

**M.Phil and Ph.D. Syllabus,  
Dept of English, Dibrugarh University**

**PAPER I – RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**This paper comprises of two sections: first, on Research Methodology, which intends to familiarize researchers with the principles, tools and techniques of research in English studies, to train them in collecting, classifying, organizing and analyzing materials in the writing of their research project; to familiarize them with the conventions governing the written presentation of research; and to train them to apply these conventions in their research work. The second section comprises of texts on the various theoretical perspectives post-1950's ranging from Structuralism to Cultural Studies. It is hoped that a rigorous study of the different theoretical trends and perspectives as reflected in the texts would equip the students with a broader insight into the way s/he understands, interprets and approaches literature, which in turn would enable them to pursue research with clear-cut agenda.**

**Part One: Research Methodology**

Fundamentals of Research:

Unit I — Research, Meaning, Purpose, Types

Unit II — Locating and Formulating the Research Problem

Unit III— Hypothesis: Meaning, Importance, Types, Difficulties in formulation and testing of hypothesis.

Unit IV— a. Collecting and Reviewing Literature

b. Resource Utilization including Library Material/archival, Primary and Secondary sources, electronic material, field study etc.

c. Ways of Citing Resources (MLA, APA, Chicago Manual etc).

Unit V—Stages of Research: Presenting the Findings

A. 1. Outlines

2. Abstract

3. Thesis

B. Documentation and Presentation

1. Division/Chapters

2. Logic

3. Acknowledgement of ideas taken

4. Bibliography/Works Cited

**Part Two: Theoretical Perspectives**

**I. Structuralist Perspectives**

Barthes “The Structuralist Activity” (1964);

Bakhtin “Discourse in the Novel” in *The Dialogic Imagination* (1981)

Jakobson “The Metaphoric and Metonymic Poles [On Aphasia]”

**II. Poststructural Perspectives: Deconstruction and Discourse Analysis**

de Man “The Resistance to Theory” in *The Resistance to Theory* (1986)

Derrida “Signature Event Context” in *Margins*

“Writing before the Letter” in *Of Grammatology* (1974)

Foucault “What is Enlightenment?”

### III. Ideological Perspectives

Althusser *Reading Capital* (1970); Part I  
Benjamin "The Author as Producer" (1934)

Eagleton Selections from *Criticism and Ideology* (1976)

or

Williams Selections from *Marxism and Literature* (1977)

### IV. Reader Oriented Theories

Hirsch Selections from *Validity in Interpretation* (1967)

Sartre "What is Literature?" (1949)

Fish "Literature in the Reader: Affective Stylistics"

### V. Psychoanalytic Perspectives

Bloom "Freud and the Sublime: A catastrophe Theory of Creativity"

Lacan *Écrits: A Selection* (1977)

"The mirror stage . . . "

"The function and field of speech . . . "

### VI. Feminist Theory

Virginia Woolf Selections from *A Room of One's Own*

Kate Millet Selections from *Sexual Politics*

Sandra Gilbert, Susan Gubar Selections from *Mad Woman in the Attic*

Adrienne Rich "Writing as Re-Vision" ; "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" ; "Disobedience and Women's Struggle"

### VII. Cultural Studies

Stuart Hall "Cultural Studies and its Theoretical Legacies"

Gayatri Spivak "Scattered Speculations on the Question of Cultural Studies"

Dick Hebdige "The Function of Subculture"

### *Distribution of Marks*

*Continuous Evaluation 30*

*(Internal Assessment)*

*End Semester Examination 70*

**Examination Pattern: Five long questions 14x5=70**

### **Required Reading:-**

***MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th Edition***

**Richard Altick: *The Art of Literary Research***

### **Recommended Reading:-**

Kate R. Turabian: *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*

Alaine Hamilton: *Writing Dissertations*

Ann Hoffman: *Research for Writers*

George Thompson: *Writing a Long Thesis*

James Thorpe; ed.: *The Aims and Methods of Scholarship in Modern Language and Literature, 2nd edition*

Edward D. Seeber: *A Style Manual for Students, 2nd edition*

- Adams, Hazard: *Critical Theory Since Plato.*
- Habib, M. A. R: *A History of Literary Criticism: From Plato to the Present.*
- Hall, Donald E: *Literary and Cultural Theory: From Basic Principles to Advanced Application.*
- Jefferson, Anne & D. Robey, eds. *Modern Literary Theory: A Comparative Introduction.*
- Latimer, Dan. *Contemporary Critical Theory.*
- Lentriccia, Frank. *After the New Criticism.*
- Lodge, David (Ed.) *Twentieth Century Literary Criticism.*
- Murfin, Ross and Ray, Supryia M. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms.*
- Nagarajan M. S. *English Literary Criticism and Theory: An Introductory History.*
- Natoli, Joseph, ed. *Tracing Literary Theory.*
- Selden, Raman and Peter Widdowson. *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory.*
- Tyson, Lois. *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide.*
- Wolfreys, Julian. ed. *Introducing Literary Theories: A Guide and Glossary*

