

Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad

Department of English

M.A. (English)

Semester II

To Be Effective from Academic Year 2023-24

(2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26)

ENG 205: Modern Literary Theory

Credit: 4

No. of Hours: 60

Internal Evaluation: 40

Semester-End Examination: 60

Objective: This paper aims to familiarize students with the major trends in twentieth century literary theory. The paper uses certain key essays for each of the major trends for critical reading.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the course, the students:

1. will be able to explain the general trends of literary theory in the 20th century.
2. can critically examine a text in the light on modern literary theories.
3. can explain the link between literature and society.

Unit No.	Title	Teaching Methodology	Weightage and Duration
1	Structuralism and Poststructuralism 1.1 Jonathan Culler: “Structuralism and Literature” 1.2 Roland Barthes: “The Death of the Author” 1.3 J. Hillis Miller: “The Critic as Host”	1. Classroom lectures 2. PPT 3. YouTube Videos on the topics	25% 10 Hours
2	Feminist Theory and Marxist Theory 2.1 Toril Moi: “Feminist, Female, Feminine” 2.2 Chandra Talpade Mohanty: “Under Western Eye: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourse” 2.3 Louis Althusser: “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses (Notes Towards an Investigation)”	1. Classroom lectures 2. PPT 3. YouTube Videos on the topics	25% 18 Hours

3	Postcolonial Theory and Postmodern Theory 3.1 Edward Said: “Introduction” to <i>Orientalism</i> 3.2 Ngugi wa Thiong’o: “The Language of African Literature” 3.3 Jean Francois Lyotard: “Answering the Question: What is Postmodernism?”	1. Classroom lectures 2. PPT 3. YouTube Videos on the topics	25% 12 Hours
4	New Historicism and Cultural Materialism 4.1 Stephen Greenblatt: “Towards a Poetics of Culture” 4.2 John Brannigan: “Introduction: Literature and History” 4.3 John Brannigan: “New Historicism and Cultural Materialism Today”	1. Classroom lectures 3. PPT 3. YouTube Videos on the topics	25% 14 Hours
5	Self-Study 5.1 Wolfgang Iser: The Implied Reader 5.2 I.A. Richards: Four Kinds of Meaning 5.3 Nivedita Menon: Feminists and “Women” 5.4 M.H. Abrams: “The Deconstructive Angel” 5.5 Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak: “Can the Subaltern Speak?”	1. Students’ Presentation 2. Focus will be on analysis of the selected essays.	06 Hours

NB: Unit 5 will not be asked in the internal or semester-end examination... It will only for continuous evaluation in the form of students’ presentation.

Recommended Texts:

Abrams, M.H. *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition*. New York: OUP, 1971.

Althusser, Louis. “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses: Notes Towards and Investigation.” *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*. New York: Monthly Review, 1972.

Barthes, Roland. “The Death of the Author.” *Image, Music, Text*. London: Fontana, 1977.

Bradbury, Malcolm and David Palmer, eds. *Contemporary Criticism. Stanford-Upon-Avon Studies 12*. London: Arnold, 1970.

Brannigan, John. *New Historicism and Cultural Materialism*. London: Macmillan, 1998.

Brooks, Cleanth and William Wimsatt. *Literary Criticism: A Short History*. New Delhi: OUP and IBH, 1957.

Butcher S.H. *Aristotle’s Theory of Poetry and Fine Art*. London: Macmillan, 1932.

Bywater, Ingram. *Aristotle on the Art of Poetry*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1909.

Crane, R.S., ed. *Critics and Criticism: Ancient and Modern*. University of Chicago Press, 1952.

Culler, Jonathan. “Structuralism and Literature.”

Daiches, David. *Critical Approaches to Literature*. Bombay: Longman, 1967.

