



**SOPHIA COLLEGE**

**(AUTONOMOUS)**

Affiliated to the University of Mumbai

Syllabi for Semesters I and II

Programme: B. A.

Course: English

(Choice-Based Credit System with effect from the year 2021-22)

**UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI**

**SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

**SYLLABUS FOR F.Y.B.A. (ENGLISH)**

Paper I: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE

**SEMESTER I**

Course Title: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE  
(CHILDREN'S LITERATURE)

**SEMESTER II**

Course Title: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE  
(CLASSICAL LITERATURE)

Total no. of lectures per semester: 60

No. of credits per year: 3

## Course: Introduction to Literature

### Semester One: Introduction to Literature (Children's Literature)

#### Objectives:

- to introduce students to children's literature
- to familiarise them with the characteristic features of the major genres of children's literature
- to help students understand the intersectional nature of contemporary literary and cultural theory
- to enable students to apply theory to examine issues of privilege and oppression in multiple areas of life as represented in literature

#### Learning Outcomes:

Learners will be able to

- understand the link between texts and the cultural contexts in which they are produced and consumed
- apply theory to a range of texts
- understand the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary academic studies
- understand the intersectional nature of contemporary literary and cultural theory
- apply theory to examine issues of privilege and oppression in multiple areas of life as represented in literature
- interrogate the construction of the canon

Unit I: Introduction to Children's Literature (theoretical concepts, historical overview, socio-cultural perspectives)

Selections from Peter Hunt's *Understanding Children's Literature*

- "Introduction: The World of Children's Literature Studies"
- "Essentials: What is Children's Literature? What is Childhood?"
- "The Impossibility of Innocence: Ideology, Politics, and Children's Literature"
- "From Sex-Role Stereotyping to Subjectivity: Feminist Criticism"

Selections from Marina Warner's *Once Upon a Time: A Short History of Fairy Tale*

#### Unit II: Poetry

Edward Lear: "The Owl and the Pussy-Cat"  
"The Pobble Who Has No Toes"

Sukumar Ray: "A Marriage is Announced"  
"An Invitation"  
"Hotch-Potch"  
"Super-Beast"  
"The Hand of Fate"  
"The Pursuit of Science"  
"The Encyclopedia"

### Unit III: Fables and Fairy Tales

*Grimm's Fairy Tales*: “Little Red Cap” and its retellings by Roald Dahl, Angela Carter and Carol Ann Duffy

The *Panchatantra*: “Estrangement of Friends”

Selections from *Hitopadesh*

### Unit IV: Graphic Narratives

*Amar Chitra Katha: Brave Women of India*: “Rani of Jhansi”

### **Question paper pattern:**

Semester End Examination: (75 marks)

Semester I: Introduction to Literature (Children's Literature)

Duration: 2.5 hours

- Q.1 Essay on Unit 1  
or  
Two short notes on Unit 1 (20 marks)
- Q.2 Essay on Unit 2 (1 out of 2) (15 marks)
- Q.3 Essay on Unit 3 (1 out of 2) (15 marks)
- Q.4 Essay on Unit 4 (1 out of 2) (15 marks)
- Q.5 Short notes on Units 2, 3 and 4 (1 out of 3) (10 marks)

Internal Assessment: (25 marks)

Students will be asked to submit assignments on the areas of their choice from the options indicated below. Students may pursue

- a thematic analysis of texts prescribed in the list
- a comparative analysis of two or more texts from the list
- an analysis of visual adaptations of the texts from the list
- an analysis of literary adaptations of the texts prescribed in the list

List of areas/texts:

- Tales of Tenali Raman and Akbar-Birbal
- Detective fiction for children- *The Famous Five* series, *The Secret Seven* series, *Nancy Drew Series*, *The Hardy Boys* series
- Tales from A.K. Ramanujan's *Folktales from India*
- Lewis Carroll: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
- Lewis Carroll: *Through the Looking Glass*
- Rudyard Kipling: *The Jungle Book*
- L. Frank Baum: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
- Johanna Spyri: *Heidi*

## Course: Introduction to Literature

### Semester Two: Introduction to Literature (Classical Literature)

#### Objectives:

- to introduce students to classical literature
- to familiarise them with the characteristic features of the major genres of the period
- to help students understand the intersectional nature of contemporary literary and cultural theory
- to enable students to apply theory to examine issues of privilege and oppression in multiple areas of life as represented in literature

#### Learning Outcomes:

Learners will be able to

- understand the link between texts and the cultural contexts in which they are produced and consumed
- apply theory to a range of texts
- understand the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary academic studies
- understand the intersectional nature of contemporary literary and cultural theory
- apply theory to examine issues of privilege and oppression in multiple areas of life as represented in literature
- interrogate the construction of the canon

#### Unit I: Introduction to Classical Literature

- What is Classical Literature?
- Genres of Classical Literature: Epic, Classical Drama and Poetry

#### Unit II: Epic

- Selections from the *Iliad*
- Selections from the *Mahabharata*

#### Unit III: Classical Drama

Euripides: *Medea*

#### Unit IV: Poetry and Narrative

Selections from Sappho's fragments: 1, 17, 30, 94, 96

Selections from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*:  
Book 1: "Prologue", "The Creation", "Daphne"  
Book 3: "Teiresias", "Narcissus and Echo"  
Book 6: "Tereus, Procne and Philomela"  
Book 8: "Daedalus and Icarus"  
Book 10: "Pygmalion"

## Unit V: Revisions and Re-tellings

Nina Paley: *Sita Sings the Blues*

### Background Readings

- Selections from Plato's the *Republic*
- Selections from Aristotle's *Poetics*
- Longinus's *On the Sublime*

### **Question paper pattern:**

Semester End Examination: 75 marks

Semester II: Introduction to Literature (Classical Literature)

Duration: 2.5 hours

- Q.1 Essay on Unit 1  
or  
Two short notes on Unit 1 (15 marks)
- Q.2 Essay on Unit 2  
or  
Two short notes on Unit 2 (20 marks)
- Q.3 Essay on Unit 3  
or  
Two short notes on Unit 3 (20 marks)
- Q.4 Essay on Unit 4 or Unit 5  
or  
Two short notes on Unit 4 and/or Unit 5 (20 marks)

Internal Assessment: 25 marks

Students will be asked to submit assignments on the areas of their choice from the options indicated below. They may pursue:

- a thematic analysis of texts prescribed in the list
- a comparative analysis of two or more texts from the list

List of areas/texts:

- Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni: *The Palace of Illusions*
- Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni: *The Forest of Enchantments*

- Mahasweta Devi: *After Kurukshetra : Three Stories* (“The Five Women”, “Kunti and Nishadin”, “Souvali”) from and
- Mahasweta Devi: “Draupadi”
- Iravati Karve: *Yuganta*

## References:

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