UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NET BUREAU

NET SYLLABUS

Subject: FOLK LITERATURE  
Code No: (71)

Unit–1 Folklore: Definition, Concept and Classification

Who are the Folk? - Concepts of Folklife and Folkloristics - Ethnicity - Family types - Natal, Conjugal, Nuclear, Extended (Generational and Polyandrous) - Types of relationships in Family – direct, shared, sexual and descent - Functions of Family - Kinship Terminology: Types of Kinship, Role of Kinship - Social Categories and Social Organization in the creation, transmission and sustenance of Folklore / Folklife.


Unit–2 Historiography of Folkloristics

Folk, from ‘Savage’ to ‘Imagined Group’ - Folklore as Data and Folklore as Study – Oracy Vs. Literacy – Classical Vs. Folk - Emergence of Folklore as an Academic Discipline - Folklore Studies in Abroad - Folklore Studies in India – Subaltern Studies – Tribal Studies – Diaspora Studies – Green Studies.

Unit–3 Folk Literature

Definition and Epistemology of Folk Literature – Fields of Folk Literature: Myths, Epics, Legends, Folk Tales, Folk Songs, Proverbs, Riddles, Tongue Twisters, Speech Acts – Verbal Art in Performances (Theatre, Dance Drama, Medicinal Chants,

Unit–4 Theories of Folklore – I : Diachronic Approaches


Devolutionary Theories - Concept of Devolution - Types of Devolutionary Theories - Marxists and Elitists.

Diffusion Theories (Monogenesis) - Concept of Diffusion - Indianist Theory or Benfy’s Migration Theory – Egyptians School and Finnish School or Historical-Geographic Method.

Diffusion Theories (Polygenesis) - Psychic Unity - Convergence Vs. Parallelism Theories – Romantic Nationalism and its Manifestations.

Unit–5 Theories of Folklore – II : Synchronic Approaches


Poststructural and Postmodern Approaches - Meaning and Tenets of Poststructuralism, New Hermeneutics, Text, Textuality, Textual Analysis - Paul Ricoeur and Theories of Interpretation - Historical Milieu of the Theories - Concept and Theory of Deconstruction - Derrida, Lacan, Foucault - Gender Theories and
Approaches - Gender and Genre - Feminism and Gender Perspectives – Queer Theory.

**Semiotic Approaches** - Semiotic Approach to Folk Culture Studies - Ferdinand de Saussure and Charles S. Pierce on Sign System and Culture - Perspectives on Discourse Analysis.
Unit–6 Folklife and Cultural Performances


Unit–7 Public Folklore and Mass Media

Basic Concepts - Folklore, Folklorism, Folklorismus, Folklorization, Applied Folklore, Public Folklore and Second Life of Folklore - Folklore in Public Sphere – Folklore and Communication – Folklore and New Media.

Unit–8 Folklore and Globalisation


Unit–9 Indian Folk Cultural Practices


Unit–10 Fieldwork, Documentation and Archival Practices