- Dorsch, T.S. *Classical Literary Criticism*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1981.
- Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1983.
- Enright, D. J. and Ernest de Chickera, eds. *English Critical Texts*. London: Oxford University Press, 1962
- Fowler, Roger. *A Dictionary of Modern Critical Terms*. London: Routledge, 1987.
- Frye, Northrop. *Anatomy of Criticism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1948.
- Greenblatt, Green. "Towards a Poetics of Culture." *Southern Review* Vol. 20, No. 1. 1987. 3-15.
- Higgins, John. *Raymond Williams: Literature, Marxism and Cultural Materialism*. London: Routledge, 1999.
- Hill, Christopher. *Milton and the English Revolution*, U.K.: Faber and Faber, 1977.
- Leitch, Vincent B. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company Inc., 2001.
- Lodge, David and Nigel Wood. Eds. *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*, New Delhi: Pearson, 2008.
- Lodge, David. Ed. *Twentieth Century Literary Criticism*. London: Longman, 1972.
- Lyotard, Jean Francois. *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984.
- Menon, Nivedita. *Seeing Like a Feminist*. New Delhi: Zubaan, 2012.
- Miller, J. Hillis. "The Critic as Host." In *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*. Eds. David Lodge and Nigel Wood. New Delhi: Pearson, 2008.
- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "Under Western Eye: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourse." *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*. New Delhi: Zubaan, 2003.
- Moi, Toril. *Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory*. London: Methuen, 1987.
- Nagarajan, M.S. *English Literary Criticism and Theory: An Introduction*. Hyderabad: Orient BlackSwan, 2010.
- Nayar, Pramod K. *Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory: From Structuralism to Ecocriticism*. Noida: Pearson, 2017.
- Newton. *20th Century Literary Criticism: A Reader*. London: Palgrave, 1997.
- Plato. *The Republic*. Trans. Desmond Lee. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
- Ramaswami, S. and V.S. Sethuraman. Eds. *The English Critical Tradition: An Anthology of English Literary Criticism* Vol. I and II. Madras: Macmillan, 1986
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. London and Henley: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978.
- Selden Raman. *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory*. Brighton: Harvester Press, 1985.
- Thiong'o Ngugi wa. "The Language of African Literature." *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*. Eds. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffith, and Helen Tiffin. London and New York: Routledge, 1995.
- Wellek, Rene and Austin Warren. *Theory of Literature*. Harmonds-Worth: Penguin, 1963.
- Wellek, Rene. *A History of Modern Criticism*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1955.
- Westbrook, Max and William J. Hardy, eds. *Twentieth Century Criticism*. New York: Free Press, 1974.
- Wimsatt, W.K. and Cleanth Brooks. *Literary Criticism, A Short History*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1957.

Unit Wise Essential Reading List

Unit 1: Structuralism and Poststructuralism

- Abrams, M.H. *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition*. New York: OUP, 1971.
- Barthes, Roland. "The Death of the Author." *Image, Music, Text*. London: Fontana, 1977.
- Lodge, David and Nigel Wood. Eds. *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*, New Delhi: Pearson, 2008.
- Lodge, David. Ed. *Twentieth Century Literary Criticism*. London: Longman, 1972.
- Miller, J. Hillis. "The Critic as Host." In *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*. Eds. David Lodge and Nigel Wood. New Delhi: Pearson, 2008.
- Nayar, Pramod K. *Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory: From Structuralism to Ecocriticism*. Noida: Pearson, 2017.

Internet Resources

Video lecture on Structuralism:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eCSY1CT2n4&t=69s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCEoEkHxsOs>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFtOvzFQPj4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfYgs1hMa6g>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZjKnIuiWYM>

Video lecture on Poststructuralism:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VH5QPacp1WY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFAtGi9c-bY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEnQYM2iG94>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqGRAAdqrfg>

Unit 2: Feminist Theory and Marxist Theory

- Althusser, Louis. "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses: Notes Towards and Investigation." *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*. New York: Monthly Review, 1972.
- Lodge, David and Nigel Wood. Eds. *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*, New Delhi: Pearson, 2008.
- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "Under Western Eye: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourse." *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*. New Delhi: Zubaan, 2003.
- Moi, Toril. *Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory*. London: Methuen, 1987.
- Nagarajan, M.S. *English Literary Criticism and Theory: An Introduction*. Hyderabad: Orient BlackSwan, 2010.
- Nayar, Pramod K. *Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory: From Structuralism to Ecocriticism*. Noida: Pearson, 2017.

