



# INTRODUCTION TO WORLD LITERATURE

## **PROF. MERIN SIMI RAJ**

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IIT Madras

**INTENDED AUDIENCE :** Any Interested Learners

### **COURSE OUTLINE :**

This course is an introduction to a wide range of writings produced in different nations, languages and cultural contexts. While this course cannot claim to cover all literary traditions from all time periods, it does try to introduce the learners to representative texts that are available in English language. The objective of the course is to focus on learning how great writings can intervene and engage with global cultures while remaining rooted and situated in their specific, local contexts. These discussions need to be seen as 'entry points' that would enable learners to explore world literatures.

### **ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :**

Prof. Merin Simi Raj is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Madras. She specializes in Postcolonial Writing, Modernity Studies and Historiography Studies. Her teaches History of English Language and Literature, Indian fiction in English, Literary Criticism, World Literature and Feminist Writings.

### **COURSE PLAN :**

**Week 1:** Introduction

**Week 2:** Classics: Beowulf, Don Quixote, Arabian Nights

**Week 3:** Indian literature: Kalidasa, Tagore, Rushdie, Kamala Das

**Week 4:** Literature in translation: Akutagawa's In a Grove Borges' Garden of Forking Paths Manto's Toba Tek Singh

**Week 5:** Short stories and excerpts from novels: Marquez, Borges, Calvino, Flaubert, Tolstoy

**Week 6:** Poetry Dover Beach, Wasteland, Song of Lawino

**Week 7:** Drama Ibsen's Doll's House Shakespeare's Othello

**Week 8:** African-American literature Toni Morrison Achebe's Things Fall Apart Everyday Use by Alice Walker

**Week 9:** English and American literature: Arnold's Dover Beach Eliot's Wasteland Faulkner's A Rose for Emily

**Week 10:** Women writers: Gilman's Yellow Wallpaper Aphra Behn's Oroonoko

**Week 11:** Prose (non-fiction) and critical theory: Aristotle's Poetics Barthes' Death of the author Woolf's. A Room of One's Own Kolodny's Dancing through the minefield

**Week 12:** Contemporary writers and new genres