

B.A. (Honours) Examination, 2014

Semester - V

English

Course : H-11 (Core)

(An Introduction to Literary Theory)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin.

Question No. 1 is compulsory.

Answer *any three* from the rest of the questions.

1. Write an essay analysing any text of your choice (novel, short-story/novella, play, poem, cinema, TV series etc.) following *any one* of the theoretical positions discussed in your class. 10
2. (a) Discuss the Marxist assumption that the nature of literature is influenced by the social and political circumstances in which it is produced. 10

or

- (b) "Brecht's experimental theatre ('epic' theatre) was for Benjamin a model of how to change not merely the political content of art, but its very productive apparatus." Discuss.
3. Discuss the contributions made by Ferdinand de Saussure and Vladimir Propp in the field of literary criticism. 10
4. (a) Roland Barthes is often thought of as a transitional figure in the journey of western theory from structuralism to poststructuralism. Do you agree? Discuss. 10

or

- (b) Discuss how ideas of Foucault, Derrida and others help consolidate the position which is today known as poststructuralism.
5. How far do you think Freudian psychoanalysis and its late-day developments in the hands of theorists like Lacan enriches our understanding of texts? 10
6. (a) Critically comment on the importance of any one major feminist theoretical text you have studied. 10

or

- (b) How does postcolonialism grapple with the ideas of hybridity, cultural difference and 'other' ness?
-