

*Note: this syllabus was used in a previous version of this course. While the basic features of the course, including both the syllabus as well as grading structures and methods of assessment, will remain the same, individual details are subject to change before the Fall 2022 semester.*

## **India's Literature: Love, War, Wisdom, and Humor SAST 004**

**Instructor:** Gregory Goulding ([ggouldin@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:ggouldin@sas.upenn.edu))

**TA:**

**Time:**

**Room:**

**Office Hours:**

### **Description:**

This course introduces students to the extraordinary quality of literary production during the past four millennia of South Asian civilization. We will read texts in translation from all parts of South Asia up to the sixteenth century. We will read selections from hymns, lyric poems, epics, wisdom literature, plays, political works, and religious texts. This course fulfills the Arts and Letters Sector and the Cross Cultural Analysis Requirements.

*Note: No prior background in the study of Indian or South Asian Literatures, or any knowledge of South Asian languages, is required.*

### **Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**

- Short writing assignments / Participation in discussion sessions: 20% of Final Grade
- Writing Assignment One (2-3 pages): 10% of Final Grade
- Writing Assignment Two (3-4 pages): 20% of Final Grade
- Writing Assignment Three (4-5 pages): 20% of Final Grade
- Final 6-8 page writing assignment (to be developed from prior assignments): 30% of Final Grade

**Required Texts:** Readings will be Posted on Canvas.

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance and participation are an essential part of this course. Your attendance in the course and participation, which comprises twenty percent of your grade, will be evaluated both by your actual attendance in the class, as well as by your completion of in-class exercises. Excessive absences will result in a significant lowering of your grade.

**Reading:** This course revolves around engaged reading before class. Therefore, in the first class we will discuss reading practices, in order to collectively commit to our own reading practice for the course. While readings should not be onerous, you will be expected to have read them with focus and attention, and be prepared to discuss them in class.

**Academic Integrity:** It is your responsibility to be familiar with the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. Instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for adjudication.

**Accommodations:** University of Pennsylvania provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and been approved by the office of [Student Disabilities Services](#) (SDS). Please make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible in order to discuss your accommodations and your needs. If you have not yet contacted SDS, and would like to request accommodations or have questions, you can make an appointment by calling SDS 215.573.9235. The office is located in the [Weingarten Learning Resources Center](#) at Stouffer Commons 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300. All services are confidential.

**Financial Need:** If you have any financial issue—including the need to work—which affects or may affect your ability to participate in the class, please inform me and we will find a way to resolve the issue.

**Office Hours:** If you are unable to meet with either us during the posted office hours, please let one of us know and we can arrange another time to meet. In addition, meetings can take place through Zoom.

**Plagiarism Policy:** <http://www.college.upenn.edu/policies/integrity.php> and [http://www.gethelp.library.upenn.edu/PORT/documentation/plagiarism\\_policy.html](http://www.gethelp.library.upenn.edu/PORT/documentation/plagiarism_policy.html)

**Week 1. (9/2) Introduction**

**Week 2. (9/8) India’s Literature: a Question**

**Readings:** A.K. Ramanujan, “Some Thoughts on non-Western ‘Classics’”

**Readings:** A.K. Ramanujan, “Many Ramayanas”

**Week 3. (9/13 + 9/15) Ramayana — Introduction + Duty/Politics**

**Readings:** Goldman, “General Introduction,” pp. 3–13;

**Readings:** Balakanda, Sarga 2, (pp. 127–129)

**Readings:** Ayodhyakanda, Sarga 16, (pp. 114–118)

**Week 4. (9/20 + 9/22) (Buddhacarita**

**Readings:** Patrick Olivelle, “Introduction,” pp. xix–liii

**Readings:** Buddha Charita, Canto 3, 5 (pp. 60-83; 124-157) [*note: the text includes a facing translation, so every other page does not need to be read*]

**Week 5. (9/27 + 9/29) Rama and Ravana (Paper 1 due 10/1)**

**Readings:** *Aranyakanda*, pp. 169-185

**Readings:** *The Life of a Text* (selections TBD)

**Week 6. (10/4 + 10/6) Rama and Sita**

**Readings:** Yuddhakanda 103-106 (454-463);

**Readings:** Uttarakanda 42-49 (pp. 333-345)

**Readings:** *Uttararāmacarita*, “Prologue,” and “Act I”, pp. 64–123

**Week 7. (10/11+ 10/13) Meghaduta: The Cloud Messenger**

**Readings:** *Meghaduta*, part 1 (pp. 22-63)

- Readings:** *Meghadūta*, part 2 (pp. 64-100)
- Week 8.** (10/18 + 10/20) **Afterlives of the Messenger Poem**
- Readings:** David Shulman and Yigal Bronner, “A Cloud Turned Goose,”
- Readings:** *hansasandesha* (pp. 5-43)
- Readings:** *Hansasandesha* (pp. 49–73)
- Week 9.** (10/25 + 10/27) **Stories and Adventures (paper 2 due 10/29)**
- Week 10.** *Kathasaritsagar*, selections TBD
- Week 11.** (11/1 + 11/3) **Oct. 28, 30: Love and Landscape: Classical South Indian Poetry**
- Readings:** *Songs of Love and War*, selections
- Week 12.** (11/8 + 11/10) **Nov. 4, 6: The Popular and the Particular**
- Week 13.** *The Satasai*, selections
- Week 14.** (11/15 + 11/17) **Buddhism, Women’s Writing, and the Lyric (paper 3 due 11/19)**
- Readings:** *Therīgāthā* [Poems of the First Buddhist Women], Introduction
- Readings:** *Therīgāthā* [Poems of the First Buddhist Women], selections
- Week 15.** (11/22) **open class**
- Week 16.** (11/29 + 12/1) **Nov. 11, 13 Love and God**
- Readings:** Barbara Stoler Miller, “Introduction,” pp. 3-37
- Readings:** Selections from the *Gitagovinda* , pp. 69-71; 78-79; 90-91; 115-119; 122-125
- Week 17.** (12/6 + 12/8). **Devotion**
- Readings:** Mirabai, pp. 41-63 (selections)
- Readings:** Surdas, selection
- Week 18.** **Dec. 9. Final Class**

**Final Paper due: December 16**