

# EIGHTH SEMESTER

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**Course Title: Literary Theory and Practice II**

**Course Code: EL 425**

**Semester: 8**

**Credit Hours: 3**

**Pre-Requisites Course Requirements: 12 Years of Education**

## **Learning Outcomes**

This course is pivoted on the following major objectives:

1. To introduce the students to the history and evolution of literary theory
2. To enable them to develop a deeper understanding how different theories may be blended to create different theoretical frameworks for analyzing different texts
3. To be able to offer critiques, not only of the literary texts, but also of the theories under discussion
4. To provide preliminary training to students so that they may be able to engage in independent theorizations, should they pursue higher degrees in the field

## **Contents**

### **Unit-I**

#### 1.1 Defining Literary Criticism, Theory and Literature

1.1.1 What is a text?

1.1.2 Who is a critic and what is literary criticism?

1.1.3 What is literary theory?

1.1.4 How to read and interpret texts

- 1.1.5 The purpose of literary theory
- 1.1.6 How to extract multiple, but cogent meanings, from a single text

## **Unit-II**

### 2.1 Tracing the Evolution of Literary Theory and Criticism

- 2.1.1 Plato to Plotinus
- 2.1.2 Dante Alighieri to Boccaccio
- 2.1.3 Sidney to Henry James
- 2.1.4 Bakhtin and modern literary criticism

## **Unit-III**

### 3.1 Russian Formalism and New Criticism

- 3.1.1 Russian Formalism: Development and Key terms
- 3.1.2 The application of Russian Formalism on a literary text
- 3.1.3 Differences between Russian Formalism and New Criticism
- 3.1.4 Major tenets and methods
- 3.1.5 Critiques of Russian Formalism and New Criticism

## **Unit-IV**

### 4.1 Structuralism

- 4.1.1 Understanding Modernity and Modernism
- 4.1.2 The Development of Structuralism
- 4.1.5 Methodologies of Structuralism
- 4.1.6 Applications on different literary texts
- 4.1.7 Critiques of structuralism

## **Unit-V**

### 5.1 Psychoanalysis

- 5.1.1 The development of psychoanalytic criticism
- 5.1.2 Sigmund Freud and his basic terminology, including id, ego, superego, Models of the human psyche, neurosis, cathexes, Freudian slips, Oedipus and Electra complexes (infantile stage, phallic stage, castration complex, pleasure principle)
- 5.1.4 Lacan and the major concepts of the imaginary order and the mirror stage, the Ideal-I, objet petit á, symbolic order, the real order

## **Unit-VI**

### 6.1 Feminism

- 6.1.1 Historical development
- 6.1.2 The First Second and Third Waves of Feminism (Virginia Woolf, Simone de Beauvoire, Showalter, Kate Millett, Butler)
- 6.1.3 French Feminism (Luce Irigaray, Julia Kristeva, Helene Cixous)
- 6.1.4 Third World Feminism (Gayatri Spivak, Sara Suleri, Chandra Talpade Mohanty) and its relation with the contemporary socio-political scenario

**Unit-VII**

## 7.1 Marxism

- 7.1.1 Development of Marxism
- 7.1.2 Major Marxist theorists (Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, George Lukács, Antonio Gramsci, Louis Althusser, Frederic Jameson and Terry Eagleton)
- 7.1.3 Key terms: dialectical materialism, base, superstructure, interpellation, false consciousness, proletariat, relations with the market, hegemony, Ideological State Apparatus, political unconscious

**Unit-VIII**

## 8.1 Cultural Poetics or New Historicism

- 8.1.1 Differences between Old Historicism and New Historicism
- 8.1.2 The development of New Historicism
- 8.1.3 Cultural Materialism
- 8.1.4 Major theorists (Michel Foucault, Clifford Geertz)
- 8.1.5 Major terminology (discourse, poetics of culture, interdiscursivity)

**Unit-IX**

## 9.1 Postcolonialism

- 9.1.1 Colonialism and Postcolonialism: Historical Development
- 9.1.2 Major theorists (Homi Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak, Frantz Fanon, Edward Said)
- 9.1.3 Key concepts and binaries, such as hegemony, center/ periphery, Us/Other, marginalization, double voicedness, Third Space, liminality, hybridity, assimilation, ecological mimeticism, the minoritization of the English language through code-switching and code-mixing etc.
- 9.1.4 Postcolonial theory and the diasporic experience

**Unit-X**

## 10.1 Ecocriticism

**Teaching and Learning Strategies:**

Following teaching strategies to be adopted:

1. Class Discussion
2. Reading and analyzing the text through interactive sessions.
3. Class presentations.
4. Group Discussions
5. Lectures, seminars and tutorials.

**Assignments:**

Two assignments, one before midterms and one after midterm, to be submitted. The students are advised to get their topics approved by the teacher. And there is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism. (Please consult HEC policy on Plagiarism).

## Assessment and Examination:

Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details
1	Midterm Assessment	35%	It takes place at the mid-point of the semester.
2	Formative Assessment	25%	It is continuous assessment. It includes: classroom participation, attendance, assignments and presentations, homework, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, quizzes etc.
3	Final Assessment	40%	It takes place at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of a test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.

## Suggested Readings

- Ashcroft, Bill, Gareth Griffiths & Helen Tiffin, Eds. *The PostColonial Studies Reader* NY: Routledge. 1995.
- ---. *Key Concepts in Postcolonial Studies*. NY: Routledge, 1998.
- Beauvoir, Simone de. *The Second Sex*. 1949. Trans. Constance Borde & Sheila Malovany-Chevallier. NY: Random House, 2009.
- Bloom, Harold et al. *Deconstruction and Criticism*. (1979) NY: The Continuum Publishing Company, 2004. Bhabha, Homi K. *The Location of Culture*. London & New York: Routledge, 1994. Pdf.
- Brannigan, John. *New Historicism and Cultural Materialism*. NY: 1998.
- Castle, Gregory. *The Blackwell guide to Literary Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2007
- Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. NY: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Derrida, Jacques. "Structure, Sign, and Play in the discourse of the Human Sciences". *Writing and Différance*. Trans. Alan Bass. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1978.
- Eagleton, Mary Ed. *A Concise Companion to Feminist Theory (Concise Companions to Literature and Culture)*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2003.
- Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.
- ---. *Making Meanings with Texts: Selected Essays*. NY: Reedellsevier, 2005.
- Hamilton, Paul. *Historicism*. NY: Routledge, 1996.
- Rosenblatt, Louise M. *Literature as Exploration*. NY: Noble, 1996.
- Williams, Patrick and Laura Chrisman, eds. *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*. NY: Columbia University Press, 1994.