern Approaches

Structuralism and Post-structuralism – Discourse Analysis

Reader Response Theory – Theory of Rasa – Theory of Dhvani

Max 5 essays.

Suggested Readings:

Barthes, Roland. *A Roland Barthes Reader*

Bennett, Tony. *Formalism and Marxism*.

Bharata: *Natyasastra*

Devy, G.N. *After Amnesia: Tradition and Change in Indian Literary Criticism*.

Dey, S.K. *History of Sanskrit Poetics*

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*.

Foucault .“What is an Author”

Laclau, Ernesto. *Ideology and Politics in Marxist Theory*.

Mukherjee, Ramaranjan. *Ancient Indian Literary Criticism*

Norris, Christopher. *Deconstruction: Theory and Practice*.

Young, Robert. *Untying the Text: A Post-Structuralist Reader*.

SECTION B: Poems and Plays will be chosen from the following list:

Poems (6) and Plays (2)

Akam & Puram poems/ Sudraka/ Kalidasa/ Bhavabhuti/ Shakespeare/ Moliere/ Schiller/ Lessing/ Racine/ Corneille/ Surdas/ Ramprasad/ Ghalib/ Baudelaire/ Garcia Lorca/ Mallarmé/ Rilke/ Rabindranath Thakur / Satyendranath Datta/ Sudhindranath Datta/ Nirala/ Mahadevi Verma/ Mayakovski/ Girish Karnad/ Badal Sircar/ Namdeo Dhasal/ Pablo Neruda/ A.K. Ramanujan/ Arun Kolatkar/ Ratan Thiyam/ Mardhekar/ Dakxin Bajarange Chhara/ Dharamveer Bharati/ Mohan Rakesh/ Sukumar Ray/ / Utpal Dutta/ Alfred Jarry/ Beckett/ Brecht/ Pirandello/Ionesco/ Soyinka/

Semester II

CL/MA/ Core 5: Language Course II (Cross-listed)

Language course II will be continuation of the Language Course I.

CL/MA/ Core 6: Comparative Literature Methodology II

This course will continue discussions on CL methodology by focusing on Reception and Contact. The first section will explain the theories of Reception, and the second section shall elaborate the theory with a case study. One particular area will be studied each year, which will be announced to the batch at the beginning of the semester. Accordingly, texts will also be made available to the students.

SECTION A: Theories of Reception

Durišin, Dionýz. *Sources and Systematics of Comparative Literature*. Trans. Peter Tkáč. Bratislava. Selections

Durišin, Dionýz. *Theory of Literary Comparatistics*. Trans. Jessie Kocmanová. (Selections)
Khubchandani, Lachman M. ‘“Minority” Cultures and their Communication Rights’ in Skutnabb-Kangas, Tove; Phillipson, Robert & Rannut, Mart eds., *Linguistic Human Rights: Overcoming Linguistic Discrimination*.

Jauss, H.R. ‘Literary History as a Challenge to Literary Theory’

SECTION B: Reception of a particular author/text in the Indian/non-Indian context.

For example, Reception of Rabindranath/ Nirala / Najrul Islam/ Shakespeare /Kalidasa

Reception of the Rama material

Reception of *Odyssey*

Reception of Epic/*Mahakavya* Tradition for e.g. *The Iliad/ The Mahabharata*

CL/MA Core 7: Approaches to Literature II

In continuation of Approaches to literature I, this course will discuss some of the theoretical standpoints mentioned below. The first section will focus on theoretical essays while the second section will use Short Stories and Novels/ personal narratives to expatiate the theories.

SECTION A: Any one of the following clusters will be offered.

Discourse + Gender + Marxism

Discourse + Gender+ Psychoanalysis

Aesthetics ‘from below’ (for instance, Dalit Aesthetics, Indigenous Contexts etc.)

Max 5 essays.

Suggested Readings:

Bakhtin, M. ‘Discourse in the Novel’

Depadquale, Paul; Eigenbrod, Renate&Larocque, Emma, eds. *Across Cultures/ Across Borders*.

