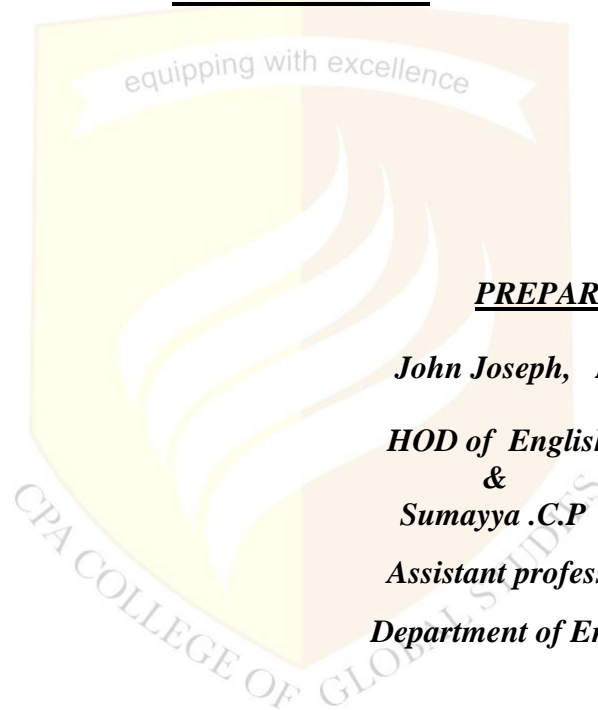


5TH SEMESTER BA ENGLISH

CALICUT UNIVERSITY

METHODOLOGY OF LITERATURES

2018 ADMISSION



PREPARED BY

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METHODOLOGY OF LITERATURES

COURSE CODE: EN5B3

NO. OF CREDITS: 4

NO. OF CONTACT HOURS: 90 (5HRS/WK.)

INTERNAL: 20 MARKS

EXTERNAL: 80 MARKS EXAMINATION 2.5 HOURS

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

- To introduce and discuss the evolution of literature
- To sensitize the student to his own readings, to develop a critical sensibility, to inculcate a love of literature, and to instil a serious approach to literature.
- To enable the student to read literature using critical and theoretical school viz. Textual approaches - New Critical, psychoanalytic, gender based ethnic, subaltern, post-colonial, cultural, archetypal, postmodern, ecological perspectives.
- To familiarize the student with other media, popular literature and emerging trends

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Module 1 - English Literature and Literary Canon

Module 2 - Textual approaches

Module 3 - Marginalisation: Gender, Ethnicity and subaltern

Module 4 - the cultural approaches

3. COURSE SUMMARY

MODULE 1 – LITERATURES AND THE LITERARY CANON

Canon formation - The features of literature: The liberal humanist school – Literatures in English - British Literature: A historical Overview - American Literature - African Literature in English - Indian English Literature - Canadian Literature in English - Australian Literature in English

MODULE 2 – TEXTUAL APPROACHES

The Formalist Approaches - Russian Formalism – New Criticism – Close Reading – Archetypal Literary Criticism – Deconstruction – Reader-response Criticism – Psychoanalysis

MODULE 3 – MARGINALIZATION: GENDER, ETHNICITY, AND THE SUBALTERN

Marginalization – The Concept of Gender – Gender Studies and Feminism – Queer Theory and LGBT Literature – Transgender – Ethnicity – The Subaltern – Dalit Literature

MODULE 4- THE CULTURAL APPROACHES

Postcolonialism – Marxism, Literature and Culture – Cultural Studies – New Historicism – Cultural Materialism – Postmodernism – Ecocriticism - Ecofeminism

