

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2023
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE
PAPER : CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY II
SUBJECT CODE : 19EL/PC/CT34
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS: 100**

SECTION A

I. Answer any four of the following in about 300 words each. (4x10=40)

1. Explain Toril Moi's views on Showalter's critique of Virginia Woolf.
2. Greenblatt approached New Historicism as a perspective and a methodology "set apart from both the dominant historical scholarship of the past and the formalist criticism that formally displaced this scholarship in the decades after the World War Two" – Elaborate.
3. Comment on Hayden White's theory of historical writing.
4. How does Raymond Williams analyse the "social organisation of culture in terms of its institutions and formations"?
5. Use any one of the theoretical positions included in this course in reading a literary work of your choice.
6. How does Foucault explain the implications of the use of disciplinary power to contain contagious diseases like plague and leprosy as resulting in the development of practices of exclusion and advanced forms of surveillance?

SECTION B

II. Answer any two of the following in about 750 words each. (2x20=40)

7. How does Vandana Shiva establish that "Contemporary western views of nature are fraught with the dichotomy or duality between man and woman, and person and nature"?
8. "Cultural Studies is a discursive formation, in Foucault's sense." Elaborate with reference to Stuart Hall's "Cultural Studies and its Theoretical Legacies."
9. Discuss the Jungian idea of collective unconscious focussing on the functions of the principal archetypes.
10. "The accumulation of cultural capital in the embodied state, i.e., in the form of what is called culture, cultivation, *Bildung*, presupposes a process of embodiment, incorporation, which, insofar as it implies a labor of inculcation and assimilation, costs time, time which must be invested personally by the investor." Discuss this statement with reference to Bourdieu's ideas on the three forms of Cultural Capital.

SECTION C

III. Analyse the given passage applying any relevant critical theory that you have studied: (1x20=20)

11.

Mirror – Sylvia Plath

I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.
Whatever I see I swallow immediately
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
I am not cruel, only truthful,
The eye of a little god, four-cornered.
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.
It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long
I think it is part of my heart. But it flickers.
Faces and darkness separate us over and over.

Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me,
Searching my reaches for what she really is.
Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.
I see her back, and reflect it faithfully.
She rewards me with tears and an agitation of hands.
I am important to her. She comes and goes.
Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness.
In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman
Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.
