

School of Undergraduate Studies

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Only for Karampura Campus

**Time Slot: Tuesday, 11:00 am – 01:00 pm
& Thursday, 11:00 pm – 01:00 pm**

Course Code: SUS1EN256

Title: Introduction to Literary Theory

Type of Course: Discipline (English)

Cohort for which it is compulsory: BA Honours English

Cohort for which it is elective: All other Majors

No of Credits: 4

Semester and Year Offered: V Semester (Monsoon Semester 2018)

Course Coordinator and Team: Dr. Amit Singh

Email of course coordinator: amit@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites: None

Aim: This course will introduce students to different trends and schools in Literary Theory with a special focus on reading, understanding, and investigating representative works of select modern and contemporary theorists. Attempts would be made, through lectures and discussions, to explain the shift(s) from the 'original' and most representative paradigms in the area to the more contemporary writings in Literary Theory. It will acquaint students to some of the most influential thoughts and ideologies of the contemporary world and enable them to analyse, critique and situate literature within a larger context. Attempts would be made to explain the principles and ideas contained in such writings through the chosen texts and familiarize students with the language of theory that depends on other disciplines like philosophy, psychology, sociology, etc. Students would be encouraged to further the acquired knowledge of theoretical principles and ideas and apply them to the study of literature in a more informed, objective, and universal manner. The course will study the importance of literary theory and move on to its thematic study through modules designed around Marxism, Feminism, Self/ Other, Linguistics,

Cultural Studies, etc. Also, through class presentations, group discussions, seminars, etc. a functional approach towards understanding these theories would be attempted.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

Module I: Introduction- This module will discuss the theoretical turn with its brief history and development.

Module II: Marxism: This module will focus on the Marxian doctrines in the context of twentieth century through writings by Marx, Gramsci and Althusser.

Module III: Feminism: This module will trace the origin and development of Anglo-American and French feminisms through writings by representative figures. Analogies from the Indian contexts will also be drawn during class discussions.

Module IV: Structuralism, Poststructuralism, and Deconstruction: This module will investigate the development of Structuralism and Poststructuralism through essays by Saussure, Barthes, Foucault and Derrida.

Assessment Details with weights:

S. No	Assessment	Date/ Period in which Assessment will take place	Weightage
1	Class Test	End of August/Early September	15%
2	Mid Semester Examination	As per AUD Academic Calendar	25%
3	Class Presentation	Mid October	25%
4	Question Bank	Throughout the Semester	10%
5	Project or Seminar	Mid November	25%

Reading List:

Introduction:

- 1) Literary Theory: Origin, Evolution, and Current Status
- 2) Similarities and Differences between Literary Theory and Literary Criticism
- 3) A Short Introduction to Indian Literary Theory

4) Exploring Links between Literary Theory and Other Discourses

Marxism:

- 1) Antonio Gramsci, 'The Formation of the Intellectuals' and 'Hegemony and Separation of Powers' in *The Modern Prince and Other Writings* (1957)
- 2) Louis Althusser, 'Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses' in *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays* (1971)

Feminism:

- 1) Elaine Showalter, 'The Female Tradition', Introduction in *A Literature of Their Own: British Women Novelists from Bronte to Lessing* (1977)
- 2) Mitchell Barrett, "Ideology and the Cultural Production of Gender" in *Materialist Feminism: A Reader in Class, Difference, and Women's Lives* (1997)
- 3) Luce Irigaray, 'This Sex Which is Not One' and 'When the Goods Get Together' in *New French Feminisms: An Anthology* (1981)
- 4) Helene Cixous, 'The Laugh of Medusa' in *New French Feminisms: An Anthology* (1981)

Structuralism, Poststructuralism, and Deconstruction:

- 1) Ferdinand de Saussure, Extracts from *Course in General Linguistics* (1915)
- 2) Roland Barthes, 'Introduction to the Structural Analysis of Narratives' in *Image Music Text* (1977)
- 3) Michael Foucault, 'Truth and Power' in *Power/ Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings* (1977)
- 4) Jacques Derrida, 'Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences' in *Writing and Difference* (1967)

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:

Leitch, Vincent B. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2001.