MODULE 1 : ENGLISH LITERATURE AND THE LITERARY CANON

- It is not easy to define what literature is. There are many elements in literature such as poetry, prose, drama, novel etc. Also individual ideas and perception about literature differs from person to person. Literature can be simply defined as creative or imaginative writing. Literature is a discourse which is objective, interpretive and value based. Literature is also a narrative to present human conditions, thoughts, ideas, emotions and philosophy aesthetically.
- The term canon has come from the Greek word Kanon, which means measuring rod. The word was originally applied to Christian religious texts comprising the genuine religious scriptures. Later the term canon was used in literature to signify the list of secular literary works accepted as really written by a particular author.
- The reign of King Charles 1625-49 is known as the Caroline Age. It was the time when the Cavaliers (Royalists) fought the Roundheads (Supporters of democracy/parliament).
- The period between the executions of Charles I in 1649 to the restoration of Monarchy under Charles II in 1660 is known as Commonwealth Period.
- During the Commonwealth period, England was under the rule of the puritan leader, Oliver Cromwell. The period saw some strict measures against individual freedom. Hence, the period is also known as the puritan interval or Interregnum.
- Neo means new. The neo classical period comes after the most suppressive period i.e. Commonwealth period where the writers were suppressed. The period saw the rise of new classical writers like John Dryden, John Bunyan, Sir William Temple etc.
- The period 1700-1745 is known as the Augustan age. This was a period of imitation in English literature, when writers imitated the classical Roman and Greek writers like Virgil, Horace and Ovid.
- Chutneyfication is the transformation of English language by adding additional words or phrases from the local language where English is practiced. This helps in making the language tangier, more flavorsome and exciting. The idea was brought up by Salman Rushdie, the Indo-English writer.
- Nativism is a part of a worldwide phenomenon of cultural nationalism and self assertion, in which the colonized people assert their cultural and linguistic identity.
- Confederation poets are the name given to a group of Canadian poets born in the decade of Canada's Confederation formation (1860s). The name was coined by Malcolm Mackenzie Ross, a notable 20th century critic of Canadian literature.

- Jindiworobak movement was brief nationalistic Australian literary movement of 1930s to 1940s that sought to promote native ideas and traditions, especially literature.
- Liberal humanism is a philosophical and literary movement in which man and his capabilities are the central concerns. It is also a movement that recognizes the value of life and the human being. It also recognizes the right to dignity, liberty and happiness of the human beings.
- The Black Arts Movement was the name given to a group of politically motivated black poets, artists, dramatists, musicians and writers who emerged as a part of the black arts movement that happened in 1965 in Harlem, New York, USA.
- The Harlem Renaissance was an intellectual movement and social & artistic explosion centred in Harlem, New York, USA, in the 1920s. At that time, it was known as the 'New Negro Movement'.
- Native American Renaissance began in the 1960s and flourished in the 1970s. It was a project to revive the literary and cultural traditions of the native tribes, who were ignored, marginalized and excluded from the main stream after the arrival of the Europeans.
- Indian Writing in English is also known as Indian English literature, Indo Anglican or even Indo-English literature. This is different from what we know as Anglo-Indian literature which was the product of British writers writing with India as their main theme or background of their writings.
- Australia has been a British colony during its early history. As a result, its language and literary tradition is closely associated with British literature. The early themes of the Australian literature were aboriginality, egalitarianism, democracy, issues of human migration, national identity etc.
- Africa came into contact with the western world as a result of the colonization. Slowly the western languages like Dutch, German, French and English started to spread through the breadth and length of the continent, depending on which western power was ruling them. English became a prominent language as the British power rose after the first and Second World War throughout the world and thus became a dominant language throughout Africa.
- Canada was a colony of France and England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Canada had mainly three sets of people, the aboriginals, the French Canadians and the English settlers. Canada has a long association with Britain and thus British literature has a strong influence on the Canadian literature.
- **American Literature:** American literature has been broadly classified into the following periods, based on MK Abram's work, 'A Glossary of Literary Terms':-

