

PAPER X : LITERARY CRITICISM : THEORY AND PRACTICE

Objectives :

1. To acquaint the student with the work of significant critics 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.

Course Description :

Criticism and creativity ; the beginnings of criticism in Europe-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; Greek –Roman influence Sidney’s defense of poetry; Neoclassicism; Dryden’s method, the comparative and historical modes; the eighteenth century trends. 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; other 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.

PART A - THEORY

Unit I

Aristotle	Poetics (from Enright and Chickera)
Sidney	Apologie for Poetre
Johnson	Preface to Shakespeare

Unit II

Wordsworth	Preface to The Lyrical Ballads
Coleridge	Biographia Literaria chapter 14 (Enright and Chickera)
Arnold	Study of poetry

Unit III

Eliot	Tradition and Iindividual Talent
Brooks	The Language of paradox
Frye	Archetypes of Literature

Unit IV

Jonathan Culler Structuralist Poetics
Showalter Towards feminist Poetics
Raymond Williams Realism and the Contemporary Novel.

PART B - PRACTICE

Unit I

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| 1. Varieties of Language | Idiolect, dialect, Register |
| 2. Norm and Deviation | Ordinary Language : Models of oral, communicative,
creative uses of languages, genre, form. |
| 3. Poetic Devices | Foregrounding
Tropes
Transference of meaning
Ambiguity
Meter and rhythm |
| 4. Language of Prose | Discursive
Suasive
Fictional |

(NO THEORY QUESTIONS)

Reference:

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| 1. M.H.Abrams | The Glossary of literary terms |
| 2. Leech | A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry |
| 3. D.Crystal and D.Davy | Investigating English style |