

B.A. ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

(CHOICE BASED CREDIT AND SEMESTER SYSTEM FOR
UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM)
UNDER THE FACULTY OF ARTS

(FOR THE STUDENTS ADMITTED FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019 — '20 ONWARDS)
BOARD OF STUDIES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE (UG)

ENG5B08 -LITERARY THEORY

Contact Hours per Week: 5 Hrs.

Number of Credits: 4

Number of Contact Hours: 90 Hrs

Objective

To cultivate among the students an understanding of important texts and movements in the history of literary theory.

To enable the learners to critically approach literature and culture in the context of theory.

To enrich the students through various perspectives of thinking and critique the major arguments presented in theory.

To promote a pluralistic perspective of culture and literature in a multicultural society.

Course Outline

Module 1: Liberal Humanism versus Theory

Liberal Humanism: Dominant aspects of Liberal humanism with examples

Literary Theory: Dominant aspects of literary theory with examples. Linguistic Turn — Critical turn — Paradigm shift

Module 2: Structuralism, Poststructuralism and Psychoanalysis

Structuralism: Saussure - Sign, Signifier, Signified — Claude Levi-Strauss and Roland Barthes — Structuralist narratology

Poststructuralism: Derrida, Logocentrism, Aporia, Decentering

Psychoanalytic Theory: Unconscious. Freud — Id, Ego, Superego, Oedipus Complex. Lacan — Imaginary, Symbolic, Real, Mirror Stage

Module 3: Marxism, Cultural Studies, Cultural Materialism and New Historicism

Marxism: Base, Superstructure, Materialism, ideology. The Frankfurt School — Culture industry. Antonio Gramsci — The formation of the intellectuals, Subaltern. Louis Althusser — Ideological State apparatus and Interpellation.

Cultural Studies: Culturalism, New Left, CCCS, Raymond Williams' definition of Culture, Structure of feeling, Stuart Hall and the 'popular', and the two paradigms of Cultural Studies.
Cultural Materialism & New Historicism: Marxist framework of Culture and History, Historiography,
Foucauldian notion of Power, Difference with Old Historicism, Stephen Greenblatt, Louis Montrose

Module 4: Feminism and Queer Theory

Feminism: The three waves in feminism, Gynocriticism, French Feminism - *Ecriture feminine*, Sexual Politics,

Marxist Feminism, Lesbian Feminism, Backlash, Black Feminism, Dalit Feminism, Post- feminism, Womanism.

Queer Theory: Social constructionism of gender and sexuality, LGBTIQ, Transgender identity

Module 5: Postmodernism, Postcolonialism, and Ecocriticism

Postcolonialism: Eurocentrism, Orientalism, Alterity, Diaspora, Hybridity, Uncanny, Strategic Essentialism,

Subaltern Studies, Postcolonial Critique of Nationalism.

Postmodernism: Critique of Enlightenment and Universalism, Habermas's notion of Modernity as an Incomplete Project, Lyotard's concept of incredulity towards metanarratives, Baudrillard's ideas of Simulation, Simulacra and hyperreality, Brian McHale's concept of Postmodernist literatures.

Ecocriticism: Anthropocentrism, Shallow Ecology vs Deep Ecology, Environmental Imagination, Ecofeminism

Reference

1. Hans Bertons. Literary Theory.
2. Terry Eagleton. Literary Theory: An Introduction. Aijaz Ahmad. In Theory: Classes, Nations, Literatures.
3. Jonathan Culler. Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction. Terry Eagleton. After Theory.
4. Peter Barry. Beginning Theory.