- **The Colonial Period (1607-1775)** This period refers to the period from the founding of the first settlement in Jamestown in America to the outbreak of the American Revolution. William Bradford and John Winthrop were the major writers and their historical accounts of life and society gives an idea of early settler's life in America.
- **The Revolutionary Age:** This is the name applied to the period from 1765 to 1790. This was the period of resistance in the colonies against British and French rule and later the gaining of freedom.
- **The Early National period :** This is the period, when American nationalism started taking root. Imaginative literature began to be written during this period. 'Edgar Allan Poe' was a prominent poet during this period.
- **Romantic or Period of Transcendentalism or Renaissance :** Transcendentalism is a philosophical movement that started in America in the 1830s, with the belief that the most important reality is what is sensed or what is instinctive, spontaneous and natural, rather than what is thought as scientific knowledge. The period takes its name from Matthiessen's work, *The American Renaissance* (1941).
- **Realistic Period:** The period represents the period in American literature that emerged after the American Civil war and the Emancipation of Black slaves. The main writers during this period were Mark Twain, Henry James, Mary Wilkins Freeman and Kate Chopin.
- **The Naturalistic Period:** (1900-1914): This period denotes the literature of the twentieth century upto the commencement of the First World War. The three novelist, Frank Norris, Jack London and Theodore Dreiser were the well known naturalists in American fiction who creators characters who are the victims of their natural drives.
- **The Modernist Period (1914-1939):** This is historically the period between two World Wars. American authors achieved worldwide recognition during this period. Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, Ezra Pound, TS Eliot etc., became world renowned poets. The major American novelists who emerged were, Gertrude Stein, Sinclair Lewis, R Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Wolfe and John Steinbeck.
- **The Post War Period (1939-1970):** The Second world War, The cold War between the communist and capitalist countries and the failure of communism as apolitical project in Russia, ere the events that shaped literature and writers during the period. In fiction, this was an age of experiments, openness and sexual candour. Norman Mailer won the Nobel Prize for his classic war novel, 'The Naked and the Dead'. Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller became legends in the field of American drama.
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- **The Postmodern Period** : This period denotes the literature from the 1970s to the present day, in which the writers have carried out experimentation in fiction and poetry.

MODULE 2 ; TEXTUAL APPROACHES

- Fabula is defined as the chronological series of events that are presented in or implied in a fiction or story. While the Sjuzet is considered to be the order, manner or techniques of the presentation in the story.
- Heteroglossia means a diversity of voices, styles of discourse/conversation or points of view in a literary work.
- Collective unconsciousness refers to that part of the human psyche that contains information that has been inherited from our ancestors and is commonly shared among all humans. The theory had been formed by Carl Jung, who opined that there is a part of the unconsciousness mind that all human beings share, which he called the collective unconsciousness.
- An archetype denotes the most typical example of a particular kind of person or thing. In literary criticism, an archetype denotes repeating narrative designs, patterns of actions, character types, themes, images etc.
- In 1970s, four prominent literary critics of Yale university, Paul de Man, J Hillis Miller, Geoffrey Hartman, and Harold Bloom took up the re-analysis or deconstruction of Derrida's works. They came to be known as Yale Deconstructionists.
- Differance is a French term coined by Jacques Derrida. It is a central concept in Derrida's deconstruction, a critical outlook concerned with the text and meaning.
- According to Freud, the dream-work is the unconscious ciphering (secret writing or coding), that transforms the latent (hidden) content into manifest (obvious or clear) content. The dream-work is what allows the dream wishes to get past censorship. It is also what gives the dreams its peculiar form. Freud called the dream-work, the essence of dreaming.
- Transactional reader-response theory was formed by Louise Rosenblatt, an American University lady professor and supported by Wolfgang Iser, a German literary scholar

which says that the transaction between the text's implied meaning and the individual's interpretation of the meaning is influenced by the reader's personal emotions and knowledge.

