



Indraprastha College for Women University of Delhi

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2026

Course Name:	BA(P)English
Paper Title:	Indian Classical Literature
Unique Paper Code:	2032201102
Semester:	1
Faculty:	Bithika Gorai
Year:	2026

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
I	Dramatic Context and Acts I–III	1	Introduction to Sanskrit drama and Kalidasa; background to Abhijnanasakuntalam and its place in classical Indian theatre.
I	Dramatic Context and Acts I–III	2	Prologue and Act I: the king, the hermitage and the encounter between Dushyanta and Shakuntala.
I	Dramatic Context and Acts I–III	3	Act II: comic and courtly elements; Vidushaka; desire, kingship and the contrast between court and forest.
I	Dramatic Context and Acts I–III	4	Act III: love, Gandharva marriage and the dramatic representation of desire and separation.
I	Dramatic Context and Acts I–III	5	Nature and the hermitage: ecological, aesthetic and symbolic dimensions of the forest world.
I	Dramatic Context and Acts I–III	6	Classical dramatic conventions: rasa, bhava, stagecraft, verse-prose movement and characterization.
II	Separation, Curse and Recognition	7	Act IV: Durvasa's curse, departure from the hermitage and the emotional world of separation.
II	Separation, Curse and Recognition	8	Kanva's farewell: parental affection, female transition and the pathos of departure.
II	Separation, Curse and Recognition	9	Act V: Shakuntala at court; memory, recognition and the politics of testimony.

II	Separation, Curse and Recognition	10	The ring as dramatic symbol: memory, identity, recognition and loss.
II	Separation, Curse and Recognition	11	Shakuntala's suffering and questions of gender, power and responsibility.
II	Separation, Curse and Recognition	12	The role of fate, divine intervention and the relationship between human action and cosmic order.
III	Resolution, Form and Interpretation	13	Act VI: Dushyanta's remorse; the celestial journey and the movement from guilt to recovery.
III	Resolution, Form and Interpretation	14	Act VII: Maricha's hermitage, reunion and the recognition of Shakuntala and Bharata.
III	Resolution, Form and Interpretation	15	Rasa and aesthetic experience: shringara, karuna and adbhuta in the play.
III	Resolution, Form and Interpretation	16	Dushyanta and Shakuntala as complex characters: desire, memory, duty and transformation.
III	Resolution, Form and Interpretation	17	Nature, kingship, family and social order: major thematic tensions in the play.
III	Resolution, Form and Interpretation	18	Revision and critical discussion: structure, dramatic technique, rasa, gender and the politics of recognition.

Unit	Contents/Syllabus
I	Introduction to Sanskrit drama and Kalidasa; Acts I–III; Dushyanta and Shakuntala; court and hermitage; love, nature and dramatic conventions.
II	Acts IV–V; Durvasa's curse; Kanva's farewell; separation; court scene; ring, memory and recognition; gender and power.
III	Acts VI–VII; Dushyanta's remorse and transformation; reunion; rasa and aesthetic experience; nature, kingship, family and social order.
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers
1.	Kalidasa. Abhijnanasakuntalam: The Recognition of Shakuntala. Trans. Chandra Rajan. Penguin Classics.

2.	Kalidasa. The Recognition of Shakuntala. Trans. Barbara Stoler Miller. Columbia University Press.
3.	A.B. Keith. The Sanskrit Drama in Its Origin, Development, Theory and Practice. Motilal Banarsidass.
4.	S. K. De. History of Sanskrit Poetics. Firma K.L. Mukhopadhyay.

Paper Components			
Credits	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
	1		
Assessment Scheme			
S.No.	Component	Marking Scheme	Total Marks
1	Internal Assessment - Assignment - Class Test - Attendance	12+12	
2.	Continuous Assessment (Tutorial) - Activity 1 - Activity 2 - Attendance	20+15	
3.	Practical - Continuous Assessment - End Term Written/Practical Exam - Viva		
4.	End Semester Examination		