INTRODUCTION TO WORLD LITERATURE

COURSE OUTLINE:
This course is an introduction to a wide range of writings produced in different nations, languages and cultural contexts. While this course cannot claim to cover all literary traditions from all time periods, it does try to introduce the learners to representative texts that are available in English language. The objective of the course is to focus on learning how great writings can intervene and engage with global cultures while remaining rooted and situated in their specific, local contexts. These discussions need to be seen as ‘entry points’ that would enable learners to explore world literatures.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR:
Dr. Merin Simi Raj teaches in the Dept of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras. She has offered NPTEL courses namely, History of English Language and Literature; Postmodernism in Literature and Indian Fiction in English. Her other research and teaching interests are: Literary Criticism and theory; Anglo-Indian Studies and Literary historiography Studies.

COURSE PLAN:

**Week 01:** Introduction

**Week 02:** Classics: Beowulf, Don Quixote, Arabian Nights

**Week 03:** Indian literature: Kalidasa, Tagore, Rushdie, Kamala Das

**Week 04:** Literature in translation: Akutagawa’s In a Grove, Borges’ Garden of Forking Paths, Manto’s Toba Tek Singh

**Week 05:** Short stories and excerpts from novels: Marquez, Borges, Calvino, Flaubert, Tolstoy

**Week 06:** Poetry: Dover Beach, Wasteland, Song of Lawino

**Week 07:** Drama: Ibsen’s Doll’s House, Shakespeare’s Othello

**Week 08:** African-American literature: Toni Morrison, Achebe’s Things Fall Apart, Everyday Use by Alice Walker

**Week 09:** English and American literature: Arnold’s Dover Beach, Eliot’s Wasteland, Faulkner’s A Rose for Emily

**Week 10:** Women writers: Gilman’s Yellow Wallpaper, Aphra Behn’s Oroonoko

**Week 11:** Prose (non-fiction) and critical theory: Aristotle’s Poetics, Barthes’ Death of the author, Woolf’s A Room of One’s Own, Kolodny’s Dancing through the minefield

**Week 12:** Contemporary writers and new genres

EXAM DATE: 27 April 2019

TYPE OF COURSE: New | Elective | PG
INTENDED AUDIENCE: BA, MA - English
COURSE DURATION: 12 weeks (28 Jan’19 - 19 Apr’19)