

**Centre for Comparative Literature
Bhasha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati**

**PhD Course Work in Comparative Literature
(Introduced from 2019)**

Objective of the Programme: The PhD course work has been designed to acquaint the students with research methodology and also a comprehensive idea of comparative literary studies. Prior idea of Comparative Literature is desirable at this level. Students take three courses in one semester. Students should note that PhD course work is full-time, and students – including those who are registered as part-time scholars – are required to attend classes regularly. On successful completion of the Course Work, students will submit their final research proposal, and if it is accepted, they will proceed on with their research work.

Semester I:

Course 1: Research Methodology and Techniques

[Compulsory 100 marks]

Objective:

The objective of this course is to familiarise students with tools and techniques, methods and methodologies of research, especially in the field of humanities and social sciences. The course is divided into two sections. The first half focuses on research methodology, and the second half complements that with discussions on Comparative Literature Methodology.

Outcome:

By the end of this course the learner will be able to understand Research Methodology and Comparative Literature Methodology and then apply subsequently in a scholarly writing and apply it in their own work.

A: Research Methodology and Computer Application

(50 Marks)

Topics of discussions will include:

- What is Research?
- Various 'search' techniques
- Methods and Methodologies
- Various Style Manuals
- On Writing
- How to draft a research proposal
- How to draft a dissertation/thesis
- Accessing online materials
- Preparing soft documents: Methods and Utility

Suggested Readings:

Ranjit Kumar: *Research Methodology: A Step by Step Guide for Beginners*
Nicholas Walliman: *Social Research Methods*

Patrick McNeil & Steve Chapman: *Research Methods* (3rd edition)
John Gerring: *Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework*
Uwe Flick: *Introducing Research Methodology: A Beginner's Guide to Doing a Research Project*

B: Comparative Literature Methodology:

(50 Marks)

Topics of discussions will include:

- Comparative Literature: Basic ideas and concepts
- History and scope of CL in India and beyond
- CL Methodology
- CL and Translation
- Reception Studies
- Orality
- Comparative Indian Literature

Six essays will be selected from the following:

Susan Basnett: *Comparative Literature: A Critical Introduction*
Amiya Dev: 'Comparative Literature in India'
Swapan Majumdar: *Comparative Literature: Indian Dimensions*
Nabaneeta Dev Sen: *Counter Points: Essays in Comparative Literature*
Tötösy de Zepetnek: *Comparative Literature: Theory, Method, Application*
ACLA reports
Sisir Kumar Das and Amiya Dev: *Comparative Literature: Theory and Practice*
Theo Haen, David Damrosch, Djelal Kadir: *The Routledge Companion to World Literature*
Ipshita Chanda, Sibaji Bandyopadhyay, Subha C. Dasgupta: *Literary Studies in India* (Three Volumes)
Charles Bernheimer: *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*
Haun Saussy: *Comparative Literature in an Age of Globalisation*
Ursula K Heise, et al eds. *Futures of Comparative Literature*
Walter J. Ong: 'Orality and Literacy, The Presence of the Word'
Rabindranath Thakur: *Sahitya*
Sisir Kumar Das: *Muses in Isolation*
Linda Hutcheon, Djelal Kadir, Mario J. Valdes: 'Collaborative Historiography: A Comparative Literary History of Latin America'

Suggested Readings:

G.N. Devy: 'Of Many Heroes': *An Indian Essay in Literary Historiography*
Gayatri Chakravarty Spivak: *Death of a Discipline*
David Damrosch: 'What is World Literature'
Dominguez, Dario Villanueva, and Haun Saussy: *Introducing Comparative Literature: New Trends and Applications*
K.M. George: *Comparative Indian Literature*
David Damrosch: *World Literature in Theory*
The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature
Robert C. Holub: *Reception Studies: A Critical Introduction*
Ruth H. Finnegan: *Literacy and Orality*
Emily S Apter: *The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature*
Sisir Kumar Das: *Indian Ode to the West Wind: Studies in Literary Encounters, Bharatsahityakatha*
Benedict Anderson, Christopher Prendergast: *Debating World Literature*

Course 2: Approaches to Literary Studies:

[Elective: 100 marks]

Objective:

The objective of this course is to familiarize the students with various literary criticisms in India and beyond.

Outcome:

By the end of this course the learner will be able to understand the interface of literary studies and literary theories and apply it in their scholarly works. Each of the following courses will comprise of 50 marks. Any three options will be offered each year, out of which students will have to choose two.

a) Literary Criticism in Ancient India

Section I: Rasa and other prasthanas

Bharata: *Natyasastra* (Selections)

Debate on Rasanispatti

Dandin

Bhamaha

Vamana

Anandavardhana

Abhinavagupta

OR

Section II: Literary Criticism: Dravidian School

Tolkappiam

Section III: Theories of Language

Panini

Patanjali

Bhartrihari

Suggested readings:

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

A.K. Warder: *Indian Kavya Literature*

P.V. Kane: *History of Sanskrit Poetics*

Ramaraman Mukherjee: *Ancient Indian Literary Criticism*

Mani Madhav Chakraborty: *Natyakalpadrum*

b) Structuralism to Post-Structuralism

Any five texts from the following list will be studied:

B.M Eikhenbaum: 'The Theory of the "Formal Method"'

