

	<p style="text-align: center;">MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY Kottayam, Kerala</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Undergraduate Programmes (HONOURS) 2024 Admission Onwards</p>
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SYLLABUS						
SIGNATURE COURSE						
Name of the College	Sree Sankara College, Kalady					
Faculty/ Discipline	English					
Programme	BA (Hons) English					
Course Coordinator	Shreeja Narayanan					
Contributors	Dr. Anjana Sankar. S, Dr. Saumya A.P, Dr. Rajeesh K.P					
Course Name	Kalpavriksha : Exploring India through Stories, Songs, Science and Soul					
Type of Course	VAC					
Specialization title	This Signature Course does not have a specialization.					
Course Code	MG3VACENGA00					
Course Level	200					
Course Summary	This course is a journey through the living traditions of Indian knowledge – from epics and poems to food, proverbs, folktales, and storytelling. It connects the past with the present using hands-on activities, fun group projects, and real-life applications. Ideal for students seeking to grasp India's cultural essence in a way that is both accessible and engaging. Students will gain a holistic understanding of how knowledge in India has always been a blend of science, spirituality, art, and lived experience. The course emphasises reflection, participation, and creativity through interactive activities, epic theatre, poster challenges, local fieldwork, and student-led exhibitions.					
Semester	3	Credits			3	Total Hours
Course Details	Learning Approach	Lecture	Tutorial	Practical	Others	
		3				45
Pre-requisites, if any						

Course Outcomes (CO)

Number of COs			4	
CO No.	Expected Course Outcome	Learning Domains *	PO No	
1	Understand the ethical dilemmas and moral questions presented in Indian epics, such as the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. Understand the moral frameworks and ethical concepts embedded in these epics.	K, U, AN, E	PO1, PO2, PO3, PO4, PO6, PO7, PO8, PO10	
2	Understand the cultural values, heroic archetypes, and community identities embedded in Kerala's regional folklore, oral traditions, and the symbolic role of food in Indian literature and cinema. Interest in exploring regional narratives, traditional song forms, and food representations as powerful cultural and emotional signifiers. Appreciate the significance of oral traditions and food symbolism in shaping cultural memory, social structures, and emotional expression.	I, AP	PO2, PO3, PO4, PO5	

Number of COs		4	
CO No.	Expected Course Outcome	Learning Domains *	PO No
3	Understand how nature is portrayed within Indian philosophical and literary traditions. Appreciate the relevance of traditional ecological wisdom in addressing contemporary environmental challenges.	U, AP	PO3, PO4, PO5, PO6, PO7, PO8
4	Interest in the rich diversity of Indian knowledge systems, which is reflected in literary, cultural, and ecological narratives. Understand the interconnections between Indian literary, cultural, and ecological perspectives.	U, I	PO2, PO3, PO4, PO7, PO10

*Remember (K), Understand (U), Apply (A), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C), Skill (S), Interest (I) and Appreciation (Ap)

CO-PO Articulation Matrix

CO/PO	PO 1	PO 2	PO 3	PO 4	PO 5	PO 6	PO 7	PO 8	PO 9	PO 10
CO 1	2	2	2	2	-	2	2	2	-	2
CO 2	-	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
CO 3	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-
CO 4	-	2	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	2

'0' is No Correlation, '1' is Slight Correlation (Low level), '2' is Moderate Correlation (Medium level) and '3' is Substantial Correlation (High level).

Course Content

Content for Classroom transaction (Units)

Module	Units	Course Description	Hrs	CO No.
1	Epics and Ethics			
	1.1	Students explore selected excerpts from the Mahabharata and Ramayana, focusing on moral dilemmas, ethical decision-making, and the deep philosophical questions embedded in these timeless narratives.	15	["1", "4"]
2	Kerala: Folk tales, Food and Culture			
	2.1	This module encourages students to reflect on their own food stories—rituals at home, flavours tied to festivals, or recipes passed down through generations and delves into the oral traditions and folktales.	15	["2", "4"]
3	Nature in Indian Thought			
	3.1	This module examines the profound and poetic connection between human emotions and natural landscapes as depicted in classical Indian literature.	15	["3", "4"]

Teaching and Learning Approach	Classroom Procedure (Mode of transaction) The teaching-learning method for this course is designed to be experiential, interactive, and interdisciplinary, ensuring that students not only gain knowledge but also connect emotionally and culturally with the content. The focus is on making learning joyful, rooted, and reflective, moving beyond rote memorization to lived experience and expression. The course adopts a blended pedagogy, combining storytelling, discussion-based learning, creative activities, field engagement, and multimedia resources. It draws from the Indian tradition of parampara (teacher-learner dialogue) and modern learner-centered methods.
Assessment Types	MODE OF ASSESSMENT Mode of Assessment: Theory
	A. Continuous Comprehensive Assessment (CCA) • Theory - 25 Marks Individual Projects, Group Projects, Poster Making, Presentations
	B. End Semester Evaluation (ESE) • Theory - 50 Marks Assessment Methods – CCA & End Semester Examination Duration of Examination – 1.00 Hrs Pattern of examination for Theory – Non-MCQ Different parts of written examination – Part - A , B Answer Type: ◦ PART - A ◦ Fill in the blanks - (10 out of 10) – 10 × 1 = 10 ◦ PART - B ◦ Short Essays - (5 out of 8) – 5 × 8 = 40

References

- Sreekumari Ramachandran. Tales from Kerala. Chintha Publishers, 2020. Sreekumari Ramachandran. Aithiyamala: The Garland of Legends from Kerala. Chintha Publishers, 2018. Kamala Das. Neipayasam, Short story Poems from Thinai literature (translated by A.K. Ramanujan) Ramanujan, A.K. The Interior Landscape: Love Poems from a Classical Tamil Anthology

Suggested Readings

- Vandana Shiva. Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Development – for ecological thought in Indian tradition Pattanaik, Devdutt. Seven Secrets of the Goddess – for mythic nature associations (optional popular reference) K. M. Gopalakrishna Nair. Folk Tales of Kerala. DC Books. Appadurai, Arjun. “How to Make a National Cuisine: Cookbooks in Contemporary India.” Comparative Studies in Society and History, Vol. 30, No. 1 (1988), pp. 3-24. Narayan, Uma. “Eating Cultures: Incorporation, Identity, and Indian Food.” In Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminism. Routledge, 1997. Zvelebil, Kamil. Tamil Literature – for context on Akam and Puram traditions

Affidavit

- We, Sree Sankara College, Kalady and Shreeja Narayanan, retain the copyright of this syllabus and expressly prohibit its distribution in complete form to any institution outside our own.
- We, Sree Sankara College, Kalady, agree to appoint a new course coordinator for the proposed Kalpavriksha : Exploring India through Stories, Songs, Science and Soul in the event of the unavailability of the currently nominated coordinator. This appointment will ensure the continued coordination of course delivery, assessments, and all related academic responsibilities necessary for the successful implementation of the signature course, for as long as the college offers this programme.

- We, Sree Sankara College, Kalady and Shreeja Narayanan, declare that no part of this signature course submitted here for approval has been taken from the course content developed by, or from any of the course titles prepared by, the BoS/expert committee in the same discipline under our University.



MGU-UGP (HONOURS)

Syllabus