## PAPER II

### OPTIONAL 'A': POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES

**Objectives:** This course is designed to provide the students with the knowledge of the various trends and trajectories that postcolonial theory as a discourse has traversed through the contributions of the theorists situated across the globe. It seeks to explore the principal themes and concerns of postcolonial theory and offer possibilities to use it as a methodology to read texts, especially literary texts, from the postcolonial perspective. It aims to examine the ways in which postcolonial theorists explore issues of identity, ethnicity, hybridity, political consciousness, nationality, language, gender, body, space and so forth. The course seeks to encourage students to identify the different strands of postcolonial discourses as are enunciated by cultural theorists from the erstwhile colonized spaces and devise strategies to implement these in his research. On completion of the course, it is assumed that a student would acquire a wide knowledge of debates in postcolonial theory, and s/he will have the ability to use postcolonial theory critically and judiciously when analysing and evaluating literary texts.

#### I Debates

Abdul R.JanMohamed, "The Economy of Manichean Allegory"  
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?"

#### II Universality and Difference

Charles Larson, "Heroic Ethnocentrism: The Idea of Universality in Literature"  
Aijaz Ahmad, "Jameson's Rhetoric of Otherness and the 'National Allegory'"

#### III. Resistance

Helen Tiffin, "Post-colonial Literatures and Counter-discourse"  
Jenny Sharpe, "Figures of Colonial Resistance"

#### IV Postmodernism and Theories of Production/ Consumption

Kwame Anthony Appiah, "The Postcolonial and the Postmodern"  
W.J.T.Mitchell, "Postcolonial Culture, Postimperial Criticism"

#### V Nation

Partha Chatterjee, "Nationalism as a Problem"  
Timothy Brennan, "The National Longing for Form"  
Homi K.Bhabha, "Dissemination: Time, Narrative, and the Margins of the Modern Nation"

#### VI Hybridity & Ethnicity

Homi K.Bhabha, "Cultural Diversity and Cultural Differences"  
Werner Sollors, "Who is Ethnic?"  
Stuart Hall, "New Ethnicities"

#### VII Feminism and Post-colonialism

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses"

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism"

### **VIII Language & Education**

Gauri Viswanathan, "The Beginnings of English Literary Study in British India"  
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, "On the Abolition of the English Department"  
Braj B. Kachru, "The Alchemy of English"

### **IX The Body**

Frantz Fanon, "The Fact of Blackness"  
Russell McDougall, "The Body as Cultural Signifier"

### **X History**

Derek Walcott, "The Muse of History"  
Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History"

### **XI Space**

Graham Huggan, "Decolonizing the Map"  
Alfred W. Crosby, "Ecological Imperialism"

### **Prescribed Texts:**

**Bill Ashcroft et al, *The Postcolonial Studies Reader***

**Padmini Mongia, *Contemporary Postcolonial Theory: A Reader***

### **Suggested Readings:**

Ania Loomba, *Colonialism/ Postcolonialism*

Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin *The Empire Writes Back*

Bill Ashcroft, *Postcolonial Transformation*

Bill Ashcroft et al, *Postcolonial Studies: The Key Concepts*

Neil Lazarus, *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies*

John McLeod, *Beginning Postcolonialism*

Bart Moore-Gilbert, *Postcolonial Theory: Contexts, Practices, Politics*

Homi Bhabha *Location of Culture, Nation and Narration*

Aime Cesaire *Discourse on Colonialism*

Elleke Boehmer, *Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures*

Leela Gandhi, *Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction*

Partha Chatterjee *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World*

*Critical Inquiry* 12:1

Fanon, Frantz *Black Skin White Masks; The Wretched of the Earth*

Paul Gilroy *The Black Atlantic*

Graham Huggan. *Postcolonial Exotic: Marketing the Margins*

CLR James *Beyond a Boundary*

Michelle Keown, *Postcolonial Pacific Writing: Representations of the Body*

Ranjana Khanna. *Dark Continents: Psychoanalysis and Colonialism*

George Lamming *The Pleasures of Exile*

Sharankumar Limbale, *Towards an Aesthetic of Dalit Literature*  
Ashish Nandy *Exiled at Home*  
Ngugi wa Thiong'o *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*  
Benita Parry, *Postcolonial Studies: A Materialist Critique*  
Shalini Puri, *The Caribbean Postcolonial: Social Equality, Post-Nationalism, and Cultural Hybridity*.  
Edward Said. *Orientalism , Culture and Imperialism*  
Ella Shohat, *Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices*. Duke UP, 2006.  
Wole Soyinka *Art, Dialogue and Outrage: Essays on Literature and Culture*  
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason; The Postcolonial Critic*  
Gauri Viswanathan *Masks of Conquest*  
Robert J.C. Young, *Postcolonialism: A Very Short Introduction*.  
Anthony Appiah *In My Father's House; Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*

