The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

Department of English

Course Material Bundle for BS English (Language & Literature) 7th Semester

Literary Theory

Couse Instructor Dr. M. Ayub Jajja Course Outline: The core/major topics for the course are

(1)Psychoanalysis (2) Marxism(3) Feminism(4) Postcolonialism (5) Structuralism (6) Post structuralism (7)Modernism and Postmodernism (8) Deconstruction

Recommended Books, articles and online Sources: (i) Critical Theory by Lois Tyson (ii) Modern Theory by Philip Rice and Patricia Waugh, Issues in Contemporary Critical Theory by Peter Barry, Macmillan, Twentieth Century Literary Theory by K. M. Newton. “A Marxist Reading of King Lear” by Muhammad Ayub Jajja, ELF, SALU, Sindh,Vol.15,2013,pp.79-88. “Women in Shakespearean Comedies: A Feminist Perspective”.M. Ayub Jajja, Journal of education Research, IUB, Vol.16(2)2013. The Heart Divided: A postcolonial Perspective, M. Ayub Jajja, Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences ,BZU, Vol. 32(2), 2012, pp. 297-307. A Passage to India: The Colonial Discourse and the Representation of India and Indians as Stereotypes. M. Ayub jajja Gomal University Journal of Research, Vol. 29(1)2013,pp.38-48. Hamlet and Pluralism: A Postmodernist Metaphor M. Ayub Jajja, GSSR, Vol. IV, Issue III, 2019,pp.33-42. “The Jewel in the Crown: A Deconstructionist-Postcolonialist Reading” Muhammad Ayub Jajja ELF, SALU, Sindh, Vol.20, 2018,pp.201-218

Suggested Online Links

Marxism:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmIhEWiYE3o>

https://study.com/academy/lesson/marxist-criticismdefinition-examples.html https://bowiestate.libguides.com/c.php? g=442217&p=3014928

Psychoanalysis:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJJER82v6W4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnnWbVvnYIs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlifQrQsdYg>

https://www.ukessays.com/essays/english-literature/ psychoanalysis-form-literary-criticism-1863.php

Feminism:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JHS9cYuJZA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6s1-_8sWutQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NJtxE18CQ0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1u2s5A5QpE>

Postcolonialism:

https://study.com/academy/lesson/post-colonialismin-literature-definition-theory-examples.html https://oyc.yale.edu/english/engl-300/lecture-22 Modernism: https://study.com/academy/lesson/introduction-tomodernism.html https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\_pywMFS8G0 http://jordansylaramericanliterature.weebly.com/themodernist-period.html <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfYEpYL_MhM>

Post Modernism:

https://study.com/academy/lesson/postmodernismin-literature-definition-lesson-quiz.html http://www.openculture.com/2019/05/what-thetheory.html <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYov7UhFj3o>

New Historicism:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkhxpskLtes https://bowiestate.libguides.com/c.php? g=442217&p=3014973

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZjHEk0FmLw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9CcQN0h3>

No Structuralism:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkDb9Nt1EBQ>

<https://msrslitcrit.weebly.com/structuralism.html>

Post-Structuralism:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d-7ReYQkUc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUKsZQezo3c>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_IYn6ZEKqs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpcCmaxThsY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqOVlE0C64g>

Deconstruction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kAaUya4UMM>

https://study.com/academy/lesson/ deconstructionism-in-literature-definition-examplesquiz.html <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Np72VPguqeI>

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=N8BsnfjtNCg&list=PL1b\_4Utnwf8BuoSX1R3CQGfnA XiDyn2jx&index=6&t=0s

