

**UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS**  
**B.A. DEGREE COURSE IN ENGLISH**  
**SYLLABUS WITH EFFECT FROM 2020-2021**

Title of the Course	<b>Core Course: BEN-DSC12:</b> <b>INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM</b>		
Category of the Course	Year & Semester <b>Third Year &amp; Fifth Semester</b>	Credits <b>4</b>	Subject Code
Hours:	90		
Objectives:	➤ To introduce the basic concepts of Western literary theory and criticism to students		
Course Components	<b>UNIT-1: Introduction-Liberal Humanism</b> 1.1 Literary theorizing from Aristotle to F.R. Leavis, some key moments, the transition to 'theory', some recurrent ideas in critical theory		
	<b>UNIT-2: Structuralism</b> 2.1 The Scope of Structuralists, What Structuralist Critics do 2.2 Post-structuralism and Deconstruction		
	<b>UNIT-3: Post-Modernism and Psychoanalytic Criticism</b> 3.1 Post Modernism: 3.2 Psychoanalytic Criticism		
	<b>UNIT-4: Feminist and Marxist Criticism</b> 4.1 Feminist Criticism 4.2 Marxist Criticism:		
	<b>UNIT-5: Post-Colonial Criticism</b> 5.1 New Historicism and Cultural Materialism 5.2 Post Colonial Criticism: 5.3 Ecocriticism:		
Learning Outcomes:	By the end of this course, the students will be able to ➤ remember the critical thinkers or philosophers and their seminal works ➤ understand the significance of major critical theories ➤ analyse the themes and structure of literary works ➤ examine dominant ideologies in a literary work ➤ evaluate a literary work using a theoretical framework		

**Prescribed Texts:**

i) Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory, Peter Barry – Viva Books Pvt. Ltd., 2017.

- Unit 1: (Pages 20 – 35 of the prescribed text)
- Unit 2:2.1 (Pages 38 – 58 of the prescribed text - Excluding 'Stop and Think' portions)
- Unit 2: 2.2 (Pages 59 – 65; 68-70 of the prescribed text )
- Unit 3:3.1 Pages 78-88 Up to What postmodernist critics do (Excluding 'Stop and Think' portions)
- Unit 3:3.2 pages : 92-97 and 100 - [What Freudian Psychoanalytic critics do] of the prescribed text (Excluding 'Stop and Think' portions)
- Unit 4:4.1 Pages 118 -124 of the prescribed text
- Unit 4: 4.2 Pages 150-154 of the prescribed text
- Unit 5:5.2 (Pages 172-184 of the prescribed text)
- Unit 5:5.2 Pages 185 -192 of the prescribed text - Excluding 'Stop and Think' portions
- Unit 5:5.3 Pages 239-248 of the prescribed text

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**FURTHER READING [to be considered for internal assessment only]**

- i) *Literary Theory and Criticism: An Oxford Introduction*- Patricia Waugh,
- ii) *A History of Literary Criticism and Theory from Plato to the Present* -M.A.R. Habib,
- iii) *A Glossary of Literary Terms* - M. H. Abrams ,7th Ed. Heinle & Heinle, 1999.
- iv) *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary terms and Literary Theory*, J.A. Cuddon revised by C.E. Preston, Penguin Books, London, 6th edition, 1999.
- v) *Literary /Cultural Theory Books* by Orient Black Swan

**RECOMMENDED MOOC**

- NPTEL –Literary Theory and Literary Criticism – IIT Madras  
<https://www.classcentral.com/course/swayam-literary-theory-and-literary-criticism-7982>
- Yale University - Free online course  
<http://www.openculture.com/2017/02/yale-presents-a-free-online-course-on-literary-theory.html>

**TED TALKS**

- **Dolores Huerta -Feminism**  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/dolores\\_huerta\\_what\\_we\\_can\\_learn\\_from\\_the\\_history\\_of\\_feminism](https://www.ted.com/talks/dolores_huerta_what_we_can_learn_from_the_history_of_feminism)
- We should all be feminists | Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
[https://youtu.be/hg3umXU\\_qWc](https://youtu.be/hg3umXU_qWc)
- Heidi Hutner - Eco-feminism  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6FuKhfvK8>