Eagleton, Terry. *Marxism and Literary Criticism*.

Grosz, Elizabeth. *Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporeal Feminism*. (Selections)

Kaplan, Cora. ‘Opening Pandora’s Box - Subjectivity, class and sexuality’ In eds. Gayle Greene & Coppelina Kahn: *Making a Difference: Feminist Literary Criticism*.

Kristeva, Julia. ‘Motherhood According to Bellini’/ ‘Women’s Time’

Limbale, Sharankumar. *Towards an Aesthetic of Dalit Literature*.

Rose, Jacqueline. *The Case of Peter Pan*. (Selections).

Spivak, G.C. ‘Feminism and Critical Theory’.

Tharu, Susie & Lalitha, K. *Women’s Writing in India*. (Introduction)

Williams, Reymond. *Marxism and Literature*.

SECTION B: Short Stories (3) and Novels/Personal Narratives (2) will be chosen from the following list of authors:

Fakirmohan Senapati/ Chandu Menon/ Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay/ Rabindranath/ Pudumaipittan / Mouni/ Jyotirmoyi Devi/ Manik Bandyopadhyay/ Premchand/ Faniswarnath Renu/ Ismat Chughtai / Qurutulin Haider/ Basheer/ Ambai/ Rigoberta Menchu/ Domitila Barrios/ Bama/ Baby Kamble/ Urmila Pawar/ Pratibha Roy/ Manoranjan Byapari/ U.R Ananthamurthy/ Buchi Emecheta/ Intizar Hussain/ Ali Cobby Eckerman/ D.O. Fagunwa/ Witi Ihimaera/ Nabaneeta Dev Sen/ Sarah Joseph/ Mahasweta Devi/Kalpana Gagdekar/ Lee Maracle/ Raghunath Murmu/ Kanji Bhai Patel/ Indira Goswami/

CL/MA Core 8: Translation Studies

This course will focus on the theories of translation, situating Translation Studies within the rubric of CL methodology. This course will also encourage students to engage with various languages and subsequently collaborate with Source and Target language experts to translate important text/s from and into various Indian and non-Indian languages.

Following issues will be discussed:

- Basic concepts associated with Translation Studies
- Translation and Comparative Literature
- Translation – transcreation – adaptation
- Problems of translation
- Translation and market
- Some major standpoints on theories of translation

Essays: 8-10

Suggested Readings:

Dasgupta, Sayantan. ‘Translating India Today: Local cultures, global ambitions and colonial hangovers’ In P. Basu, & I. Chanda (Eds.), *Locating Cultural Change: Theory Method Process*.

Kotahri Rita. ‘Studying Cultural Change?’

Lefevere, Andre. *Translation, Rewriting and the Manipulation of Literary Fame* (Routledge)

Singh, Udaya Narayana. *Translation as Growth*.

Venuti, Lawrence. *The Translator’s Invisibility*.

Lakshmi Holmstrom’s Introduction to Bama’s *Karukku*

G.C. Spivak’s Introduction to Mahasweta Devi *Imaginary Maps*

Alladi Uma and M.Sridhar’s Introduction to *Ayoni*.

T Vijay Kumar’s Introduction to *Kanyashulkam*.

Ipshita Chanda’s Introduction to *Dhorai Charit Manas* and to *Two Plays by Sukumar Ray*.

Semester III

CL/MA/ Core 9: Language Course III

Language course III will be the continuation of the language course II.

Core 10: Aesthetics and Poetics

The objective of this course is to trace the different trajectories of aesthetics and poetics, their intersections and contradictions. Keeping the Indian and European traditions in focus, the course will discuss some of the following clusters. Four clusters will be offered each semester.

