

<b>Institute of English, University of Kerala</b> MA (CSS) Degree Course in English Language and Literature		
<b>ENG 544 – Keralam: History, Culture and Literature</b>		
Semester: Four	Credits: Three	Instructor: Dr. G.S. Jayasree
<b>Aim of the course</b>		
<p>This course aims to offer a reading of the cultural history of Keralam, that is living, continuous and open. It takes the stand against the search for origins and cultural totalities. It seeks to factor in the performative in terms of histories, representations and patterns of life.</p>		
<b>Course Description</b>		
<p>This paper aims to encourage the students to connect with the local and the specific. It has a four-fold division, with the first module giving an idea of how the history of Keralam has been recorded and read. It attunes the students to the complexities of historiography and the different methodologies adopted by different schools of thought, indeed, the different interests that mark these schools.</p> <p>Pageants, festivals and public spectacles from the Thrissur pooram to velan kali colour the life in Keralam. The second module introduces ways of reading culturally significant activities from visual and performing arts, both “folk” and “classical”, to rituals and social customs. The strong imprints of caste identity in food, clothing or every day practices like bathing or engaging in indoor games are fast being erased. However we find the culture industry capitalizing on their symbolic value with many of these practices reappearing in vastly different and seemingly neutral contexts. The essays included in this module examine the shifting meanings of culture and how the ideals of the hegemonic are naturalized in the cultural front.</p> <p>The third and the fourth modules give selections from the rich literary output of Keralam over the last one hundred and twenty years. The first gives selections from poetry, drama and prose and the second, fiction.</p>		
<b>Prescribed Books</b>		
<b>Module 1 – History:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kesavan Veluthat. “The Keralolpatti as History.” <i>The Early Medieval in South India</i>. New Delhi: Oxford UP, 2009.</li> <li>2. Rajan Gurukkal. “The Formation of Caste Society in Kerala: Historical Antecedents.” <i>Social Formations of Early South India</i>. New Delhi: Oxford UP, 2010.</li> <li>3. Meera Velayudhan. “Growth of Political Consciousness among Women in Modern Kerala.” <i>Perspectives on Kerala History, Kerala State Gazetteers</i> vol. 2. Ed. P. J. Cheriyan. Thiruvananthapuram: Government of Kerala, 1999.</li> <li>4. Sanal Mohan. “‘Searching for Old Histories’: Social Movements and the Project of Writing History in Twentieth-Century Kerala.” <i>History in Vernacular</i>. Ed. Raziuddin Aquil &amp; Partha Chatterjee. New Delhi: Permanent Black, 2008.</li> </ol>		
<b>Module 2 – Culture:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sarah Caldwell. “Landscapes of Feminine Power.” <i>Oh Terrifying Mother: Sexuality, Violence and Worship of the Goddess Kali</i>. Oxford UP: New Delhi, 1999.</li> <li>2. G. Arunima. “Multiple Meanings: Changing Conceptions of Matrilineal Kinship in</li> </ol>		

Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Malabar.” *The Indian Economic and Social History Review* 33, no. 3.

3. Diane Daugherty & Marlene Pitkow. “Who Wears Skirts in Kathakali?” *TDR* 35 (1991).
4. Rich Freeman. “Thereupon Hangs a Tail: The Deification of Vāli in the Teyyam Worship of Malabar.” *Questioning Ramayanas: A South Asian Tradition*. Ed. P. Richman. Berkeley: UCP, 2000.
5. Gita Kapur. “Representational Dilemmas of a Nineteenth-Century Painter: Raja Ravi Varma.” *When was Modernism: Essays on Contemporary Cultural Practice in India*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. Tulika: New Delhi, 2001.
6. K.N. Panikkar. “Chapter 6: Conclusion.” *Against Lord and State: Religion and Peasant Uprisings in Malabar 1836-1921*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. Oxford UP: New Delhi, 2001.
7. Robin Jeffrey. “Introduction: Capitalism, Politics and the Indian- Language Press.” *India’s Newspaper Revolution: Capitalism, Politics and the Indian-Language Press*. C. Hurst, 2000.

### **Module 3 – Literature: Poetry, Drama, Prose**

1. Kumaran Asan: Excerpts from *Sita Immersed in Reflection*
2. Edisseri Govindan Nair: “The Kuttippuram Bridge”
3. R. Ramachandran: “To a Parted Companion”
4. Akkitham Achuthan Nampoothiri: “The Berry in the Palm”
5. K. Satchidanandan: “How to Go to the Tao Temple”
6. A. Ayyappan: “The Buddha and the Lamb”
7. Savithri Rajeevan: “Gandhi”
8. Balachandran Chullikkad: “Where Is John?”
9. S. Joseph: “The Fishmonger”
10. Anvar Ali: “Season of Rains
11. V.T. Bhattathiripad: Excerpts from *From the Kitchen to the Stage*
12. C.N. Sreekantan Nair: Excerpts from *Kanchana Sita*
13. Sreeja K.V.: Excerpts from *In Every Age*
14. C. Kesavan: Excerpts from *Life’s Struggle*
15. Kuttikrishna Marar: “Two Salutations”
16. E.M.S. Namboodiripad: “The Malayalam of Malayalis”
17. P.K. Balakrishnan: “The Evolution of Language and the Birth of Literature”
18. B. Rajeevan: “Ethical Foundations of Modern Kerala”

