

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
**(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2015-16 and thereafter)**

**SUBJECT CODE: 15EL/PC/CT24**

**M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2018**  
**BRANCH VII – ENGLISH**  
**SECOND SEMESTER**

**COURSE : CORE**

**PAPER : CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY**

**TIME : 3 HOURS**

**MAX. MARKS: 100**

**I. Write short essays on any four of the following in about 300 words each: (4 x10 = 40)**

1. “New Criticism as a style of criticism is hopelessly apolitical.” Comment.
2. Does Roland Barthes put an end to the tyranny of the author? Give reasons.
3. Différance foregrounds “a plurality of significance or saying many different things which are fundamentally at variance with, contradictory to, and subversive of what may be seen by criticism as a single ‘stable’ meaning.” Comment.
4. How does Wolfgang Iser bring about an interface between philosophy and criticism?
5. Why does Cleanth Brooks, as a formalist critic, insist on the importance of the poetic context?
6. What do metanarratives create and why should they be opposed according to Lyotard?

**SECTION – B**

**II. Write an essay on any three of the following in about 850 words each:**

**(3 x 20 = 60)**

7. Discuss the points of convergence and divergence between Anglo-American Formalism and Russian Formalism using “Irony as a Principle of Structure” and “Art as Technique” as frames of reference.
8. Umberto Eco’s “Towards a Semiological Guerrilla Warfare” showcases the resistive tactics employed by subordinate groups in constructing counterhegemonic meanings for media texts.” Discuss.
9. Respond to Vincent Leitch’s observation that “Deconstruction aims to decipher the stable truths of a work, employing conventional ‘passive’ tactics of reading; and then it seeks to question and subvert such truths in an active production of enigmatic undecidables.”
10. Write an essay on Jonathan Culler’s “Literary Competence” as a representative text of structural poetics.
11. Is Postmodernism merely theory or a significant praxis? Justify your answer.

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