

Course No: SLS 4004

Course Title: Comparative Literature

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Core/Optional: Optional

Objectives:

- To train students in comparative methods in literary studies
- To evaluate interactions and inter-relations among literary cultures
- To recognize the difference in the concept of “literary” in different cultures and periods
- To examine the ways the literature can be used as a tool creating a global citizen

Intended Learning Outcomes:

On completing the course, students will be able to

- Identify principles of comparative literature
- Familiarize with universal literature
- Comprehend any piece of literature with comparative perspective
- Examine interconnections among various literary and intellectual activities
- Recognize and explain subtle connections between human cultures
- Move beyond narrow confines of national literatures in practicing literary criticism

Time Allocation: (Hours): Supervised Independent Research: 300

Course Description

This course is an introduction to comparative methods of literary studies but its focus is the inter-relations between modern Sinhala literature and literatures from other national literary cultures such as American, British, French, Japanese and Russian. In addition, the course deals with the inter-textual dimensions of modern literature by attending to textual relations between literature and history, literature and biography, literature and cinema and so on. And the course will also look into what really happens when a text is translated and transported into a different literary culture.

Recommended Texts:

Amarakeerthi, Liyanage. *Pahana Saha Kedapatha*. Punchi Borella: Wijesooriya Book Centre, 2010.

Basenett, Susan. *Comparative Literature: A Critical Introduction*. London: Blackwell, 1993.

Bernheimer, Charles. *Comparative Literature in the Age of Multiculturalism*. Baltimore: John Hopkins Uni. Press, 1994.

Winternitz, Maurice. *A History of Indian Literature Vol. II – Buddhist Literature and Jaina Literature*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 1988.

Assessment	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment (Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	40
End Semester Examination	60