



Gyanmanjari
Innovative University

Course Syllabus
Gyanmanjari Institute of Arts
Semester-6 (BA)

Subject: Literary Theory and Criticism- BATEN16323

Type of course: Major (Core)

Prerequisite: Basic understanding of literary genres, movements, and forms

Rationale:

This course introduces students to the evolution of literary criticism from classical aesthetics to contemporary theoretical frameworks. It enables learners to understand how literature has been interpreted, evaluated, and theorized across time and cultures. By engaging with thinkers such as Aristotle, Leavis, Derrida, Frye, and others, students will develop critical reasoning, interpretive sensitivity, and awareness of multiple theoretical positions that shape literary and cultural analysis today. The course emphasizes “reading theory as practice”, applying abstract ideas to textual interpretation through discussion, comparison, and critical inquiry.

Teaching and Examination Scheme:

Teaching Scheme			Credits	Examination Marks			Total Marks	
CI	T	P		C	SEE	CCE		
						MSE		ALA
4	0	0	4	100	30	70	200	

Legends: CI-Classroom Instructions; T – Tutorial; P - Practical; C – Credit; SEE - Semester End Evaluation; MSE- Mid Semester Examination; V – Viva; CCE-Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation; ALA- Active Learning Activities.

*4 Credits * 25 Marks = 100 Marks (each credit carries 25 Marks)*

SEE 50 Marks will be converted into 25 Marks

CCE 50 Marks will be converted into 25 Marks

It is compulsory to pass in each individual component.



Course Content:

Sr. No	Course content	Hrs.	% Weightage
1	Introduction-Liberal Humanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle's Poetics • Literary theorizing from Aristotle to F.R. Leavis, • Some key moments, the transition to 'theory', • Some recurrent ideas in critical theory. • Northrop Frye's Archetypal Criticism • J.A. Richards's The Practical Criticism - Figurative Language 	15	25 %
2	Structuralism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scope of Structuralists, • What Structuralist Critics do? • Post-structuralism and • Derrida and Deconstruction 	15	25 %
3	Post-Modernism and Psychoanalytic Criticism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Modernism • Psychoanalytic Criticism • New Historicism and Cultural Materialism • Post Colonial Criticism 	15	25 %
4	Eco-Criticism, Marxism, Queer, Feminist theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feminist Criticism • Marxist Criticism • Queer Theory / Lesbian-Gay Criticism • Ecocriticism 	15	25 %

Continuous Assessment:

Sr. No	Active Learning Activities	Marks
1	Comparative Timeline Exercise: Students will create an illustrated timeline tracing the development of literary theory from Aristotle to Leavis, identifying shifts in critical values and aesthetics. Upload the digital poster on GMIU Web Portal.	10
2	Text Deconstruction Workshop: Students will take a familiar poem or short passage and apply structuralist and deconstructive readings to uncover multiple meanings and contradictions. After approval upload the findings as blog on GMIU Web Portal.	10
3	Character Case Study (Psychoanalytic Lens): Students will analyze a literary or film character (e.g., Hamlet, Gregor Samsa, or a contemporary anime figure) through Freudian or Lacanian concepts such as repression, the unconscious, or desire. Upload the analysis blog on GMIU Web Portal.	10
4	Eco-Critical Poster Presentation: In small groups, students will prepare visual posters or infographics illustrating the core ideas of ecocriticism and its relevance to current ecological crises. Upload the poster presentation video on GMIU Web Portal.	10
5	Critical Reflection Essay: Students will write a 1000-word reflective essay comparing two theories and explaining how their understanding of literature has changed through theoretical study. Upload the essay on GMIU Web Portal.	10
6	Cultural Debate: "Is the Death of the Author the Birth of the Reader?" Students must participate in-class debate simulating Barthes vs. traditional critics, prompting students to articulate postmodern perspectives on meaning. Students will be doing peer evaluation of this debate. After completion upload evaluation chart and peer evaluation form on GMIU Web Portal.	10
7	Attendance	10
Total		70



Suggested Specification table with Marks (Theory):100

Distribution of Theory Marks (Revised Bloom's Taxonomy)						
Level	Remembrance (R)	Understanding (U)	Application (A)	Analyze (N)	Evaluate (E)	Create (C)
Weightage	30%	30%	10%	20%	10%	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	Explain major literary theories and critical traditions from Aristotle to contemporary schools.
CO2	Analyze literary and cultural texts through appropriate theoretical frameworks.
CO3	Apply diverse critical approaches such as Feminist, Marxist, Psychoanalytic, and Postcolonial theory to interpret literature
CO4	Evaluate and synthesize theoretical ideas to form independent critical perspectives in academic writing or presentations.

Instructional Method:

The course delivery method will depend upon the requirement of content and the needs of students. The teacher, in addition to conventional teaching methods by black board, may also use any 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 the laboratory.



Reference Books:

- [1] Peter Barry. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. 4th ed., Manchester University Press, 2017.
- [2] Terry Eagleton. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. 2nd ed., Blackwell, 2008.
- [3] M. A. R. Habib. *A History of Literary Criticism: From Plato to the Present*. Blackwell, 2005.
- [4] Raman Selden, Peter Widdowson, and Peter Brooker. *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory*. 5th ed., Pearson, 2005.
- [5] Jonathan Culler. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2011.
- [6] Lois Tyson. *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*. 3rd ed., Routledge, 2015.
- [7] David Lodge and Nigel Wood, eds. *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*. 3rd ed., Pearson, 2008.