***Distribution of Marks***

***Continuous Evaluation 30***

***(Internal Assessment)***

***End Semester Examination 70***

**Examination Pattern: Five long questions 14x5=70**

# OPTIONAL 'C'

## Gender Studies

### Objectives:

This course offers an introduction to Gender Studies, an interdisciplinary academic field that explores critical questions about the meaning of gender in society. With primary focus on Women's issues, the paper includes discourses on masculinities, third gender, and non-normative sexualities as well. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with key issues, questions and debates in Women's and Gender Studies scholarship, both historical and contemporary. Here, the students would explore the complex ways in which genders interact and intersect with class, caste, race, ethnicity, sexuality and age within various spheres and institutions of society. Designed as an introduction to the vast field of gender studies, this paper is intended to familiarise the students with tools and techniques of studying genders and provide them a springboard to explore and pursue their area of academic interest. The course content is divided in thematic sections for the sake of convenience, and a lot of overlapping in terms of concerns is acknowledged.

### 1. Theorizing Gender

- Judith Lorber, "The social construction of Gender" in *Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspective*
- Susie Tharu and Tejaswini Niranjana, "Problems for a Contemporary Theory of Gender" in *Feminism in India*

### 2. Gender body and sexuality

- Anne Rosalind Jones, "Writing the Body: Towards an Understanding of *L' Ecriture Feminine*" in *Feminisms*
- Sandra Lee Barkaty, "Foucault, Femininity and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power" in *Writing on the Body*
- Susan Bordo, "The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity" in *Writing on the Body*

### 3. Gender, Narrative and Discourse

- Adrienne Rich, "When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Revision" in *College English* 34.1 (1972)
- Cranny-Francis. *Feminist Fiction* (1990) (intro and conclusion)
- Susan L. Lancer. "Towards a Feminist Narratology" in *Feminisms*

### 4. Gender and writing the self

- Carolyne G. Heilbrun, "Women's autobiographical Writings: New Forms" in *Women and Autobiography*
- Shari Benstock, "The Female Self Engendered: Autobiographical Writing and

Theories of Selfhood” in *Women and Autobiography*

## 5. Reading through the Gendered Lenses

- Judith Fetterley, *The Resisting Reader* (Selections)
- Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” in *Feminisms*

## 6. Gender and race

- Alice Walker, *In Search of our Mother’s Garden*(Selections)
- Chandra Talpade Mohanty, “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses.” *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism* (1991)

### Recommended Readings:

- Alice Jardine, *Gynesis: Configurations of Women and Modernity* (1985)
- Angela Davis, *Women, Race & Class* (1983)
- Anne Cranny-Francis, *Gender Studies: Terms and Debates*
- Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather* (1995) (selections)
- Chandra Talpady Mohanty, *Feminism Without Borders (Selections)*
- Carole Boyce Davies, *Black Women writing and Identity: Migrations of the Subject (1994)*
- David Gauntlett, *Media, Gender and Identity: An Introduction*
- David Glover and Cora Kaplan, *Genders: The New Critical Idiom*
- Deborah Cameron, *On Language and Sexual Politics*
- Diane Elam. *Feminism and Deconstruction (1994)*
- E. Ann Kaplan ed *Feminism and Film*
- Elaine Showalter, *A Literature of Their Own*
- Gayatri C. Spivak, *In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics* (Selections)
- Helene Cixous and Catharine Clement, *The Newly Born Woman (Selections)*
- Helene Cixous, *Rootprints: Memory and Life Writing*
- Helene Cixous, *The Newly Born Woman* (1975, 1986)
- Himani Bannerji, *The Writing on the Wall (1993) (intro)*
- Janice Radaway, *Reading the Romance*
- Judith Butler, *Bodies That Matter*
- Leslie Rabine, “Romance in the Age of Electronics: Harlequin Enterprise” in *Feminisms*
- Lois Mcnay, *Foucault and Feminism: Power Gender and the Self*
- MacLean Landry et al, *Materialist Feminisms* (1993) (selections)
- Minh-ha, Trinh.T. *Woman, Native, Other* (1989)
- Nancy Armstrong, *Desire and Domestic Fiction* (1987) (intro)
- Naomi Scheman, “Anger and the Politics of Naming” in *Women and Language in Literature and Society*
- Rachel Blau Duplessis, *Writing Beyond Endings* (Selection)
- Susan Friedman, *Mappings: Feminism and the Cultural Geographies of Encounter* (1998) (chpt 3)
- Sylvia K. Blood, *Body Work: The Social Construction of Women’s Body Image*



*(Selections)*

- Tess Cosslett et al eds. *Feminism and Autobiography: Texts, Theories, Methods*
- Tiplut Nonghri, "Ethnicity and Gender: Identity Politics among the Khasi" in *Women's Studies in India*
- Uma Chakravarti, *Gendering Caste: Through a Feminist Lens*
- Urvashi Butalia, *The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India* *(Selections)*