

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Programme: Ph. D

Course Title: Introduction to Literary Theory

Course Category: Pre-PhD Course Work

Internal: 50 Marks

Course Code: HUT 709

Theory: 50 Marks

Credits: 3 (L-3)

Total: 100 Marks

Semester: Odd/Even

Time: 3hrs

Note: Six questions to be set covering all the units (one question from each unit). The examinees shall have to attempt any five questions. All questions shall carry equal marks.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce literary theory and criticism and understand what makes a piece of writing relevant; to develop an understanding regarding how to appreciate the finer aspects of literature; to equip them with major theories in literature; and how to evaluate different forms of literature for an in-depth research.

Unit 1: Background and Introduction to Literary Trends:

Formative Moments in the history of literary criticism; historical backgrounds of modern literary criticism and theory; scope of modern literary and cultural criticism; Liberal Humanism and Formalism; New Humanists, Neo Romantics, Formalism, New Criticism, Russian Formalism, Poetics of Modernism and Post Modernism

Unit II: Introduction to Structuralism, Deconstruction and Post Structuralism

Structure and narratives; background of deconstruction and literary criticism; major theorists in Post Structuralism

Unit III: New Historicism, Reader-Response Theory and Postcolonial Criticism

Development and historical background of New Historicism; Reader Response theory and Postcolonial criticism.

Unit IV: New Historicism, Reader-Response Theory and Postcolonial Criticism

Development and historical background of New Historicism; Reader Response theory and Postcolonial criticism.

Course Outcomes

At the end of the course students will be able to develop an insight to analyse and understand key concepts in major literary trends; apply theoretical frameworks and read texts from multiple lenses. Thus, this course will help students to analyse texts from different perspectives.

Suggested Readings

Literature: Thinking, Reading, and Writing Critically. Ed. Sylvan Barnet. 2nd Edition. New York: Longman, 1997.

Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama. Ed. X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia. 6th Edition. New York: Harper Collins, 1995.

Literary Theory and Criticism. Ed. Patricia Waugh. Oxford University Press, 2006.

Habib, M.A.R. *Modern Literary Criticism and Theory*. Wiley Blackwell, 2008.

Tyson, Lois. *Critical Theory Today*. Routledge, 2008.