



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

SOUTH ASIAN LITERARY MASTERPIECES - 8288

Last update 15-04-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Amirim

Academic year: 1

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Yigal Bronner
Ofer Peres (TA)

Coordinator Email: yigal.bronner@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Yigal Bronner

Course/Module description:

In this course we will read a selection from the masterpieces of South Asian civilization.

Course/Module aims:

The purpose of this seminar is to familiarize the students with South Asian civilization through a selection of literary works in several languages (primarily from the classical Sanskrit tradition), to understand these works in their cultural context, and most importantly to enjoy reading from some of the world's greatest literary masterpieces.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

To become familiar with South Asian culture and literature, to enjoy reading great literary masterpieces, and to become exposed to cultures other than the student's own.

Attendance requirements(%):

According to divisional regulations

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar

Course/Module Content:

The course is to be divided, roughly, to four separate parts. In the first, we will sample from the great Sanskrit epics, the Mahābhārata and the Rāmāyaṇa, one of the basic layers of Indic literature in general and the Sanskrit tradition more specifically. In the second, we will turn to classical Sanskrit poems such as the great narrative works of Aśvaghoṣa and Kālidāsa, which are in close correspondence with the epics. In the third, we will read from another basic layer of this tradition, short Tamil poems that are the basis of the southern tradition but which also had an important impact on the classical Sanskrit tradition. Finally, we will take a peek at the personal devotional bhakti poems written in Tamil and Telugu, another important component of the ocean that is Indic literature.

Required Reading:

See Moodle site for a detailed, weekly reading plan.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 38 %

Assignments 52 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

The grade will be determined by two "citation-responses" (10%) three short written responses to the reading materials (42%), one longer written assignment (38%), as well as attendance and active participation (10%), as explained in detailed in Hebrew.