



Gyanmanjari
Innovative University

Course Syllabus
Gyanmanjari Institute of Arts
Semester-4(M.A)

Subject: Literary Theory & Criticism and Indian Aesthetics- MATEN14517

Type of course: Major

Prerequisite: NA

Rationale:

This syllabus bridges Western and Indian literary theories, fostering a comprehensive understanding of critical frameworks. It explores Postmodernism's departure from Modernism, key theorists like Lyotard and Baudrillard, and its application to texts like *Midnight's Children*. Foundational ideas from I.A. Richards and Northrop Frye provide insights into figurative language and archetypal criticism. Indian Aesthetics introduces classical poetics, including Rasa, Vakrokti, and Dhvani, connecting ancient philosophies with modern interpretations, enhancing analytical and comparative skills in global literary contexts.

Teaching and Examination Scheme:

Teaching Scheme			Credits	Examination Marks					Total Marks
CI	T	P	C	Theory Marks		Practical Marks		CA	
				ESE	MSE	V	P	ALA	
04	00	00	04	60	30	10	00	50	150

Legends: CI-Class Room Instructions; T – Tutorial; P - Practical; C – Credit; ESE - End Semester Examination; MSE- Mid Semester Examination; V – Viva; CA - Continuous Assessment; ALA- Active Learning Activities.



Continuous Assessment:

(For each activity maximum-minimum range is 5 to 10 marks)

Sr. No	Active Learning Activities	Marks
1.	AI Text Analysis with Literary Theories Students will use a text analysis tool (e.g., Voyant Tools) to analyze a literary work, applying theories like archetypal criticism or rasa to identify recurring themes and emotions. They will interpret the data and propose how such analysis could enhance digital humanities research or content personalization in AI-based platforms.	10
2	Designing Reader-Response Experiments Students shall design a small experiment where they present a poem or passage without context to peers and gather their interpretations. They will analyze the data to see how interpretation varies, especially in ambiguous language use, and suggest ways to apply these findings to audience testing.	10
3	Screenwriting Workshop: Applying Archetypes Students will create short screenplays using Frye's archetypes. They will develop characters that fit traditional archetypes (hero, mentor, trickster) and brainstorm how these characters can appeal to different audiences. Final scripts will be shared in a peer-review forum for constructive feedback.	10
4	Literary Criticism for Digital Media Reviews Students will write critical reviews of digital media (e.g., YouTube series, podcasts) using selected literary theories. Each review will highlight how concepts like postmodernism, archetypes, or rasa theory enhance audience understanding, offering practical experience for careers in media and culture criticism.	10
5	Content Creation with Rasa and Archetypes for Marketing Students will develop a mini-marketing campaign (e.g., an ad series) that uses archetypal characters or rasa to evoke specific emotions. They will pitch their campaign to the class, explaining how the literary theories add psychological appeal, preparing them for branding and storytelling roles.	10
Total		50



Course Content:

Sr. No	Course content	Hrs.	% Weightage
1	Postmodernism: The Basics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departures from Modernism • Jean Francois Lyotard and Jean Baudrillard • The View from within Literary Criticism • Midnight's Children as a postmodernist text. • Points of Convergence with Poststructuralism 	15	25 %
2	I.A. Richards's The Practical Criticism - Figurative Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positivist Criticism • Principles of Literary Criticism • Richards on Language • The Meaning of Meaning 	15	25 %
3	Northrop Frye's Archetypal Criticism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Archetypes of Literature • The Concept of Archetypal Criticism • Deductive Method of Analysis • Psychology And Literature 	15	25 %
4	Indian Aesthetics: Rasa Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alankar, Vakrokti, Dhvani, riti, auchitya • Brief Introduction to Major Literary Theories (Indian Poetics) • Bharat Muni - Ganesh Devy • Theory of Rasa - an article • Vakrokti as Poetic Art: A Study in Macbeth 	15	25 %

Suggested Specification table with Marks (Theory):60

Distribution of Theory Marks (Revised Bloom's Taxonomy)						
Level	Remembrance (R)	Understanding (U)	Application (A)	Analyze (N)	Evaluate (E)	Create (C)
Weightage	20%	40%	20%	20%	00	00

Note: This specification table shall be treated as a general guideline for students and teachers. The actual distribution of marks in the question paper may vary slightly from the above table.



Course Outcome:

After learning the course, the students should be able to:	
CO1	Analyze postmodern theory and apply it to texts like <i>Midnight's Children</i> , identifying key features such as fragmentation and pastiche
CO2	Apply I.A. Richards's theories of figurative language and literary criticism to interpret texts, analyzing the relationship between meaning and language.
CO3	Identify archetypes in literature and explore their role in narrative and character development.
CO4	Apply Rasa theory to analyze the emotional and aesthetic experiences in Indian literary works.

Instructional Method:

The course delivery method will depend upon the requirement of content and need of students. The teacher in addition to conventional teaching method by black board, may also use any of tools such as demonstration, role play, Quiz, brainstorming, MOOCs etc.

From the content 10% topics are suggested for flipped mode instruction.

Students will use supplementary resources such as online videos, NPTEL/SWAYAM videos, e-courses, Virtual Laboratory

The internal evaluation will be done on the basis of Active Learning Assignment

Practical/Viva examination will be conducted at the end of semester for evaluation of performance of students in laboratory.

Reference Books:

- [1] *Anatomy of Criticism* by Northrop Frye
- [2] *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* by Peter Barry
- [3] *Indian Literary Criticism: Theory and Interpretation* edited by G.N. Devy
- [4] *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie
- [5] *Practical Criticism: A Study of Literary Judgment* by I.A. Richards
- [6] *The Educated Imagination* by Northrop Frye

