



LITERARY THEORY AND LITERARY CRITICISM

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COURSE OUTLINE :

The course presents an overview of major trends in literary criticism and literary theory. It traces the key topics in these domains beginning from the classical times of Aristotle, Plato and Longinus till more recent theoretical trends, such as film studies, gender studies and Eco criticism.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Aysha Viswamohan is professor of film studies, drama and popular culture in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras. Among her several books are Behind the Scenes: Contemporary Bollywood Directors(ed.) Sage: New Delhi, 2017, Post-liberalization Indian Novels in English: Global Reception & Politics of Award London: ANTHEM, 2013. Her books on communication include English for Technical Communication, and English for Nurses and English for the Hotel Industry

COURSE PLAN :

Lecture 1

Classical/ Neo Classical Theory I
Greek and Roman models with an emphasis on classical qualities
Plato, Aristotle, Horace, Longinus
Theories of Drama, Poetry and Style

Lecture 2

Classical/ Neo Classical Theory II
Early Modern-Enlightenment (Philip Sidney, Dryden, Pope, Samuel Johnson, Locke, Addison, Hume)
Ars Poetica, Sublimity and the Satire

Lecture 3

Romanticism I
Early Nineteenth Century Romanticism
French and German Romanticism
Schiller, Stael
Kant and Hegel
Kant Critique of Judgement

Lecture 4

Romanticism II
English and American Romanticism
Wordsworth, Coleridge, Emerson, Poe
Poetic Diction, Fancy and Imagination
Preface to Lyrical Ballads (1800) Biographia Literaria (1817)
William Hazlitt "On Poetry in General"
Harold Bloom, ed., Romanticism and Consciousness (1970)

Lecture 5

Late Nineteenth Century
Realism and Naturalism
Eliot, Zola, Henry James
Symbolism and Aestheticism
Baudelaire, Walter Pater, Wilde
Art for Art's Sake
Arnold and the Touchstone Method
Objective Correlative, Dissociation of Sensibility, Impersonality of Art

Lecture 6

Marxism
Marx, Engels
Dialectical Materialism, Economic Determinism
Manifesto, Das Kapital
Lukacs, The novel and socialist realism,
Ideology
Althusser/Gramsci- Power/Control; Rule/Hegemony Eagleton
Frankfurt School; Adorno, W. Benjamin

Lecture 7

Twentieth Century Criticism

Formalism and New Criticism
Brooks, Well Wrought Urn, Irony as a Principle of Structure
Paul de Man, Eliot, A Tate
J C Ransom, The New Criticism
Will Empson, Seven Types of Ambiguity
The Chicago School, R S Crane
Shklovsky, Eichenbaum, Bakhtin, Jakobson
Defamiliarization, foregrounding, syuzhet/fabula
Prague Linguistic Circle

Lecture 8

Structuralism
Jean Piaget on "Structure"
Saussure, Barthes
Lang/Par, synchro/diachronic analysis, syntagmatic/paradigm
Strauss - Mythologies
Jonathan Culler, Structuralist Poetics
Prague linguistic circle
Jakobson, Trubetskoy, Rene Wellek

Lecture 9

Archetypal Criticism
Bodkin, Archetypal Patterns in Poetry
Frazer, The Golden Bough
Frye, Anatomy of Criticism
C G Jung, Campbell, The Hero with a Thousand Faces
Characters, Narratives, Symbols

Lecture 10

Psychoanalysis
Freud, Jung, Lacan
The Interpretation of Dreams, complexes, defences, psychosexual stages and levels Hamlet Psychoanalysed
Lacan, Jung and deviance from Freud
Metaphor, Metonymy

Lecture 11

Gender and Queer Theory
Woolf A Room of One's Own, Gilbert and Gubar, Beauvoir, Showalter, Kristeva, Cixous, Mulvey Ecriture Feminine, Gynocriticism, Literary Paternity
Radical, Liberal and Rational Feminism
Performativity, Butler Gender Trouble, Sedgwick
Queer Theory and LGBT criticism

Lecture 12

Post Structuralism
Derrida, Foucault, Lacan, Baudrillard, Kristeva, Barthes
Eco, The Open Work
Deconstruction
Derrida, Of Grammatology
"Differance"
Yale School
de Man, Hillis Miller
Semiology and the Rhetoric

Lecture 13

Reader Response and Reception
Husserl, Heidegger, Jauss, Iser, Fish
1976 "Interpreting the Variorum", Interpretive Communities
Is There A Text in This Class
R Ingarden, The Intentional Object and the layers of strata

Lecture 14

Post Colonialism
Fanon, Said, Spivak, Bhabha, Achebe
Hybridity, Liminality, Subaltern
The Wretched of the Earth, Orientalism, Black Skin White Masks
The Empire Writes Back
Barry on PoCo
Colonial Mimicry

Lecture 15

New Historicism
The New Historicism (1989)
Greenblatt, Cultural Poetics, Towards a Poetics of Culture (1987)
Foucault, Derrida and other influences

L Montrose on N.H

Renaissance Self -Fashioning: From More to Shakespeare British Cultural Materialism

Lecture 16

Semiotics

Charles Sanders Pierce

Chomsky, Aspects of the Theory of Syntax

Eco, A Theory of Semiotics

Jameson, The Prison House of Language

Barthes S/Z

Lecture 17

Film Studies

Major Film Movements

Cinema and Modernism

Ideology, Character, Plot, Semiotics and Genres

Editing

Intertext

Classic and New Hollywood

Key Concepts in Film Studies

Lecture 18

Ecocriticism

Ecocriticism and Green Studies

British Romanticism and American Transcendentalism Nature Vs. Culture debates

Energy, Entropy, Symbiosis

Anthropocentrism and Patetic Fallacy

Ecocritical Readings and Linguistic Determinism