**One Consolidated Final Term Exam**: The students will be required to write answers/essays on Five of the given topics.

**Set of Lectures Notes/Points Per Topic**, **Topic (1)**:**Marxism:** (i) What is Marxism: The basic principle of Marxism is that it is the economic base(the presence or absence of material resources) that defines the super structure of everything else in the form of life styles, ideas, ideals, attitudes, politics, priorities etc (ii) What is capitalism. Individual freedom to act for his material benefit. The right to profit. The idea of individual responsibility for one’s lot. You are what you own (iii)socio-economic classes, position in the socialheirarchy, on the basis of material resources. Class structure consists of haves, have-nots, super rich, workers, poor (iv) Role of different ideologies towards the continuation of classism. American Dream, any one can be rich provided he/she has the right aptitude, training and is willing to work (v) colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism are arrangements to fulfill the need for markets in colonies (vi) Consumerism, industrialists/manufacturers need to encourage consumption and consumerism to maximize their profits (vii) sign exchange value, advertisements tell people that having material junk would give them status. Since we all are exposed to very aggressive advertisement campaigns, we have all internalized this capitalist ideology, mistaking propaganda for the truth. ( viii) It is a material world, minimum material needs are genuine, some things have use value(like means of transport, cheap cell phones, but very expensive cell phones and luxury cars). These are our basic genuine needs. The rest of the stuff is only to make the rich richer. (ix) Rugged Individualism/ American Dream, individuals themselves are responsible for their material condition(x) Redistribution of Resources. Shakespeare says in King Lear “So distribution should undo excess, and each man have enough”. And “Take physic, Pomp; expose thyself to feel what wretches feel, that thou mayst shake the superflux to them, and show the heavens more just”. He anticipated Marxism. In play King Lear daughters respect their father when he own material resources, but they expel him once he has surrendered material resources.

**Notes/Points for Topic(2), Psychoanalysis(Freudian& Lacanian):** (i) Psychoanalysis is a method of analysis/investigation that looks for deeper causes of the human surface behavior( displacement, projection, anxiety, denial, avoidance, regression etc) (ii) The conventional/classical psychoanalysis is mainly based upon Freud’s concept of unconscious (Freudian). (iii) It means that the origin of our conscious acts/patterns of behavior, is situated in the unconscious. Unconscious consists of our repressed desires, wounds, unresolved conflicts and fears. (iv) Regression, projection, displacement, denial, avoidance, fear of intimacy, fear of betrayal, fear of abandonment, selective memory are some of the common psychological issues. (v) Defenses are the conscious strategies not to see or face the contents of our unconscious, for of our inability to cope with it. (vi) The failure of defenses can cause anxiety. (vii) our attitude towards life(Eros)and death (thanatos) (viii) The concepts of **id(**basic instincts,desires**)**, **ego (**conscious self**)** and **super ego**( the collective rules framed by the society. The basic principle of Freudian psychoanalysis is that our unconscious shapes and controls our conscious self.

(ix) **Lacanian Psychoanalysis** has three main stages, the mirror stage, the imaginary order and the symbolic order. (x) The mirror stage is when an infant develops his/her sense of self (xi) the imaginary order is pre-language stage. It is the world of senses only. This world consists only of the things the child can see, touch, taste, smell, hear and and feel. (xii) The needs of the child are very limited. He/she has a feeling of fulfilment and satisfaction. (xiii) The child is going to miss this bliss for the rest of his/her life as a lost object of desire (objet petit a). He will permanently busy himself/herself to re-experience that lost happiness, sometime in form of pursuit of power, glory or money. (xv)The symbolic order is introduced through language (xvi) When the child enters this order, every concept, idea, structures are already there as given and complete. ( xvii) The child through language acquires and internalizes it. His/her identity, needs, desires, priorities are shaped and defined by it.