- Interpretive communities are those competent readers who form communities that has members sharing interpretive strategies or set of community rules or assumptions of reading a text so as to bring meaning to a text.
- The reader of a readerly text is largely passive, familiar and traditional . Reader's texts support the commercialized values of the literary establishment whereas the person who engages with a writerly text has to make an effort and even re-enact the actions of the writer himself to analyze and understand the text.
- Intentional fallacy is a term used to describe the problem inherent in trying to judge a work of art by assuming the intent or purpose of the artist who created it.
- Affective fallacy is a term from literary criticism used to refer to the supposed error of judging or evaluating a text on the basis of its emotional effects on a reader.
- Heresy of paraphrase is to believe that paraphrasing a fictional plot or a poem's thoughts, constitutes an interpretation, or to believe that interpreting such a paraphrase can constitute an interpretation of the text itself, which may wrongly interpret the theme by adding the interpreter's thoughts views and emotions.
- Logo centrism is a term coined by the German philosopher, Ludwig Klages in the early 1900s. It refers to the tradition of western sciences and philosophy that regards words and language as a fundamental expression of an external reality.
- Condensation is the abridgement of a major thought feeling or work especially in a written work or speech, to make the text legible and easy to grasp, realize or understand.
- Ego ideal is a Freudian theory. It is the part of the mind which imposes on itself concepts of ideal behaviour developed from parental and social standards.
- Concretization is the process of concretizing a general principle. It is the process by which an idea or principle is established by delineating or describing or recounting it in a particular manner.
- **Oedipus Complex :** The original character 'Oedipus' is a tragic character in a Greek Drama, who unknowingly marries his own mother after the tragic death of her husband, that too unknowingly at the hands of young King, 'Oedipus'.
- Oedipus complex is a concept of psychoanalytic theory. Sigmund Freud introduced this concept in his work, 'Interpretation of Dreams' (1899) and coined this expression. The positive Oedipus complex, refers to a child's unconscious sexual desire for the opposite sex parent and hatred for the same sex parent. The negative Oedipus complex refers to a child's desire for the same sex parent and hatred for the opposite sex parent

- **Archetypes of Literature :** In literature the term archetype denotes recurrent narratives, stories, patterns of actions, characters, themes and images which are easily identifiable. This also includes myths, dreams and social rituals. Such repeating, recurrent images are usually the result of universal patterns in human psyche. Northrop Frye is a well-known spokesman of archetypal criticism. Carl Yung was another critic who followed archetypal criticism.
- Collective unconsciousness refers to that part of the human psyche that contains information that has been inherited from our ancestors and is commonly shared among all humans. The theory had been formed by Carl Jung, who opined that there is a part of the unconscious mind that all human beings share, which he called the collective unconscious.
- Carl Yung used the word primordial or primitive types to refer to archetypes. According to Carl Yung, the 'psychic residue' or 'left-over' is the result of repeated patterns of experience in the lives of our ancestors that survives in the collective unconscious of the human race.
- **Structuralism:** Structuralism is an intellectual movement that began in France in the 1950s. It brings together a number of intellectual disciplines such as anthropology, philosophy, history and literature in an interactive relation.
- **Mirror Stage:** The 'Mirror Stage', is a concept in psychoanalytic theory of 'Jacques Lacan' a French psychoanalyst. The mirror stage is based on the belief that infants recognize themselves in the mirror or other symbolic contraptions or devices that causes 'apperception' (understanding, recognition or feel).
- **Deconstruction & Deconstructive Reading :** Deconstruction may be defined as a method of critical analysis of philosophical and literary language. Deconstructions in simple terms is the rejection of usual conventions of literary construction.
- **Roland Barthes:** Roland Barthes was an influential French philosopher and literary critic, who explored social theory, anthropology and semiotics (the science of symbols). He studies the impact of these factors on society. His works left a lasting impression on structuralism in literature.
- **Slavoj Zizek :** Slavoj Zizek, born in 1949 is a Slovenian philosopher. During the 1980s, Zizek edited and translated Jacques Lacan and Sigmund Freud. He used Lacan's works to interpret and explain Marxian philosophy. In 1989, Zizek published his first English language text, 'The Sublime Object of Ideology'.
- **Reader Response Criticism:** Reader response criticism is a school of literary theory that focuses on the reader or audience and their experience of a literary work. This is in contrast to the theory that focus attention primarily on the author or the content and form of the work.
- Reader Response theory recognizes the reader as an active agent which imparts real existence to the work and completes its meaning through interpretation.