Aesthetics and *Nandantatva*

Art and *Kavya*

Literature and *Sahitya*

Drama and *Drisyakavya*

Imitation and *Anukarana*

Sublime and *Ananda*

Authors/texts will be selected from the following list:

Plato: *Ion, Republic, Dialogue* (Selections)

Aristotle: *Poetics*

Horace: *Ars Poetica* (Selections)

Longinus: 'On the Sublime'

Frederick Schiller: *Aesthetical and Philosophical Essays* (Selections)

Wordsworth: Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*

Coleridge: *Biographia Literaria* (selections)

Hegel: Selections from *Hegel's Lectures on Aesthetics*

Kant: *The Critique of Judgement*

Baudelaire: Preface to *Les Fleur du mal*

Bharata: *Natyasastra*

Bhamaha: *Kavyalamkara*

Dandin: *Kavyadarsha*

Anandavardhana: *Dhvanyaloka*

Rajshekhara: *Kavyamimansha*

Abhinabagupta: *Abhinavabharati*

Number of texts to be taught every year: 8-10

Suggested Readings:

Classical Literary Criticism (Oxford)

Modern Literary Criticism

Atul Gupta: *Kavya Jijñasa*

Ramaranjan Mukherjee: *Ancient Indian Literary Criticism*

S.K. Dey: *History of Sanskrit Poetics*

CL/MA/Core 11: Rabindranath and the Reception of Aesthetics

In continuation of the previous course, this course will analyse reception of Indian and non-Indian schools of aesthetics by focusing on Rabindranath's works as major tropes towards understanding the various intersections and contradictions as discussed in the course on Aesthetics and Poetics. The course will be divided into two sections.

SECTION A: This section will familiarize students with medieval Indian aesthetics.

- Aesthetics of Bhakti and Sufi

Poets/authors will be chosen from the following list:

Appar/ Champanter/ Andal/ Basavanna/ Akka Mahadevi/ Allama Prabhu/ Amir Khusrau/ Mir/ Dard/ Ghalib/ Ramprasad/ Lalan

- Vaishnava Aesthetics

Poets/authors will be chosen from the following list:

Jaydev, Tuisidas, Mira, Kabir, Surdas, Chandidas, Vidyapati, Krishnadas Kaviraj, Jñanadas, Lochandas.

Poems to be studied: 10.

SECTION B: This section will explore Rabindranath's reception of Indian and non-Indian aesthetics.

Five (5) texts will be chosen from the following list:

‘Sahityer Swarup’

Prachin Sahitya (Selections)

‘Soundaryabodh’

‘Sahitya o Soundarya’

Loksahitya (Selections)
Cchinnapatra (Selections)
Cchithipatra (Selections)

George, K.M. *Modern Indian Literature, an Anthology* (All Volumes)
Ancient Indian Literature: An Anthology (All Volumes)
Medieval Indian Literature: An Anthology (All Volumes)
Modern Indian Literature: An Anthology (All Volumes)

CL/MA/ Option 1 (Cross-listed)

In this semester a student can choose **ONE** optional course from the options available in that particular semester.

Semester IV

CL/MA/ Core 12: Language Course IV (Cross-listed)

Language course IV will be the continuation of the language course III.

CL/MA/ Core 13: Term paper

In this course a student will work on a topic of their choice and will write and submit a term paper of 3000-5000 words under the supervision of one teacher. The basic presupposition of this course is that the student will include the CL methodology and approach within her/his paper and will learn how to write an academic paper with proper understanding of style sheet/s.

CL/MA/ Option 2 (Cross-listed)

CL/MA/ Option 3 (Cross-listed)

In this semester a student can choose **TWO** courses from the options available in that particular semester.

Optional Courses:

In the third and fourth semesters, Optional Courses will be offered under these four broad categories:

CL/MA/OP.1: Rabindranath: Inter-contexts and Inter-texts

For instance, Rabindranath and Translation, Rabindranath and Pedagogy

CL/MA/OP.2: Cross-Cultural Literary Relations

For instance, Literatures of Asia, Literatures of Latin America/Canada/Africa

CL/MA/OP.3: Comparative Method: Interdisciplinary Studies

For instance, Literature and Other Arts, Literature and New Media

CL/MA/OP.4: Literary Productions

For instance, Proof reading and Editing, Translation as Skill