

5/ENG-301 Syllabus-2023

2025

(Nov-Dec)

FYUP : 5th Semester Examination

MAJOR

ENGLISH

(Contemporary Literary Theory and Criticism—I)

ENG-301

Marks : 75

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

SECTION—I

1. Answer the following questions in not more than 5 or 6 sentences each (any *three*) :

5×3=15

- (a) What does Arnold mean by the 'touchstone method' ?
- (b) Explain Henry James' view on the relationship between the novelist and experience.

(2)

- (c) What does T. S. Eliot mean by the 'historical sense'?
- (d) How does Martin Esslin define the term 'absurd' in the context of the *Theatre of the Absurd*?
- (e) What are the two basic modes of feminist criticism that Elaine Showalter identifies in her essay *Towards a Feminist Poetics*?
- (f) What does Hubert Zapf mean when he says literature acts as an 'ecological force' in culture?
- (g) What does Toni Morrison mean by the term 'American Africanism'?
- (h) What is the main purpose of Dalit Literature according to Limbale?

SECTION—II

Answer any *four* questions from the following :

15×4=60

- 2. Explain the three ways Matthew Arnold suggests we can use to evaluate poetry—real estimate, historical estimate, and personal estimate.

3. Elaborate on Eliot's statement about the relationship between the past and the present in the work of writing poetry.
4. Analyse Henry James' concept of Realism as presented in *The Art of Fiction*. How does his idea of representing life go beyond mere imitation, and what role does the author's consciousness play in it?
5. Analyse how Esslin's *Theatre of the Absurd* marks a radical departure from the conventions of traditional realistic theatre.
6. Examine Showalter's three-phase model of women's literary history (feminine, feminist, female). How does this model help to establish a distinct female literary tradition?
7. Explain Hubert Zapf's description of the relationship between culture and nature in literature.
8. Analyse Toni Morrison's central argument that the construction of the 'American' identity in literature is dependent on the Africanist presence.
9. Discuss the role of Dalit literature in raising awareness about caste prejudice to bring about social change.

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