- **Affective Stylistics** : Affective Stylistics is derived from analyzing the idea that a literary text, is an event that happens in time. The text has life, only when it is being read by the readers.
- **New Criticism**: The new criticism is an American movement, pioneered by TS Eliot and IA Richards, two most prominent critics of English literature in the twentieth century. The term new criticism came into being after the publication of John Crowe Ransome's book, 'The New criticism in 1941.
- **Close Reading** : In literary criticism, close reading is the careful, sustained interpretation of a short passage of the text. A close reading points attention to the individual words, the syntax, and the order in which the sentences unfold ideas.
- **Defamiliarization** : The term defamiliarization was first coined by the Russian Formalist, Viktor Shklovksy in his essay 'Art as Technique'. Shklovksy used the term as a means to distinguish poetic form from practical language.
- **Reception Theory** : Reception theory is a version of reader response theory, which emphasizes each particular reader's reception or interpretation in making meaning from a literary text. Reception theory is generally referred to as audience reception theory.
- **Decentering**: Decentering is a way of understanding the world in its social and psychological aspects that argues that there is no single way to read an event or institution or text.
- **Post-modernism**: The term Post-modernism is often applied to the literature and art after the Second World War. We can say that post-modernism is a reaction or continuation of the experiments of 'Modernism'. One must remember that modernism in literature was a reaction or a result of the events of the First World War.
- **Psycho Analysis and Criticism**: Psychoanalysis is a method of treating somebody's mental problems or disorders by making them understand the experiences in their early life and the reasons due to which they are experiencing the present problems or situation in their life.
- **Feminism** : Feminism is the strong belief and feeling that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men and also the struggle to achieve this greater goal. Feminism as a moment became popular in the 1960s. It aimed at liberating women from various gender-based discrimination and exploitation.
- **Jacques Lacan & Psycho Analysis**: Jacques lacan was a student of medicine in Paris. He was a French psychoanalyst. Later, he joined the Freudian psychoanalytic movement in 1936. He published a large number of papers about psycho analysisism.
- The 'Mirror Stage', is a concept in psychoanalytic theory of 'Jacques Lacan' . The mirror stage is based on the belief that infants recognize themselves in the mirror or

other symbolic contraptions or devices that causes 'apperception' (understanding, recognition or feel).

- **Formalism:** Formalism is a type of literary Theory and Analysis which originated in Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia in the second decade of the 20th century. Boris Eichenbaum, Viktor Shklovsky, and Roman Jakobson were the leading representatives of this movement.
- **The New Criticism** is an American movement, pioneered by TS Eliot and IA Richards, two most prominent critics of English literature in the twentieth century. The term new criticism came into being after the publication of John Crowe Ransome's book, 'The New criticism in 1941. The basic principles of new criticism are the following:-
 - A poem or art should be treated as an object or separate entity itself.
 - New criticism is mainly concerned about the study of words and the structure of poetry.
 - New criticism deals with meaning of words, symbols and the structure of the work.
 - New criticism reacted sharply against the vulgar use of mass communication.

MODULE 2: MARGINALIZATION: GENDER, ETHNICITY AND THE SUBALTERN

Marginalization

- Refers to the process of social exclusion of individuals, communities and social groups. It is the act of relegating someone to an unimportant and powerless position, making them feel they are not good and suit in this position.
- The politics of marginalization as the construction of a sense of order and priority based on the ideology of the dominant order. For example, the aboriginal people of Australia and Canada were literally and metaphorically pushed to the European colonialism.

Gender Studies and Feminism

- Feminism is both a political stance and a theory that focuses on gender as a subject of analysis when reading cultural practices and as a platform to demand equality, rights and justice. Feminist literary criticism draws a link between:
 - The representation of women in art and
 - The real, material conditions in which they live.
- In her A Vindication of the Rights of Women (1792) Wollstonecraft rejected the established view that women are naturally weaker or inferior to men. She was one of the first thinkers to propose that gender roles are not nature al but social.
- The history of feminism can be categorized into three waves:
- The first wave feminism refers mainly to women's suffrage movements of the 19th and early 20th century.

- The second wave refers to the ideas and actions associated with the women's liberation movements beginning in the 1960s.
- The third wave feminism refers to a continuation of, and a reaction to the perceived failures of second wave feminism, beginning in the 1990s.

