INTRODUCTION TO WORLD LITERATURE

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IIT Madras

TYPE OF COURSE : Rerun | Elective | PG
COURSE DURATION : 12 weeks (18 Jan’ 21 - 09 Apr’ 21)
EXAM DATE : 24 Apr 2021

INTENDED AUDIENCE : Any Interested Learners

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 the learners to explore world literatures.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :
Dr. Merin Simi Raj is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Madras. She specializes in Postcolonial Writing, Modernity Studies and Historiography Studies. She teaches History of English Language and Literature, Indian fiction in English, Literary Criticism, World Literature and Feminist Writings.

COURSE PLAN :
Week 1: Introduction
Week 2: Classics: Beowulf, Don Quixote, Arabian Nights
Week 3: Indian literature: Kalidasa, Tagore, Rushdie, Kamala Das
Week 4: Literature in translation: Akutagawa’s In a Grove Borges’ Garden of Forking Paths Manto’s Toba Tek Singh
Week 5: Short stories and excerpts from novels: Marquez, Borges, Calvino, Flaubert, Tolstoy
Week 6: Poetry Dover Beach, Wasteland, Song of Lawino
Week 7: Drama Ibsen’s Doll’s House Shakespeare’s Othello
Week 8: African-American literature Toni Morrison Achebe’s Things Fall Apart Everyday Use by Alice Walker
Week 9: 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