

MA Semester IV 2020

English

End Semester Examination

Core Course XIII

Literary Theory

Students have to include the name of the examination roll number, registration number, course name and the number of pages they are submitting in the front page of the answer script (in the template already provided). They should also put page number on top right of each page. Students should leave a one inch margin on the left and on top before starting to write the examination. All students should write answers preferably in A4 paper. Students have to submit the answer scripts within 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Full Marks: 40

Answer any **one** of the following questions (1000 words):

40 x 1= 40

1. How does Barthes distinguish between the 'author' and the 'scriptor'? Do you think that the author is the source of textual meaning? Or would you say that the author actually finds meaning through the text? Discuss with reference to Roland Barthes' 'Death of the Author'.
2. Examine critically the interactive process of creation of the 'virtual' text, as explained by Iser in 'Interaction between Text and Reader'.
3. Would you agree with the view that the viewing experience of cinema is informed more by a triadic structure than by a dyadic relation between the screen and the spectators? You may establish your thesis with reference to films you have seen, not just ones mentioned in the essay "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema".
4. In *The Madwoman in the Attic* Gilbert and Gubar elaborate an ambitious new theory of women's literary creativity. Do you agree? Justify your answer with close reference to the essay in your syllabus.
5. Heterosexuality – as an ideology and an institution – upholds female oppression. Elucidate with close reference to Rich's essay in your syllabus.
6. Comment on Lukacs's notion of 'totality' in literature. Why, according to him, did the Modernists fail to achieve this 'totality' in their works?