

Paper IX Literary Criticism

1. To acquaint the student with the works of significant criticism from Aristotle to the present time
2. To familiarize him with important critical movements.
3. To give him first hand knowledge of some of the works of the great critics.
4. To enable him to apply principles of criticism to literary texts.
5. To encourage him to undertake further reading in critical movements and critical theories.

CRITICISM AND CREATIVITY : The beginnings of criticism in European Plato and Aristotle; the Greek theory of tragedy; Aristotle on epic, on catharsis, criticism in Roman times Horace and Longinus, the Middle Ages.

Renaissance criticism : Graeco-Roman influence, Sidney's Defense of Poetry; neoclassicism; Dryden's method, the comparative and historical modes, the eighteenth century trend, Johnson's LIVES OF THE POETS and his criticism of Shakespeare.

The Romantic Revolt, new theories of imagination, poetic diction, Coleridge and the German influence; Shelly and Keats as critics of the Romantic period.

The Victorian transition, Mathew Arnold on the choice of subjects; Poetry as religion of the future; 'art for art's sake' and the Pre-Raphaelites; the symbolist – movement, the 'New Critics; and the modernist movement; formalism, the autonomy of art; Eliot's view of tradition, the impact of psychoanalysis on criticism, the sociological school, the Marxist approach, tension, paradox etc, structuralism and post-structuralism.

The application of all these theories and principles in the explication of literary texts. Practical exercises to be done in stylistic analysis of literary texts.

Aristotle

Sidney
Dryden
Dryden
Johnson
Wordsworth

Poetics

Apologie for Poetic
Essay on Dramatic poetry
Preface to Shakespeare
Preface to the Lyrical Ballads
Biographic literaria Chapter XIV

Arnold

Eliot

Leavis, F.R.

Northrop Frye

I.A.Richards

Edmund Wilson

Cleanth Brooks

Study of Poetry

Tradition and individual

Talent, The Metaphysical poets

Keats

Archetypes of literature

Four kinds of Meaning

Marxism and literature

The language of Paradox