Internet Resources

Feminist Criticism

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NJtxE18CQ0>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJuhNOsJZ4I>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ptlpTyg4SY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FnpQ4Kthbg>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIEys_iM0Z0
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5-EUZUBIjY>

Marxist Criticism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrjUZpTpMTU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6dzR3Y8S7g>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWTbTwCU918>

Unit 3: Postcolonial Theory and Postmodern Theory

Lodge, David and Nigel Wood. Eds. *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*, New Delhi: Pearson, 2008.

Lyotard, Jean Francois. *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984.

Nagarajan, M.S. *English Literary Criticism and Theory: An Introduction*. Hyderabad: Orient BlackSwan, 2010.

Nayar, Pramod K. *Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory: From Structuralism to Ecocriticism*. Noida: Pearson, 2017.

Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. London and Henley: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978.

Thiong'o Ngugi wa. "The Language of African Literature." *The Postcolonial Studies Reader*. Eds. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffith, and Helen Tiffin. London and New York: Routledge, 1995.

Internet Resources

What is Postcolonialism? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7DtnDt8its>

Post Colonialism <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2GGTm3SJqI>

Colonialism: The African Perspective <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lxPma21NRQ>

Unit 4: New Historicism and Cultural Materialism

Greenblatt, Green. "Towards a Poetics of Culture." *Southern Review* Vol. 20, No. 1. 1987. 3-15.

Brannigan, John. *New Historicism and Cultural Materialism*. London: Macmillan, 1998.

Lodge, David and Nigel Wood. Eds. *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*, New Delhi: Pearson, 2008.

Nayar, Pramod K. *Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory: From Structuralism to Ecocriticism*. Noida: Pearson, 2017.

Internet Resources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsh5DyhIO7o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZjHEk0FmLw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOKA3rGxrVQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvDi72V1Ing>

Unit 5: Self Study

5.1 Wolfgang Iser: The Implied Reader

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ci5CtVSh3vI>

5.2 I.A. Richards: Four Kinds of Meaning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VKvQv3Q1zU&t=1s>

5.3 Nivedita Menon: Feminists and "Women"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFQaLy9jBRo>

5.5 M.H. Abrams: The Deconstructive Angel

<https://www.slideshare.net/AliAfzal5611/orientation-of-critical-theories-by-m-h-abrams-71442086>

Examination Pattern

Continuous Evaluation: Total Marks: 20 Components

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Student's Presentation from Unit 5: Self Study | Marks: 10 |
| a. Understanding of the subject matter | |
| b. Command over the language | |
| c. Confidence | |
| d. Answering questions | |
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| 2. Assignment | Marks: 10 |
| a. Understanding of the question | |
| b. Use of multiple textual material | |
| c. Grammatical accuracy | |

Internal Examination Total Marks: 20

Total internal examinations of 20 marks each will be conducted and the higher marks from either of the examinations will be considered.

Semester End Examination Total Marks: 60

This will have equal representation from each unit. Following is a sample from each unit:

Unit 1: Structuralism and Poststructuralism

1. One long question of 15 marks with internal options.
For example: Discuss the salient features of structuralism and poststructuralism on the basis of essays you have read.

Unit 2: Feminist Theory and Marxist Theory

1. One long question of 15 marks with internal options.
For example: Feminist theory brought about a major disruption in the ways literature was read earlier. Discuss this in the light of the essays you have read.

Unit 3: Postcolonial Theory and Postmodernist Theory

1. One long question of 15 marks with internal options.
For example: Discuss the major themes of postmodernist theory.

Unit 4: New Historicism and Cultural Criticism

1. One long question of 15 marks with internal options.
For example: What led to the rise of new historicism and cultural criticism?