

Department of Aesthetics and Philosophy
School of Interdisciplinary Studies
The English and Foreign Languages University,
Hyderabad

Course title	KEY CONCEPTS AND PERSPECTIVES IN AESTHETICS AND LITERARY THEORY
Category	c. New course.
Course code	APH 202
Semester	II & IV
Number of credits	5
Maximum intake	30 (on first-come-first-served-basis)
Day/Time/Venue	Monday and Thursday / 4 pm to 6 pm NAB, Room No: 2, Ground Floor.
Name of the teacher	SREEDHARAN. T.
Course description	<p>The latter half of the twentieth century saw a veritable explosion of critical theories. Profound changes occurred in literary theory and criticism, largely as a result of the growing influence of other disciplines – notably linguistics, philosophy, political thought, and psychoanalysis. As theories, concepts, and analytical techniques proliferated, the four key elements of the “critical square” – author, reader, text, and society – have been subjected to searching analysis, the emphasis differing according to the theory.</p> <p>The practice of literary theory became a profession in the 20th century, but it has historical roots as far back as ancient Greece (Plato and Aristotle), ancient India (Bharata), and ancient Rome (Horace and Longinus). In the course, we will study some of the major concepts, issues and perspectives from the classical times to the present so as to gain an understanding of the different theoretical structures and methodologies that have shaped our understanding and appreciation of art and literature. Such a study should</p>

enable one to become more informed about the nature and function of theory, and to become aware of one's own theoretical presuppositions and dispositions. It should also enable one to look at more specific issues, such as art and knowledge, art and emotion, art and culture, and also to examine challenges to traditional aesthetics posed by Modernist and Postmodernist thinkers.

OBJECTIVES / PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- To comprehend key concepts of major theories.
- To note the differences and similarities between theories and critical schools.
- To explore applications of critical theory to various literary texts.
- To identify, speak and write about genres, forms, periods, movements and conventions of writing as well as the ability to understand and engage with literary-critical concepts, theories and categories.
- To situate one's own reading, to be aware of one's position in terms of society, religion, caste, region, gender, politics, and sexuality, to be self-reflexive and self-questioning.
- To understand the world, to think critically and clearly about the local and the global.
- To see and respect difference and to transcend binaries.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To develop an ability to analyse, contextualize, and compare texts with the help of different literary and aesthetic perspectives.
- To note how critical ideas travel, how they are contested, and how counter-systems of the aesthetic are erected.
- To develop the ability to employ literary critical skills

	<p>to read other cultural texts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To read values inhering in literary texts and criticism in relation to the environment, religion and culture, as well as structures of power. • To problematize, and to formulate hypothesis and research questions; to identify and consult relevant sources to find possible resolutions.
Course delivery	Lecture / Interactive learning
Evaluation scheme	<p>Internal (modes of evaluation): 40%</p> <p>Assignments / Examination (40 marks)</p> <p>End-semester (modes of evaluation): 60%</p> <p>Assignments / Examination (60 marks)</p>
Reading list	<p>Essential reading (Selections from):</p> <p>Steven M. Cahn, et al. (Ed.). <i>Aesthetics: A Comprehensive Anthology</i>.</p> <p>Richard J. Lane (Ed.). <i>Global Literary Theory: An Anthology</i>.</p> <p>Vincent B. Leitch (Ed.) <i>The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism</i>.</p> <p>Additional reading</p> <p>Wilfred. L. Guerin. <i>A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature</i>.</p> <p>Herman Rapaport. <i>The Literary Theory Toolkit: A Compendium of Concepts and Methods</i>.</p> <p>Michael Groden, et al. (Ed.). <i>The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism</i>.</p> <p>M. A. R. Habib, <i>A History of Literary Criticism and Theory: From Plato to the Present</i>.</p> <p>William Harmon, and C. Hugh Holman, <i>A Handbook to Literature</i>.</p> <p>Ramen Selden, et al. <i>A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Theory</i>.</p>