



बिरसा मुंडा ट्रायबल युनिवर्सिटी Birsa Munda Tribal University

राजपिपला, जि० नर्मदा Rajpipla, Dist. Narmda

Established by Tribal Development Department, Govt. of Gujarat

School of Arts

B.A. (English) Programme

Subject Name: CLASSICAL GREEK LITERATURE

Subject Code: BA05MJENG3

Teaching and Evaluation Scheme:

Teaching Scheme				Examination Scheme			
Credits				Component Weightage			
				CCE		SEE	
L	T	P	Total	TH	PWE	TH	PWE
4	-	-	4	50	00	50	00

Programme Name	B.A.
Semester	V
Course Code	BA05MJENG3
Course Title	CLASSICAL GREEK LITERATURE
Course Content Type (Th./Pr.)	Theory
Course Credit	4
Sessions+ Lab. Per Week	
Total Teaching/Lab. Hours	60 Hours
* 2 Laboratory = 1 Session	

Learning Objectives

1. To analyze the historical evolution of Greek literature from the Preclassical period to Modern Greek literature, relating texts to their cultural and historical contexts.
2. To identify and evaluate the major genres of Greek literature—epic, tragedy, comedy, and early prose fiction—along with their structural and thematic features.
3. To critically interpret prescribed texts such as The Iliad, Oedipus Rex, The Frogs, and Aethiopica in terms of theme, form, and literary significance.
4. To assess the enduring influence of Greek literature on later literary traditions and its relevance to universal human concerns.

Prerequisites (if any)

Learning Outcomes

On the Completion of this course, students will able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the historical evolution of Greek literature from the Pre-classical to Modern periods by explaining key literary phases and their cultural contexts.
2. Classify and examine major genres of Greek literature—epic, tragedy, comedy, and early prose fiction—based on their structural and thematic characteristics.



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3. Analyze and interpret prescribed texts such as The Iliad, Oedipus Rex, The Frogs, and Aethiopica with reference to literary form, themes, and critical perspectives.
4. Evaluate and articulate the influence of Greek literature on subsequent literary traditions and its continuing relevance to universal human concerns.

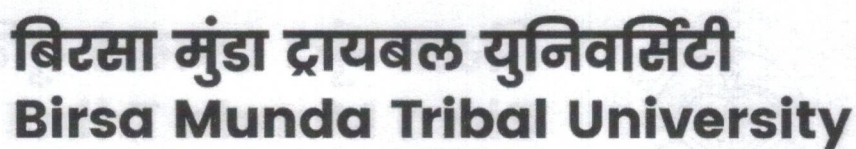
Detailed Contents		
UNIT	TOPIC/SUB-TOPIC	TEACHING HOURS
I	Historical Background A. Historical Evolution of Greek Literature (Ancient Greek Literature, Pre-classical and Classical Period, Hellenistic Period, Roman Age, Byzantine Literature, Modern Greek Literature) B. The Salient Features of the Greek Literature C. Epic: Origin, Development and Major Poets D. Tragedy: Origin, Development and Major Dramatist E. Comedy: Origin, Development and Major Dramatist	15
II	Poetry: Epic Homer: <i>Iliad</i>	15
III	Drama: Tragedy Sophocles: <i>Oedipus Rex</i>	15
IV	Drama: Comedy Aristophanes: <i>The Frogs</i> OR Novel Heliodorus of Emesa: <i>Aethiopica</i>	15

Text Book(s)

1. Homer, *Iliad*. Trans. E. V. Rieu. London: Penguin, 2003.
2. Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*. Trans. F Storr (The Three Theban Plays: Antigone - Oedipus the King - Oedipus at Colonus, Penguin Paperback, 2014)

