

# Humanities University

## Study Guide

### LIT 433 Indian Literature

#### Required Texts

Bedford Anthology of World Literature, Books 1-6. Boston: Bedford-St. Martins, 2004.

UNIT	WEEKS	TOPICS	READINGS
<b>I</b>		<b>Ancient Literature</b>	
	1	India: Ancient Literature Vedic Literature	Book 1, 1323-1331 Book 1, 1332-1350
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms:	
	Essay Topics	E1: Please provide an overview of Vedic Literature.	
	2	The Ramayana	Book 1, 1351-1433
	Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Rama and Sita.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms:	
	Essay Topics	E1: Discuss the conflict of duty(Dharma) and desire(Karma) for Rama.	
	3	The Mahabharata	Book 1, 1434-1487
	Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Rama and Sita.	
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms:	
	Essay Topics	E1: Describe the main conflict between two families.	
	4	Bhagavad-Gita	Book 1, 1488-1514
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms:	
	Essay Topics	E1: Please provide an overview of Bhagavad-Gita. E2: Discuss Arjuna's dilemma and Krishna's advice how to solve it.	
<b>II</b>		<b>Middle Period</b>	
	5	India's Middle Period Tamil Anthologies	Book 2, 207-211 Book 2, 212-223
	Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms:	
	Essay Topics	E1. Please provide an overview of Tamil anthology poetry.	

E2. Please answer the following questions for each of the poems in this chapter: Who is the narrator? What is the poet describing? Discuss the narrator's experience in terms of perceptions and emotions. Can you see any ideas and themes in the poems? Please list specific elements of the poem to support your argument.

6	Kalidasa Shakuntala and the Ring of Recollection	Book 2, 224-229 Book 2, 230-292
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Dushyanta and Sakuntala.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms:	
Essay Topics	E1: Discuss the conflict of duty(Dharma) and desire(Karma) for Dushyanta. E2. Please provide an overview of Sanskrit Drama.	
<b>III Early Modern</b>		
7-8	Spiritual Devotion Indian Devotional Poetry	Book 3, 913-928 Book 3, 929-972
Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms:	
Essay Topics	E1 Please provide an overview of Bhakti literature, Indian Devotional Poetry. Tamil songs to Shiva, Kannada songs to Shiva.  E2. Please provide an overview of Jayadawa's and Mirabai's, and Kabir's life and works. E3. Please answer the following questions for each of the poems in this chapter: Who is the narrator? What is the poet describing? Discuss the narrator's experience in terms of perceptions and emotions. Can you see any ideas and themes in the poems? Please list specific elements of the poem to support your argument.	
9	The Mughal Empire Ramprasad Sen	Book 4, 607-611 Book 4, 612-624
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms:	
Essay Topics	E1: Please answer the following questions for each of the poems in this chapter: Who is the narrator? What is the poet describing? Discuss the narrator's experience in terms of perceptions and emotions. Can you see any ideas and themes in the poems? Please list specific elements of the poem to support your argument.	
<b>V Modern Period</b>		
10	Colonial India Ghalib	Book 5, 955-959 Book 5, 960-972
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms.	
Essay Topics	E1. Please answer the following questions for each of the poems in this chapter: Who is the narrator? What is the poet describing? Discuss the narrator's experience in terms of perceptions and emotions. Can you see any ideas and themes in the poems? Please	

list specific elements of the poem to support your argument.

11	Tagore	Book 5, 973-1034
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Srivilas and Satish.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms:	
Essay Topics	E1: Describe the nighttime and daytime selves of Srijut. Does how everyone has different social and private selves. E2. Why is "Broken Ties" considered a Bildungsroman? What are the stages of Srivilas' growth in life?	
12	Rokeye Sakhawat Hossain Sultana's Dream	Book 6, 320-322 Book 6, 323-330
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes.	
Literary Terms	Please briefly define key literary terms.	
Essay Topics	E1: Describe how Hossain critiques the roles and relationships of men and women. What kinds of role reversals occur in her story? How does the story critique certain social practices, such as the purdah? Why is "Sultana's Dream" considered a feminist utopian satire?	
13	R. K. Narayan A Horse and Two Goats	Book 6, 781-784 Book 6, 785-796
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes, character analysis of Muni, critical scene.	
Essay Topics	E1: Describe the encounter of Muni and the American Businessman. Discuss miscommunication that takes place whenever people of different backgrounds, cultures, education, and languages.	
14	Anita Desai The Farewell Party	Book 6, 1193-1195 Book 6, 1196-1204
Author	Please write a brief author biography.	
Literary Analysis	Please provide a brief description of plot, themes.	
Essay Topics	E1. Discuss the theme of isolation and alienation among westernized middle class Indians. Why do Bina and Raman feel obliged to give a farewell party to people that they do not feel comfortable with?	
15	Crossing Cultures, The Example of India	Book 6, 1278-1326
	E1: Please provide an overview and ideas of the authors in this chapter.	