**Notes/Points for Topic (3) , Postcolonialism:** (i) It is theoretical framework that is concerned with the representations of socio-cultural experiences under colonialism. (ii) The main poscolonial theorists are, Edward Said, Frantz Fanon, Homi K. Bhaba and Ghiayatri Spivak. (iii) Edward Said’s books *Culture and Imperialism* and *Orientalism* deal with relationship between Imperialism its impact upon local culture and identity. (iv) Orientalism deals the construction of the East by the West to further its imperialist designs. (v) Western narratives have constructed a superior White Self and a lesser and inferior non-white Other. (vi) These narratives have also been Euro-centric. West is represented as the center, standard and origin of everything. (vii) A sense of shame is produced among indigenous people about their own culture, history and identity. This leads to mimicry or imitation on the part of colonized people of every thing Western. The colonialist narratives celebrate the western racial, cultural superiority. (viii) The colonialist narratives describe indigenous cultures and identities in negative,derogatory and stereo-typical ways. (ix) postcolonialist narratives( texts written by people from ex-colonies) reject western claims of their superiority and positively represent their own cultures and identities. (x) Fanon in *Black Skin White Masks* has dealt with the impact of imperialism upon the identity and culture of the colonized people. It has highlighted the mimicry on the part of colonized people.

**Notes/Points for Topic (4) Feminism:** (i) It is a theoretical framework/ philosophy or movement, which aims at putting an end to the social, cultural, psychological and economic oppression or exploitation of women. It has come into being in opposition to patriarchy, an ideology of the superiority of men. (ii) Patriarchy, conventionally, has been for the prime positions for men, supposedly due to their superiority. patriarchy constructs men as the superior self.(iv) Women have been viewed as inferior Other. (v )Feminism as a counter narrative rejects all patriarchal discriminatory constructs. (vi)It is for an end to any form of gender-based discrimination against women. (vii) It rejects biological essentialism and sexiest descriptions of women merely as patriarchal biases. (viii) The major feminist theorists are Virginia Woolf, Simone de Bouvoir and Kate Millet. (ix) It also rejects essentialist gender divisions and is for gender based equality and equal opportunities. (x) It is against patriarchal notions of male superiority and female inferiority. (xi) it is for the recognition of women as free sovereign human beings , not lesser than men in any and any sense. (xii) If a text represents men in a positive way and women in a negative way, it has patriarchal agenda. Patriarchal narratives hold women responsible for all the social cultural issues and problems. (xiii) If a text represents women with good qualities of head and heart, and as fully developed human beings, it is said to have a feminist agenda.(xiv) A feminist narrative will represent women as very competent and capable. A feminist text might highlight the problems of women under conventional arrangement.

**Notes/Points for Topic (5) Modernism and Postmodernism:** (i) Modernism involves the questioning and challenging the conventional thought, approaches, and standards. (ii) Focus has shifted from the external, objective world to personal and subjective reality. (iii)Social realism has given way to psychological realism.( iv) For modernism the reality is not out there, it is subjective and resides inside the mind or imagination. (v) Universal absolutes have been replaced by perspectivism, relativity and point of view. (vi) Absolute certainty gives way to doubt and uncertainty. (vii) This also involves the loss of faith in the enlightenment narratives and industrial revolution. (viii) Personal and private standards replace conformity to the Universal Standards (ix) Virginia Woolf, D. H. Lawrence and Joseph Conrad are some of the modernist writers. New writing techniques and strategies, like interior monologues and stream of consciousness are considered appropriate to represent the subjective reality. (x)Postmodernism has two versions (xi) strong (extreme) version and weak version.(xii) Extreme version of postmodernism regards every absolute for fiction.(xiii) It contends that language does not describe reality , it creates reality. (xiv) Moderate postmodernism is willing to make some compromises on these issues. It is more practical and practice able.

