KU3MDCENG201: KERALA KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

Semester	Course Type	Course Level	Course Code	Credits	Total Hours
3	MDC	200-299	KU3MDCENG201	3	45

Learning Approach (Hours/ Week)			Marks Distribution			Duration of ESE (Hours)
Lecture	Practical/ Internship	Tutorial	CE	ESE	Total	
3	0	0	25	50	75	1.5

Course Description:

This course offers a multidisciplinary introduction to the diverse and evolving knowledge systems of Kerala. It explores the political, historical, cultural, ecological, and philosophical traditions that have shaped the region's intellectual landscape. The course critically examines how indigenous knowledge, oral traditions, reformist movements, and modern interventions have contributed to the construction and transmission of knowledge within the broader framework of Indian Knowledge Systems.

Course Prerequisite: NIL

Course Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to

CO No.	Expected Outcome	Learning Domains
1	Contextualize the concept of 'knowledge systems' with specific reference to Kerala as a socio-cultural and ecological region.	U, A
2	Identify and analyse the diverse knowledge practices among Kerala's communities, their continuities and transformations.	An
3	Interpret and evaluate Kerala's oral, performative, and institutionalised knowledge traditions	An, E
4	Explore and assess the transformation and democratization of knowledge in Kerala.	A, E
5	Critically examine the contributions of Kerala's reformers and philosophers in shaping epistemologies rooted in ethical inquiry.	E, C

****Remember (R), Understand (U), Apply (A), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C)***

Mapping of Course Outcomes to PSOs

	PSO 1	PSO 2	PSO 3	PSO 4	PSO 5	PSO 6	PSO 7
CO 1	X					X	
CO 2		X				X	X
CO 3		X	X				
CO 4		X		X		X	
CO 5	X		X			X	

COURSE CONTENTS

Contents for Classroom Transaction:

MODULE	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	HOURS 45
1	**Module 1: Regional Knowledge Systems**		5
	1	Definition of Kerala as a Region, How Do We Define Categories? What is Knowledge? (pp. 1-3), Academic Knowledge (pp. 7-8)	
	2	Ayyappa Paniker. "World Malayali"	
2	**Module 2: Textual Survivals of Oral Compositions**		10
	1	Folklore (pp. 54-56 only)	
	2	"Thottam on Pottan" (Excerpts) Trans. K. M. Tharakan	
	3	Heroic Ballads (pp. 61-63)	
	4	"Unniyarcha and Aromal Unni" Trans. Kamala Das.	
3	**Module 3: Philosophy-in-Action**		10
	1	Social Movements and Knowledge Production, Philosophy as a way of Life: Narayana Guru (pp. 155-157)	
	2	The Problem of True Knowledge: Poykayil Appachan (pp. 158-159)	
	3	"A Song of Poykayil Appachan" Trans. Ajay Sekher	
	4	Ayyankali's Militancy (pp. 149-151)	

4	**Module 4: The Coming of New Knowledge to Kerala**		**5**
	1	Translation, Modernisation and Social Reform, What is Modern, The Modernisation through Translation (pp. 164-166)	
	2	P. N. Gopikrishnan. "Jean Valjean and the Political Correctness of *Les Misérables*" (Trans. K. C. Muraleedharan)	

5	**Teacher Specific Module** *A teacher can design activities for internal evaluation* Design and implement field-based or project-oriented explorations: 1. **Team-Teaching** for Science, Technology, History, Mathematics (pp. 33-48, 113-121) – A college-level panel of experts comprising faculty from the concerned departments and research scholars may be constituted to engage classes or deliver invited lectures by Alumni scholars. 2. **Seminar: 1. Ecosystem-Based Knowledge** – Knowledge systems of forest dwellers and fishing communities (pp. 23–32), *Varthamānapustakam* (pp. 83–86), *Hortus Malabaricus* (pp. 130–132) etc. **2. Interventions in the Public Sphere**: Women's Magazines, Activism and Academics: New Social Movements, Role of the Malayalam Language in Knowledge Production (pp. 159-162) **3. The Making of a Malayali Identity through Translation** – Translation from Sanskrit theological works into Malayalam, English education and translations, translation and social change (pp. 166–172). 3. **Book/Article Review:** Biographies of Vakkom Moulavi (pp. 174–178), Janaki Ammal (p. 160), autobiographies of C. K. Revathi Amma, C. K. Janu, and other indigenous personalities of North Kerala. 4. **Assignment & Viva-Voce**: Fieldwork related to Theyyam (pp. 98–104), Kathakali (pp. 104–106), Koothu (p. 93), Koodiyattam (pp. 91–92), Ottamthullal, Patayani, Poorakkali, Kolkkali, paintings, photographs etc. Evaluate the submitted assignments through a viva-voce examination.	**15**

Essential Reading:

Gurukkal, Rajan, editor. *Knowledge Systems of Kerala*. Kerala State Higher Education Council and Orient BlackSwan, 2024.

Ayyappa Paniker, "World Malayali." *Malayalam Literature in Translation*, edited by C. R. Murukan Babu, Mainspring Publishers, 2016.

Anonymous. "Thottam on Pottan." Translated by K. M. Tharakan, *The Sacred in Popular Hinduism: An Empirical Study in Chirakkal, North Malabar*, edited by A. M. Abraham Ayrookuzhiel, Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society, 1983, pp. 170–77.

Anonymous. "Unniyarcha and Aromal Unni." Translated by Kamala Das, *Malayalam Literature in Translation*, edited by C. R. Murukan Babu, Mainspring Publishers, 2016.

Appachan, Poykayil. “A Song.” Translated by Ajay Sekher. *The Shared Mirror*, Round Table India, https://roundtableindia.co.in/lit-blogs/?p=2054.

Gopikrishnan, P. N. “Jean Valjeanum Paavangalile Raashtreeyashariyum” [Jean Valjean and the Political Correctness of *Les Misérables*]. *Mathrubhumi Weekly*, 103(12), 12–13 (8 June 2025).

Suggested Reading:

Gurukkal, Rajan. "Higher Order Knowledge: The Challenge of Transmission." *Higher Education for the Future*, vol. 11, no.1, 2024, pp. 7–10. https://doi.org/10.1177/23476311231217874.

Kurup, K. K. N. “Intellectual Movements in Kerala.” *Nationalism and Social Change: The Role of Malayalam Literature*, Kerala Sahitya Akademi, 1998, pp. 27–34.

Ramakrishnan, E. V. *Indigenous Imaginaries: Literature, Region, Modernity*. Orient BlackSwan, 2017.

Raveendran, P. P. *Texts, Histories and Geographies: Reading Indian Literature*. Orient BlackSwan, 2009.

Assessment Rubrics:

Evaluation Type		**Marks**
End Semester Evaluation		**50**
Continuous Evaluation		**25**
a)	Test Paper- 1	5
c)	Assignment	5
d)	Seminar	5
e)	Book/Article Review	5
f)	Viva-Voce	5
Total		**75**

(**Note:** The page numbers mentioned refer to the book, *Knowledge Systems of Kerala*.)