First wave Feminism: Key concerns

- Women's suffrage
- the right to education
- better working condition
- marriage and property laws

Second Wave Feminism: Key concerns:

- raising consciousness about patriarchy and sexism
- raising consciousness about gender based violence, domestic abuse and marital rape
- inequalities in the work place
- legalizing abortion and birth control
- sexual liberation of women

Third Wave Feminism: Key points:

- Intersectionality
- The diversity of women is recognized and emphasize is placed on identity, gender, race, nation, social order and sexual preferences
- Changes on stereotypes, media portrayals and language used to define women
- Sexual identities.

Marxists Feminism and Radical Feminism

- Two of the influential categories of feminism. While the former is trans-historical, the latter was a product of the second wave feminism.
- Inspired by the writings of Marx and Engels, Marxist feminism investigates the myriad ways in which women are oppressed through systems of capitalism and private property.
- According to them, women's liberation can only be achieved by dismantling the capitalist system in which they live. They claim that it is impossible for women to achieve true freedom in a class-based capitalist society.
- Radical feminism, on the other hand, saw patriarchal oppression that exists in all societies as the original reason for the gender injustice in the world.
- Emphasis the patriarchal root of inequality between man and woman. Central issues engaged by radical Feminism: 1. breaking down the traditional gender roles in private as well as public sphere. 2. Understanding pornography as an industry and practice leading to harm women. 3. Understanding rape as an expression of patriarchal power. 4. Understanding prostitution under patriarchy as the oppression of women sexually and economically.

Postfeminism

- Postfeminism refers to a backlash against the second wave of feminism.
- Postfeminism proclaims the idea of men as lovers, husbands and fathers.
- Tried to formulate feminist practices inclusive of race, class, gender and sexuality. Unlike the previous waves this phase did not have a single objective.

Lesbian Feminism

- Lesbian Feminism arose as a resistance to the second wave feminism which essentialized all women and men as heterosexual.
- A subset of feminism that emerged in the 1979-70.
- They consider same sex relationship legitimate and they challenges the perception of heterosexuality and male supremacy.
- According to lesbian Feminists, the only true Feminists are lesbians because they choose women as sexual partners. Heterosexuality, to them, is a form of sexual as well as political subordination to patriarchy.
- Some of the slogans of lesbian feminism popularized were "feminism is the complaint, lesbianism is the solution"; "feminism is the theory, lesbianism is the practice"; and "an army of lovers cannot fail".

Black Feminism

- Aim to empower black women with a new and critical ways of thinking that centered how racism and sexism worked together to create black women's social issues and inequalities.
- A significant aspect of Black Feminism is intersectionality.
- Anna Julia Cooper's '*A Voice from the South* (1892)' is considered as one of the original texts of black feminism.
- Alice Walker was the first person to use the word 'womenism' in 1979 (a black feminist theory). Her '*In Search of Our Mother's Garden*' proposed a new facet of black feminism known as 'womenism' which stressed the collective bonding of all women, irrespective of race, creed and class.
- While Feminism places priority on women, womenism' incorporates 'racial, cultural, sexual, national, economic and political considerations.

Queer Theory and LGBT Literature

- Came from the critical and cultural context of post structuralism, feminism and Gay Liberation Movement in the 1970s worked with two main objectives: to resist persecution and discrimination against a sexual minority, and to encourage gay people themselves to develop a pride in their sexual identities.
- It's about trying to understand different kinds of sexual desires and how the cultures define them.
- Italian feminist and film critic Teresa de Lauretis coined the term queer theory. Main goal is to deconstruct the existing monolithic social norms.

Gynocriticism

- Gynocriticism was a term coined by Elaine Showalter (1979) to describe critical responses that accounted for the woman author as a producer of texts and meanings. She defines gynocriticism as a concern with, "women as writers....the history, styles, themes, genres and structures of writing by women; the psychodynamics of female creativity; the trajectory of the individual or collective female career; and the evolution and laws of a female literary tradition".
- Gynocriticism has sought to uncover particular modes of women's writing by positing the women's experience as being at the centre of both writing and criticism.

