**

## (Established under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956, by notification No.F.9-12/2001-U3 Government of India) Accredited by NAAC with ‘A’ Grade­­­­­ Founder: Prof. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, M.Sc.,Ph.D. *(Awarded Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri by President of India) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

## *Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*

**Sub Committee for English and Philosophy**

**Under Graduate**

**Course Title:** Literature and Religion

**Course Code:**

**Number of Credits:** 4

**Level:** 2

**Introduction:**

Studying cross-cultural religious worldviews through literature, allows students to experience the diversity and interdependence of a global society. Through these inter-disciplinary perspectives students will compare and contrast philosophies, themes and ideas of religious understandings. In dialogue with ideas and worldviews that intrigue and challenge us, we find our own truths, our own identity and our own voice.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. To introduce a selection of literary and religious texts.
2. To study American and Indian religious worldviews.
3. To introduce the socio-cultural context of the texts.

**Learning Outcome (s):**

1. To experience the diversity and interdependence of a global society.
2. In dialogue with ideas and worldviews that intrigue and challenge them, students will find their own truths, own identities and own voices.

**Pre-learning / Pre-requisite:**  None.

**Course Outline:**

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| **S. No.** | **Topic** | **Hours** |
| 1. | **Introduction**  Religious worldviews within an Indian and American context | **4** |
| 2. | **Religious Texts**   * Indian: *Katha Upanishad* * American: *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God / The Book of Mormon /* Selections from *The Bible* (Old Testament) | **8** |
| 3. | **Mythology**   * Indian: Selections from *The Ramayana* | **10** |
| 4. | **Poetry**   * Indian: Ramanujan, Kolatkar, Ezekiel, Patel * American: Whitman, Dickinson, Emerson, Cairns | **12** |
| 5. | **Mystics**   * Indian: Kabir’s *Dohas* * American: Selections from Thoreau’s *Walden* | **12** |
| 6. | **Short Stories**   * Indian: Selections from *Short Stories from Modern India* edited by Suresh Kohli, *Darkness* by Bharati Mukherjee * American: Twain’s *The Mysterious Stranger*, Hemmingway’s *A Clean, Well-Lighted Place* | **8** |
| 7. | **Fantasy Fiction**   * American: *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman | **6** |
|  | **Total** | **60** |

**Pedagogy:**

1. Interactive class discussions on every concept. Small class size.
2. Use of research articles, videos, etc. to further explain concepts.
3. Guest lectures by experts in the field.
4. Evaluations are conducted throughout the semester to ensure that the students’ outcomes are appraised.

**Books Recommended:**

* Müller, F. Max. *The Upanishad*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1900.
* Edwards, Jonathan. *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God: A Sermon Preached at Enfield*. Boston: Printed and sold by S. Kneeland and T. Green in Queen-Street over against the prison., 1742.
* Hardy, Grant. *The Book of Mormon*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2006.
* Vālmīki, and Makhan Lal Sen. *The Ramayana*. Calcutta: Oriental Publ., 1927.
* Moore-Gilbert, B. J. *Writing India, 1757-1990: The Literature of British India*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1996.
* Dwivedi, A. N. *A.K. Ramanujan and his Poetry*. Delhi: Doaba House, 1983.
* Sergeant, Howard. *Poetry from India: Nissim Ezekiel, A.K. Ramanujan, R. Parthasarathy, Deb Kumar Das*. Oxford, Eng.: Pergamon Press, 1970.
* Richardson, Robert D. *Myth and Literature in the American Renaissance*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1978.
* Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden*. London: Dent, 1910.
* Kohli, Suresh. *Stories from Modern India*. Noida: Om Books International, 2013.
* Mukherjee, Bharati. *Darkness*. New Delhi: Penguin Books India, 1990.
* Gaiman, Neil. *American Gods*. New York: Headline, 2013.

**Suggested Assessment/ Evaluation Methods:**

As per SIU Rules on Pg. no. 20 – 5.1 e) III.

**Benchmarked against similar courses in other national/ international universities /organizations:**

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| **S. No.** | **Name of the Course** | **Name of University where it is offered** |
|  | Religion and Literature | University of Pennsylvania |
|  | Comparative Literature and Religious Studies | University of Kent |

**Justification for change in an existing course / or a new course:**

* Cross-cultural - experience the diversity and interdependence of a global society.
* Inter-disciplinary perspectives - compare and contrast philosophies, themes and ideas of religious understandings through literature.

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| **Name of Members** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Designation** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Org. / Inst.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Signature** |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Name of Experts** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Designation** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Org. / Inst.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Signature** |  |  |  |  |  |

**Signature of Dean:**

**Date:**