**Notes/Points for Topic(6+7) Structuralism and Poststructuralism:** (i) Structuralism is a method of investigation that focuses upon the underlying structures ( invisible conceptual frameworks, principles) for the explanation/understanding of surface phenomenon. (ii) Our cultural and social surface reality (like the dress code, social, cultural hierarchy, ceremonies, distribution of places and positions) is dependent upon the invisible, underlying structures(codes). (iii) Unless these structures are changed, no surface change can take place. (iv) A word consists of two structures, signifier and signified. (v) Signifier is the sound/visual image and signified is the concept that appears in our minds. (vi) At the structuralist level, signifier is considered to be arbitrary and conventional, without any essential, inherent or original meaning, making sense only because of and due its difference from other sound/visual images. Spoken language is the surface phenomenon (parole), the grammar (the invisible structure) is the langue. (vii) The invisible grammar/langue controls the shape and form of the spoken language. Similarly, the socio-cultural reality is shaped and defined by the invisible grammar, consisting of ideas, values and norms, the socio-cultural structures. (viii)Postsructuralism implies that even the deep structures are not more than constructs, determined by prior arrangements, only fictions. At the poststructuralist level, even the signified is also believed to be not more a predetermined construct. (ix) Texts are not expected to have any, secret, ultimate or fixed meanings. (x) For poststructuralism, meaning is only a chain of signifiers. (xi) Every structure has already been shaped by prior structures. (xii) Reality/meaning is only a language game of infinite fictionality.(xiii) Poststructuralism assigns equal importance and role to every reader in the production of meaning. (xiv) Reader response approach is an extension of poststrucruralism. (xv) With poststructuralism, text is believed to be decentered, dispersed, fissured, fragmented, a mixture of variety of writings and incorrigibly pluralistic, none of these as original. (xvi) postsructuralism calls everything into question, including itself. Not very different from Russell’s idea of skepticism.

**Notes/points for Topic (8) Deconstruction:** (i) It is a mode of reading of texts attributed To Jacques Derrida, a French Philosopher and theorist. (ii) It almost overlaps with poststructuralism and postmodernism(iii) It impliesradical critical thinking and means to subject every single hierarchy and thought to questioning. (iv)Deconstruction is primarily a critique of **Logocentrism** and **Metaphysics of Presence.** ( v) Logocentrism( metaphysics of presence, signification is positive and essential ) means the idea that reality/meaning, independent of everything else, without any reference to anything other than itself, exists permanently, essentially, inherently, originally, out there in the sign (word, text). (vi) Deconstruction implies that a transitory reality, which depends upon so many other already given, determined things, (almost an illusion or vision) exists in the mind of the reader at a particular moment. “Nothing, in either the elements or the system, is anywhere ever simply present or absent”. This dynamic, paradoxical, irresolvable alteration of perspective, which shows the error of the other, is called **Differance** by Derrida. Put it simply, perspectivism and point of view is the truth and reality. All these different and several perspectives and points of view are equally true and right. Things will be decided only for the time being and through fullest possible participatory discussions, involving every single stake holder. This is very close to poststructuralist position that the so called deep structures, in turn, are also constructs (fictions). One is also reminded of postmodernist notion of simulacrum. Every reality is dependent upon a context, say, of past and future, things which are not present. Reality is neither permanent nor independent. The state of being rich cannot be described without referring to state of being not-rich, which not present here. (vii)Deconstruction also deals with the nature of narratives. It suggests that a narrative consists of multiple, pluralistic strands, which are often at odd with each other, while remaining intact. It is a double mode of reading, in which one pays attention not only to every single voice but also to silence. Often micro-narratives contradict the apparent dominant narrative. This self- deconstruction of multiple narratives must leave the reader without any definite idea or conclusion. It has heralded the end of singular metanarratives. (viii) One is not always expected to arrive at definite conclusions.(ix) The presence of pluralistic micro narrative strands, at odd with each other, generating not synthesis, but an irresolvable dialectic, of different perspectives, deconstructing one another other. The result might be a state of indefiniteness and indecisiveness (x) Meaning/signification is differential and relational and not essential. The structures themselves are always products of prior arrangements. It challenges the notion of simple , essential, original, inherent, independent presence(meaning).(xi) Deconstruction aims to wage its war against all kinds of totalities from within, it is subversive in nature. It does not aim to launch a full frontal attack from a position transcendence. No such transcendental position actually exists. (xii) Everything in language is relational and differential. Point of view and perspective are the only truths.