Reference Books

1. Edith Foster and Donald Lateiner eds. *Thucydides and Herodotus* (OUP 2012)
2. P.E. Easterling & B.M.W. Knox (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Classical Literature I: Greek Literature*, (Cambridge University Press, 1985. Online edition 2008)
3. Tim Whitmarsh, *Ancient Greek Literature* (Polity, 2004)
4. Francois Hartog, *Memories of Odysseus: Frontier Tales from Ancient Greece* (University of Chicago Press, 2001)



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5. M. I Finley, *The World of Odysseus* (Penguin, 1954)
6. Mark W. Edwards, *Homer: Poet of the Iliad* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987)
7. Jasper Griffin, *Homer on Life and Death* (OUP, 1980)
8. Simon Goldhill, *Reading Greek Tragedy* (1986)
9. Oliver Taplin, *The Stagecraft of Aeschylus* (1977)
10. R.P. Winnington-Ingram, *Sophocles: An Interpretation* (1980)
11. D.J. Conacher, *Euripidean Drama* (1967)
12. James Robson, *Aristophanes* (2009)
13. Erich Segal (ed.), *Oxford Readings in Aristophanes* (1996)
14. *The Origins of Greek Thought*, Jean-Pierre Vernant (Cornell University Press, 1962)
15. "Illiad, Or the Poem of Force", Simone Weil (1940)
16. Paul Ricoeur *Time and Narrative*, vol. 1 chapter 1 (University of Chicago Press, 1988)
17. Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy* (Penguin, 2003 [1872])
18. Joshua Billings, *Genealogy of the Tragic: Greek Tragedy and German Philosophy*, Princeton University Press, 2014
19. Simon Bailey, *Greek Philosophers: The Lives and Times of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle* (2015)
20. G. Kirk, J. Raven, M. Schofield, *The Pre-Socratic Philosophers* (Cambridge, 1984)
21. R. Kraut, *The Cambridge Companion to Plato* (Cambridge, 1992)
22. A. A. Long (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Early Greek Philosophy* (Cambridge, 1999)
23. R. Martin, 'The Seven Sages as Performers of Wisdom', in C. Dougherty and L. Kurke (eds.), *Cultural Poetics in Archaic Greece* (Cambridge, 1993)
24. M. C. Nussbaum, *The Fragility of Goodness; Luck and Ethics in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy* (Princeton, 1998)
25. R. Fowler, *The Cambridge Companion to Homer* (Cambridge, 2004)
26. M. Griffith, "Personality in Hesiod", *Classical Antiquity* 2 (1983) 37-65
27. R. Janko, 'The Homeric Poems and Oral Dictated Texts', *Classical Quarterly*, 48 (1998), 1-13
28. I. Morris, 'The Use and Abuse of Homer', *Classical Antiquity*, 5 (1986), 81-138
30. G. Nagy, *The Best of the Achaeans* (Baltimore, 1979)
29. R. B. Rutherford, *Homer, Greece and Rome new surveys in the Classics*, 26 (Oxford, 1996)
30. P. Cartledge, *Aristophanes and his Theatre of the Absurd* (Bristol, 1990)
31. P. Easterling (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Greek Tragedy* (Cambridge, 1997)
32. E. Hall, *Inventing the Barbarian: Greek Self-Definition through Tragedy* (Oxford, 1989)
33. J. Herington, *Poetry Into Drama: Early Tragedy and the Greek Poetic Tradition* (Berkeley and London, 1985)
34. J. Winkler and F. Zeitlin (eds.), *Nothing to do with Dionysos?: Athenian Drama in Social Context* (Princeton, 1990)

Web Resources

Required Software(s) (if any)



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Practical(s) (if any)

L:: Lecture, **T::** Tutorial , **P::**Practical

CCE::Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation

(CCETheory includes Mid Semester Examination, Assignment, MCQ quizzes, Seminar, Reflective notes, class participation, case analysis and presentation; slip tests (announced/ surprised), attendance etc. or any combination of these)

PWE::Practical Work Examination

(PWE includes Laboratory practical work, project work, viva simulation exercise work etc.)

SEE::Semester End Evaluation

