

MA English - II
Paper – IX
Critical Theory - I
Monthly Teaching Plan

Semester – III

August

- Introduction to Critical Theory
- Difference between Theory and Criticism
- History of Literary Theory 1960s onwards
- M.H. Abrams, “What’s the Use of Theorizing About the Arts?” Discussed in detail.

September

- Introduction to Roman Jakobson
- Discussion about Metaphors and Metonymy
- Roman Jakobson, “Two Aspects of Language” discussed in detail.
- Introduction to Structuralism and Post-Structuralism
- Theoretical ideas related with Structuralism and Post-Structuralism.
- Roland Barthes, “The Death of the Author”, discussed in detail.

October

- Introduction to Deconstruction
- Discussion of Theoretical terms related to Deconstruction like Differance, Logocentrism, Phallogocentrism, Metaphysics of Presence, Trace, Binary Oppositions etc.
- Real life examples of Deconstruction.
- Jaques Derrida, “Letter to a Japanese Friend” discussed.
- Deconstructive Reading of *Titanic* and *Hunger Games* in class.
- Deconstructive Reading of *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys given as term project.
- Discussion of Postmodernism and related theories.
- Jean Francois Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition* discussed in detail.

November

- Jean Francois Lyotard, “Answer to the Question: What is the Postmodern? Discussed in detail.

- Jean Francois Lyotard, “Note on the Post in Postmodern” discussed in detail.
- Discussion of Lyotardian ideas like, Mercantilization of Knowledge, commodification of knowledge etc.
- Introduction to Michel Foucault and related Foucauldian ideas.
- Michel Foucault, “Panopticism” discussed in detail.
- Discussion of Foucauldian ideas like, Power, Resistance, Discourse, Episteme, Panopticon, Gaze, Disciplinary societies and apparatuses, Docile Bodies etc.

December

- Introduction to Gilles Deleuze and Societies of Control
- Gilles Deleuze, “Postscript on the Societies of Control”.
- Differences between Disciplinary Societies and Societies of Control.

Mid-Semester Test December

Syllabus covered after MST

- Introduction to Jean Baudrillard.
- Discussion of Baudrillardian theoretical ideas like Simulacra, Simulation, Hyperreality and The Precession of the Simulacra.
- Discussion about Baudrillard’s book, *The Gulf War did not take Place*.

January

- Jean Baudrillard, “The System of Objects” discussed in detail.
- Jean Baudrillard, “Simulacra and Simulations” discussed in detail.
- Revision of syllabus and resolving doubts.

Semester-IV

March

- Introduction to Cultural Criticism
- Introduction to Hayden White
- Metahistory
- Hayden White’s essay, ‘Historical Text as Literary Artifact’.
- Introduction to Marxist Literary Theory

- About Hegel, Karl Marx, Louis Althusser, Antonio Gramsci, Terry Eagleton, Raymond Williams, Walter Benjamin and other Marxist thinkers
- Cultural Materialism
- About significant milestones and ideas of Cultural Materialism like Student Revolutions of 1960s, Sub-cultures, Popular culture
- Discussion of Basic Ideas of Marxist Theory; 'Ideology', 'Hegemony', ISAs, Dialectical and Historical Materialism etc.

April

- Raymond Williams, 'From Reflection to Mediation'.
- Raymond Williams, 'Dominant, Residual and Emergent'.
- Feminist Theory and related ideas
- Prominent Feminist Thinkers like Judith Butler, Julia Kristeva, Helene Cixous, Elaine Showalter
- Post-feminism and related ideas
- Understanding connection between Phenomenology and Feminist Theory

May

- Judith Butler's essay, 'Performative Acts and Gender Constitution'.
- Introduction to Postcolonial Theory and related ideas.
- Homi Bhabha's essay, 'Of Mimicry and Man'.
- Discussion of Postcolonial ideas – Mimicry, Hybridity, Third Space, Ambivalence, Subaltern etc.
- Understanding 'Third World Literature'.
- Aijaz Ahmed's essay, 'Literary Theory and Third World Literature'.

Mid-Semester Test- May

June

- Revision.