Ethnicity

- The term ethnic and ethnicity derive from the Greek 'ethnikos', which refers to a people or nation.
- In its present form, it describes a group possessing some degree of coherence and solidarity composed of people having common origins and interests. Simply, a large group of people who have certain racial, cultural, religious and traits in common.
- Ethnic literature: Literature in which the protagonist or the speakers are conscious of being members of a group sharing common and distinctive racial, national, religious, linguistic or cultural heritage.

The Subaltern

- In post-colonial studies and cultural theory, the term subaltern refers to persons socially, politically and geographically outside the hegemonic power structures.
- It was the Italian Marxist theorist, Antonio Gramsci, who used it for the first time in *The Prison Notebooks* to refer to socially subordinated groups. Those resting outside of political, social, and economic power.
- Ranajit Guha, a Bengali historian published his work *Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India* in 1983. After that scholars and historians began to discuss subaltern issues.
- Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, the Diasporic Indian post colonial, poststructuralist and feminist theorist specifies two central problems with the subaltern studies: first, the classic Marxist model overlooks the lives and struggles of women before, during and after India's independence; and second, anti-colonial nationalist leaders had originally invoked to try to uplift the subaltern, had clearly failed to change the subaltern's social and economic situation.
- In her essay, 'Can the Subaltern Speak?' Spivak relates the manner in which Western cultures investigate other cultures. She uses the example of the Indian Sati practice or widow suicide. She critically deals with the Western writers like Foucault and Deleuze. She claims that the Western academic thinking is produced in order to support Western economic interest.
- Spivak reads sati as a site where the woman forfeit her subjectivity and legal rights for becoming virtuous. On the contrary, it helped the British to secure their role in India.

MODULE 4: THE CULTURAL APPROACHES

Postcolonialism

- A critical analysis of the history, culture, literature and modes of discourse on the Third World countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean Islands and South America, postcolonialism concerns itself with the study of the colonization, the decolonization, and the neocolonising process. It critiques cultural hierarchies and the Eurocentrism of modernity.
- The major theoretical works in postcolonial theory include *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961) by Franz Fanon, *Orientalism* (1978) by Edward Said, *In Other Worlds* (1987) by Gayatri Spivak, *The Empire Writes Back* (1989) by Bill Ashcroft et al, *Nation and Narration* (1990) by Homi K Bhabha, and *Culture and Imperialism* (1993) by Edward Said.
- The origin of postcolonial criticism can be traced to Franz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth* published in French in 1961.
- Robert Young describes Edward Said, Homi K. Bhabha and Gayatri Spivak as the Holy Trinity of postcolonial theory.
- Edward Said's *Orientalism* (1978) can be said to inaugurate real postcolonial criticism.
- A major element in the post colonial agenda is to destabilish Eurocentric norms of literary and artistic values.
- Homi K. Bhabha, the second influential theorist of postcolonialism uses Lacanian psychoanalytic principles, Foucault's discourses of power and Derrida's poststructural theories to describe the ways in which colonized people resisted the empire.
- In the *Location of Culture*, he formulates the theoretical concepts such as mimicry, ambivalence and hybridity.
- One of his central idea hybridity describes the emergence of new cultural forms from multiculturalism.
- Mimicry - appears when members of a colonized society imitate and take on the culture of the colonizers. (Imitation of the colonizer by the colonized). Mimicry demonstrates an ambivalent relationship between the colonizer and the colonized. The colonized subject mimics the colonizer by adopting the colonizer's cultural habits, language, attire, values etc. In doing so, he mocks and parodies the colonizer.
- Gayatri Spivak, another theorist whose work with poststructuralism, feminism and Marxism has resulted in postcolonial studies.
- Spivak adapts the notion of the subaltern, meaning the oppressed class, from Antonio Gramsci in order to theorize the condition of the native within colonialism and women in postcolonial state.
- Spivak's most- quoted essay is her 'Can the Subaltern Speak?'

