

PG Even Semester Exam, May 2025

English

2nd Semester

COURSE NO. ENG – 555

[Introduction to Critical Theory (ICT)]

Full Marks : 70

Pass Marks : 28

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

Answer all the questions

UNIT-I

1. a. Critically examine Freud's theory of the unconscious mind with special reference to the interaction between the id, ego, and superego. 10

Or

- b. Critically discuss the fundamental contributions of any two major theorists to the development of Reader-Response Theory.
2. Answer either of the following: 4
- a. What does Lacan mean by the "mirror stage" in the development of the self?

Turn over

- b. Briefly explain the concept of 'interpretive community' in Reader-Response Theory.

UNIT-II

3. a. Discuss the influence of Saussurean linguistics on Structuralist Criticism. 10

Or

- b. Critically examine the fundamental principles of Deconstructive Criticism, with reference to how it challenges the notion of fixed meaning in literary texts.

4. Answer either of the following: 4

- a. Briefly explain Saussure's concepts of *langue* and *parole*.
b. What is meant by 'difference' in Deconstructive Criticism?

UNIT-III

5. a. Critically examine the key ideas of French Feminism as represented by Helene Cixous, Luce Irigaray, and Julia Kristeva, with reference to Lois Tyson's discussion. 10

Or

- b. Critically examine the evolution of Queer Theory and its challenge to fixed notions of gender and sexuality.

6. Answer either of the following: 4

- a. Briefly explain any two core feminist premises as outlined by Lois Tyson.

- b. What do you understand by the term 'lesbian continuum'?

UNIT-IV

7. a. Critically discuss the basic tenets of Marxist Literary Criticism. 10

Or

- b. Explain the main differences between New Historicism and Cultural Materialism as approaches to the study of literature.

8. Write a short note on either of the following: 4

- a. Base and Superstructure.
b. Intertextuality as a New Historicist Concept.

UNIT-V

9. a. Critically discuss the basic tenets of postcolonial theory and their application to the reading of literary texts. 10

Or

- b. Why does postmodernism critique metanarratives? Explain with suitable examples.

10. Write a short note on either of the following: 4

- a. Abrogation.
b. Hybridity.