Mikhail Bakhtin: 'Discourse in the Novel'
 Ferdinand de Saussure: *Course in General Linguistics* (Selection)
 Roman Jakobson and J.U. Tynjanov: 'Problems in the Study of Language and Literature'
 Claude Levi-Strauss: 'The Structural Study of Myth', 'Social Structure'
 Roman Jakobson: 'On Linguistic Aspects of Translation'
 Vladimir Propp: *Morphology of the Folktale* (selection)/ 'Fairy Tale Functions'
 Tsvetan Todorov: *A Structural Approach to a Literary Genre*
 Roland Barthes: 'The Structuralist Activity', 'Death of the Author', 'The Imagination of Sign', 'From Work to Text', 'Introduction to *Structural Analysis of Narrative*'
 Michel Foucault: 'What is an Author', *The Order of Things*, *The Birth of the Clinic: An Archaeology of Medical Perception*
 Henry Louis Gates Jr.: *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of African-American Literary Criticism*

Suggested Readings:

Immanuel Kant: 'Critique of Pure Reason' / 'Critique of Practical Reason' / 'What is Enlightenment?'
 Victor Khklovshy: *Russian Formalist Criticism: Four Essays*
 Claude Levi-Strauss: *Structural Anthropology*
 Mikhail Bakhtin: *The Dialogic Imagination*
 Roland Barthes: *The Pleasure of the Text*
 Jaques Derrida: 'Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of Human Sciences'
 Gerard Genette: *Narrative Discourse Revisited*
 Robert Young: *Untying the Text: A Post-Structuralist Reader*

c) Discourse Analysis

Any five texts from the following list will be studied:

Immanuel Kant: 'What is Enlightenment?'
 Georg W.F. Hegel: *Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences* (selections)
 David Farrell Krell: 'Introduction' to Martin Heidegger: *Basic Writings*
 Martin Heidegger: *Poetry, Language, Thought* (selections)
 Mikhail Bakhtin: *Rabelais and His World* (selections)
 Michel Foucault: *The Archaeology of Knowledge* (selections), *Madness and Civilization* (selections)
 Jaques Derrida: 'The end of the Book and the Beginning of Writing', *Of Grammatology*,
 Robert Young: *Untying the Text: A Post-Structuralist Reader* (selections)
 Roland Barthes: *Image Music Text*
 Rabindranath Thakur: *Sangeetchinta* (selections)
 Pierre Bourdieu: *Language and Symbolic Power*
 Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta: 'Bhashan o Proti-bhashan: Koyekti Sutra'

Suggested readings:

Peter Barry: *Beginning Theory*
 Aristotle: *Poetics*
 René Descartes: *Discourse on the Method, Principles of Philosophy*
 Baruch Spinoza: *Ethics*
 Immanuel Kant: *Critique of Pure Reason, Critique of Practical Reason*
 Georg W.F. Hegel: *Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences* (selections)
 Edmund Husserl: *Ideas Pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and to a Phenomenological Philosophy* (First Book)
 Karl Marx: 'The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte'

d) Feminist Literary Criticism

Any five essays will be selected from the following:

Simone de Beauvoir: *The Second Sex*
Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar: *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination*
Michel Foucault: *History of Sexuality*
Julia Kristeva: *Motherhood According to Bellini / Women's Time*
V. Geetha: *Gender* (Selection)
Susie Tharu & K. Lalitha: *Women's Writing in India*.
Kumkum Sangari: *Politics of the Possible*, 'Gendered Violence, National Boundaries and Culture'
Sandra Harding: *Whose Science/ Whose Knowledge?* (Selections), *The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader* (Selections)
Uma Chakravarti: 'Whatever Happened to the Vedic Dasi?'
Cora Kaplan: 'Pandora's Box: Subjectivity, Class and Sexuality in Socialist Feminist Criticism'
Tejaswini Niranjana: 'Culture, Feminism, Globalization'
Rajeswari Sunder Rajan: 'Feminism's Future'
Kristina Rolin: 'The Bias Paradox in Feminist Standpoint Epistemology'
Toril Moi: *Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory*

Suggested Readings:

Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar: *Infection in the Sentence: The Women Writer and the Anxiety*
Gayle Greene & Coppelia Kahn: *Making a Difference: Feminist Literary Criticism*.
Alice Walker: *In Search of our Mother's Gardens*
Kumkum Sangari and Sudesh Vaid (Eds.): *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*
Kavita Panjabi and Paromita Chakravati (Eds.): *Women Contesting Culture: Changing Frames of Gender Politics in India*
Rajeswari Sunder Rajan: *Real and Imagined Women: Gender, Culture and Postcolonialism*
Sandra Harding: *Sciences from Below: Feminisms, Postcolonialities, and Modernities*
Mary Eagleton Ed. *A Concise Companion to Feminist Theory*

Course 3: Literature Review and Synopsis

[100 Marks]

Objective:

The objective of this course is to:

- Familiarize the students with the several aspects of drafting a literature review
- Drafting a Proposal using several tools of Comparative Literature, Literary theories and various style sheets that have been introduced earlier.

Outcome:

By the end of this course the learner will be able to:

- Draft a brief Research Proposal
- Review available literature/s on the research topic (each of 2000 words, approx), following the techniques of writing research proposal and literature review they have learnt in the first course.