### **Module 4 – Fiction:**

1. O. Chandu Menon: Excerpts from *Indulekha*
2. Lalithambika Antharjanam: “Admission of Guilt”
3. Uroob: Excerpts from *The Beautiful and the Handsome*

4. Kovilan:	Excerpts from <i>Thattakam</i>
5. O.V. Vijayan:	Excerpts from <i>The Legends of Khasak</i>
6. Madhavikkutty (Kamala Das):	“Scent of a Bird”
7. P. Vatsala:	Excerpts from <i>Aagneyam</i>
8. M. Mukundan:	Excerpts from <i>On the Banks of the Mayyazhi</i>
9. Maythil Radhakrishnan:	“Pythagoras”
10. C. Ayyappan:	“Spectral Speech”
11. Ashita:	“In the Moonlit Land”
12. S. Sithara:	“Fire”
<b>Assessment</b>	
Assignment 1 – 10 marks	
Students will be asked to make seminar presentations on topics related to their area of study.	
Assignment 2 – 10 marks	
Students will be asked to submit term papers on topics related to their area of study.	
Test – 15 marks	
A written Mid – semester examination will be conducted.	
<b>Attendance in Lectures/Participation – 5 marks</b>	
75% attendance mandatory.	
<b>Summative Assessment – 100 marks</b>	
Internal Assessment – 40 marks	
End Semester Assessment – 60 marks	

<b>Institute of English, University of Kerala</b> MA(CSS) Degree Course in English Language and Literature Intra-Departmental Elective Courses – Course Descriptions		
<b>ENG 5016 – Contemporary Malayalam Literature in English Translation</b>		
	Credits: Two	Instructor: Dr. G. S. Jayasree
<b>Aim of the course</b>		
<p>Malayalam has a rich body of writing and the aim of the course is to offer select texts in all genres from 1950s English translation. It maps the changing sensibilities in the literary landscape of Malayalam and gives a brief overview of shifting schools from late Romanticism to Postmodernism. In addition, the course examines the poetics and politics of translation when moving a text from Malayalam into English.</p>		
<b>Course Description</b>		
<p>It deals with the history of Malayalam literature in translation from 1900 to 1950 and post-1950 developments in the field of translation. It also analyses modern, post-modern and current trends in Malayalam poetry and drama, new genres of Malayalam prose – autobiography, travelogue and magical realism, and familiarizes the students with recent trends in Malayalam literature like writings on culture/art forms, the concepts of existence and survival, and Literature of minorities.</p>		
<b>Prescribed Books</b>		
<b>a. Poetry</b>		
G. Kumara Pillai:	“EthraYadrishikam”	
O.N.V. Kurup:	“Those Who Haven’t Finished Loving” [Trans. A. J. Thomas]	
N. N. Kakkad:	“Fever” [Trans. Prema Jayakumar]	
K. Ayyappa Paniker:	“The Village”	
Attoor Ravi Varma:	“Samkramanam”	
K. G. Sankara Pillai:	“What Said I to the River” [Trans. Prema Jayakumar]	
O. V. Usha:	“O Agnimitra”	
<b>b. Drama</b>		
Narendra Prasad:	<i>Sowparnika.</i>	
C. J. Thomas:	<i>Behold He Comes Again</i> [Sahitya Academy]	
G. Sankara Pillai:	<i>Wings Flapping Somewhere.</i>	
<b>c. Fiction and Short Fiction:</b>		
(i) <u>Novels:</u>		
Thakazhi:	<i>Chemmeen.</i> [Trans. Anita Nair]	
Anand:	<i>The Death Certificate</i> [Trans. Geetha Krishnankutty]	
P. Valsala:	<i>Agneyam</i> [Trans. Prema Jayakumar]	
Narayanan:	<i>Kocharethi: The Araya Woman</i> [Trans. Catherine Thankamma]	
(ii) <u>Stories:</u>		
Karoor:	“Wooden Dolls”	
Rajalekshmi:	“Aparajitha”	
M. Sukumaran:	“Marichittillathavarude Smarakangal”	
K. R. Meera:	“Yellow is the Colour of Longing” [Trans. by J. Devika]	

**d. Prose:**

(i) Autobiography:

V. T. Bhattathiripad: *My Tears, My Dreams* [Trans. Sindhu V. Nair]

(ii) Writings on Culture/Music:

S. Guptan Nair: "Indian Poetics"

Reference:

- Krishna Chaitanya. *A History of Malayalam Literature*. Orient Longman, 1971.
- A. J. Thomas. *Seventeen Contemporary Malayalam Short Stories*.
- Dr. K. M. Tharakan. *A Brief Survey of Malayalam Literature*. NBS, 1990.
- B. K. Menon, trans. *Marthanda Varma*. "An Apology about Translation". Introduction to the latest edition by Dr. Ayyappa Paniker

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End Semester Assessment – 60 marks