



Indraprastha College for Women University of Delhi

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2026

Course Name:	BA(H)English
Paper Title:	Indian Classical Literature
Unique Paper Code:	2032101103
Semester:	I
Faculty:	Bithika Gorai
Year:	2026

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
I	Context, Epic Form and Puhar	1	Introduction to Tamil classical literature and the Tamil epic tradition; Ilango Adigal and the place of Cillappatikaram.
I	Context, Epic Form and Puhar	2	Structure of Cillappatikaram: three cantos/major sections, narrative movement and interweaving of poetry, music and performance.
I	Context, Epic Form and Puhar	3	The city of Puhar: commerce, urban life, festivals and cultural plurality.
I	Context, Epic Form and Puhar	4	Kovalan and Kannaki: marriage, desire, wealth and the early stages of their relationship.
I	Context, Epic Form and Puhar	5	Madhavi and the courtesan tradition: performance, art, desire and social identity.
I	Context, Epic Form and Puhar	6	The anklet as central symbol: possession, value, identity and the movement of the narrative.
II	Madurai, Injustice and Kannaki	7	The journey to Madurai: exile, poverty, endurance and the transformation of the protagonists.
II	Madurai, Injustice and Kannaki	8	The royal court and the accusation against Kovalan: justice, evidence and the failure of authority.
II	Madurai, Injustice and Kannaki	9	Kannaki's confrontation with the Pandyan king: truth, chastity and moral authority.
II	Madurai, Injustice and Kannaki	10	The burning of Madurai: divine justice, righteous anger and the epic imagination.

II	Madurai, Injustice and Kannaki	11	Kannaki as an ethical and political figure: gender, agency and resistance to patriarchal power.
II	Madurai, Injustice and Kannaki	12	The moral order of the text: kingly responsibility, justice, fate and the consequences of wrongdoing.
III	Vanchi, Memory and Cultural Significance	13	The Vanchi section: Chera kingship, memory and the making of Kannaki's cult.
III	Vanchi, Memory and Cultural Significance	14	Kannaki's transformation from woman to sacred figure: deification, ritual and collective memory.
III	Vanchi, Memory and Cultural Significance	15	Women, marriage and female agency: Kannaki and Madhavi as contrasting figures.
III	Vanchi, Memory and Cultural Significance	16	Music, dance, landscape and performance traditions in Cillappatikaram.
III	Vanchi, Memory and Cultural Significance	17	Society and culture: trade, cities, kingship, religion and regional identity.
III	Vanchi, Memory and Cultural Significance	18	Revision and critical discussion: epic form, justice, gender, performance, memory and cultural identity.

Unit	Contents/Syllabus
I	Tamil classical literary context; Ilango Adigal; structure and epic form; Puhar; Kovalan, Kannaki and Madhavi; urban culture, performance and the anklet.
II	Journey to Madurai; Kovalan's execution; royal injustice; Kannaki's confrontation with the king; burning of Madurai; justice, gender, agency and moral authority.
III	Vanchi section; Kannaki's deification; kingship and cultural memory; women and social roles; music, dance, landscape, religion and regional identity.
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers
1.	Ilango Adigal. The Tale of an Anklet: An Epic of South India—The Cilappatikaram of Ilanko Atikal. Trans. R. Parthasarathy. Columbia University Press.
2.	Ilango Adigal. Cilappatikaram. Trans. Alain Daniélou and R. K. K. Nair. New Directions.

3.	A. K. Ramanujan, ed. Poems of Love and War: From the Eight Anthologies and the Ten Long Poems of Classical Tamil. Columbia University Press.
4.	Kamil Zvelebil. Tamil Literature. Otto Harrassowitz.

	Paper Components		
Credits	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
	1	1	
Assessment Scheme			
S.No.	Component	Marking Scheme	Total Marks
1	Internal Assessment - Assignment - Class Test - Attendance	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		