

ENG3C10 Literary Criticism and Theory: Part 2 (5 credits)

Course Description

1. Structuralism: An Overview

Major theorists : Ferdinand de Saussure, Claude- Levi-Strauss, Roland Barthes,

Gerrard Genette
Key concepts :Structure, Sign, Signifier, Signified, Semiology, Semiotics,Langue andParole, Mythemes, Structuralist Narratology.

Text for Detailed Study: Roland Barthes: “Structuralist Activity”

2. Post-Structuralism/ Deconstruction: An Overview

Major theorists : Jacques Derrida, Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, The Yale School.

Key concepts : Deconstruction of Sign, Decentering, Logocentrism, Aporia,
Supplement, The Death of the Author, Knowledge, Power, Discourse.

Text for Detailed Study: Jacques Derrida: “Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of Social Sciences”

3. Psychoanalysis: An Overview

Major theorists : Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan.

Key concepts : Id, Ego, Superego, Dream Mechanism, Oedipus Complex, Unconscious, Mirror Stage, Imaginary, Symbolic and Real, Ego Formation andConstructions of Selfhood, Jouissance, Unconscious is structured like a Language.

Text for Detailed Study:

Jacques Lacan : “The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the I”

4. Feminism: An Overview

Major theorists : Virginia Woolf, Kate Millet, Elaine Showalter, Helene Cixous,Adrienne Rich.

Key concepts : Gynocriticism, Ecriture Feminine, Womanism, The Language Problem in Feminism, Marxist Feminism, French Feminism, Lesbian Feminism, Black Feminism, Dalit Feminism, Post-feminism.

Text for Detailed Study : Elaine Showalter: "Towards a Feminist Poetics"

5. Cultural Materialism/ New Historicism: An Overview

Major theorists : Raymond Williams, Jonathan Dollimore, Stephen Greenblatt, Louis Montrose.

Key concepts : Neo-Marxism, Culture: New Definitions, Thin and Thick Descriptions, Textuality and Historicity, Texts, Contexts and Co-texts, Rereading the Renaissance and Shakespeare, The Politics of Representation and Power.

Text for Detailed Study : Louis Montrose: "Professing the Renaissance: The Poetics and Politics of Culture"

6. Postcolonialism: An Overview

Major theorists : Frantz Fanon, Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak, Benedict Anderson.

Key concepts : Critique of Eurocentrism and Universalism, Decolonization, National Consciousness, Critiquing Nationalism, Postnationalism, Imagined Communities, Orientalism, Strategic Essentialism, Subaltern Studies, Hybridity, Ambivalence, Mimicry.

Text for Detailed Study : Edward Said: "Jane Austen and Empire"

7. Ecocriticism: An Overview

Major theorists : Jonathan Bate, Cheryll Glotfelty, Laurence Coupe, Patrick D. Murphy, William Rueckert.

Key concepts : Anthropocentrism, Shallow Ecology vs Deep Ecology, The Crisis of Humanism, Nature/Culture, Green Studies, Environmental Imagination, Ecofeminism.

Text for Detailed Study : Cheryll Glotfelty: "Introduction: Literary Studies in an age of Environmental Crisis" (From The Ecocriticism Reader)

8. Critiquing Theory: An Overview

Text for Detailed Study : Graham Good: “Presentism: Postmodernism, Poststructuralism, Postcolonialism”