

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2011-12 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/PC/CT24

M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2014
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE

PAPER : CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

1. Answer any TWO of the following in about 850 words each. (2x20=40)
 - a. Why did the New Critics problematize the authorial intent in their critical essays?
 - b. “Russian Formalists rejected unsystematic, subjective and impressionistic ways of dealing with literature inherited from the 19th century and attempted a scientific description of literature as a special use of language” Discuss.
 - c. In communication, the decoder’s interpretation may be different from the encoder’s message. Elucidate with reference to ‘Towards a Semiological Guerrilla Warfare’.

2. Answer any ONE the following in about 850 words. (1x20=20)
 - a. “Postmodern theory and aesthetics presuppose that all knowledge, all perception and every sphere of human consciousness and existence are subject to the laws of relativity” Discuss.
 - b. Respond to the statement that post-structuralism maintains that frameworks and systems are merely fictitious constructs and that they cannot be trusted to develop meaning or to give order.
 - c. Discuss Deconstruction as alternative mode of reading texts with or without a philosophical basis.

3. Answer any ONE the following in about 1000 words. (1x20=20)
 - a. Discuss *Is There a Text in this Class?* as a rejection of the New Critical mode of interpreting a text.
 - b. Write an essay on the need for a dialogue between environmental and postcolonial studies.
 - c. “Greenblatt’s *Marlowe and the Will to Absolute Play* attempts to create a counter-history, which is a spectrum of assaults on the *grand récits* received from the past” Comment.

4. Attempt a critical analysis of any ONE of the poems given below in about 1000 words. Identify the critical theory that you are selecting and ensure that you demonstrate how meaning is produced. (1x20=20)

Falstaff's Lament over Prince Hal Become Henry V – Hermann Melville

One that I cherished,
Yea, loved as a son -
Up early, up late with,
My promising one:
No use in good nurture,
None, lads, none!

Here on this settle
He wore the true crown,
King of good fellows,
And Fat Jack was one -
Now, Beadle of England
In formal array -
Best fellow alive
On a throne flung away!

Companions and cronies
Keep fast and lament; -
Come, drawer, more sack here
To drown discontent;
For now intuitions
Shall wither to codes,
Pragmatized morals
Shall libel the gods.

One I instructed,
Yea, talked to -alone:
Precept -example
Clean away thrown!

Sorrow makes thirsty:
Sack, drawer, more sack! -
One that I prayed for,
I, Honest Jack!

To bring down these grey hairs -
To cut his old pal!
But, I'll be magnanimous -
Here's to thee Hal!

The Force That through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower

Dylan Thomas

The force that through the green fuse drives the flower
Drives my green age; that blasts the roots of trees
Is my destroyer.
And I am dumb to tell the crooked rose
My youth is bent by the same wintry fever.

The force that drives the water through the rocks
Drives my red blood; that dries the mouthing streams
Turns mine to wax.
And I am dumb to mouth unto my veins
How at the mountain spring the same mouth sucks.

The hand that whirls the water in the pool
Stirs the quicksand; that ropes the blowing wind
Hauls my shroud sail.
And I am dumb to tell the hanging man
How of my clay is made the hangman's lime.

The lips of time leech to the fountain head;
Love drips and gathers, but the fallen blood
Shall calm her sores.
And I am dumb to tell a weather's wind
How time has ticked a heaven round the stars.

And I am dumb to tell the lover's tomb
How at my sheet goes the same crooked worm.