Marxism

- As a school of literary/cultural criticism, Marxism was employed as a powerful tool in the 1960s and 70s. Marxism is a social, political, and economic theory originated by Karl Marx, which focuses on the struggle between capitalists and the working class.
- Marx wrote that the power relationships between capitalists and workers were exploitative and would create class conflict.
- He believed that this conflict would ultimately lead to a revolution in which the working class would overthrow the capitalist class and seize control of the economy.
- Marxism was first publicly formulated in the 1848 pamphlet, *The Communist Manifesto*, by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, which lays out the theory of class struggle and revolution. Marxian economics focuses on the criticisms of capitalism brought forth by Karl Marx in his 1867 book, *Das Kapital*.
- According to Marx, every society is divided among a number of social classes. In a capitalist system, Marx believed that the society was made up of two classes, the bourgeoisie, or business owners who control the means of production, and the proletariat, or workers. The bourgeoisie's control of the means of production gives them power over the proletariat.
- Russia was one of the first countries to propose a typical Marxist/Communist theory of literature.
- It was the German Frankfurt School, which gave a theoretical foundation to Marxist literature criticism. The leading philosophers were Max Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno, Herbert Marcuse and Walter Benjamin.
- Antonio Gramsci, the Italian politician and cultural theorist, in *The Prison Notebooks* formulates many of the central ideas of Marxist criticism. He identifies two levels on which authority is exercised - political society and civil society.
- Gramsci is best known for his theory of cultural hegemony, which describes a condition in process in which a dominant class does not merely rule a society but leads it through the exercise of intellectual and moral leadership.
- Louis Pierre Althusser, other most influential Marxist philosophers of the 20th Century.

Cultural Studies

- An interdisciplinary approach in the analysis of culture.
- The field of cultural studies emerged from the Birmingham Center for Contemporary Cultural Studies or CCCS in the UK, which, beginning in 1968, was headed by Stuart Hall.
- The first known exponent of cultural studies in England is Raymond Williams who reversed, subverted, and reformulated the Arnoldian idea of culture.
- An analysis of everyday meanings and practices.

- Aims to examine its subject matter in terms of cultural practices and their relation to power.
- In *Culture and Anarchy*, Matthew Arnold (1822-88) articulated a theory of culture, for Arnold, culture is primarily a body of knowledge: 'the best that has been thought and said in the world's'.
- He sees education as the agent that promotes culture, especially among the working classes.
- Raymond Williams, a major forerunner of contemporary Cultural Studies. Books such as *Culture and Society* and *The Long Revolution* (1961) taken as the basic subject area of cultural studies.
- Williams draws the three general categories of culture: ideal, documentary and social.
- The 'ideal', in which culture is a state or process of human perfection, in terms of certain absolute or universal values.
- The 'documentary', in which culture is the body of intellectual and imaginative work, in which, in a detailed way, human thought and experience are variously recorded.
- The 'social' definition of culture, in which culture is a description of a particular way of life.

New Historicism

- A critical approach developed in the 1980s in the writings of Stephen Greenblatt. It emphasizes the cultural context in which text is produced, rather than focusing on the formal structure of the text itself.
- A mode of critical analysis that focuses on the text as a site of power relations.
- Paid attention to the historical, social, economic context of a literary text.
- It believes that power is everywhere and the task of the critic is to reveal the workings and different forms of power within the texts from the past.
- To understand a literary text, critics need to first understand the author's background and the cultural context in which the work was produced.
- Stephen Greenblatt is credited with launching New Historicism. He first used the term 'new historicism' in his work, *The Power of Forms in the English Renaissance* (1982).
- Stephen Greenblatt's *Renaissance Self-Fashioning: From More to Shakespeare* (1980) does a New Historicist reading of Renaissance plays.
- New Historicism is a return to history - the cultural and social context within which literature are produced.

Cultural materialism

- A term coined by Raymond Williams.
- According to Graham Wilder cultural materialism is 'apoliticised form of Historiography'.
- Emphasis on the historical and material conditions of the production and reception of texts.

- Jonathan Dollimore and Alan Sinfield summarize the critical method of the cultural materialist. Their practice is marked by the following: Historical context, theoretical method, political commitment and textual analysis.
- Peter Barry, in *Beginning Theory* observes three areas of difference from new historicism: in attitude, in theory and in practice.

Postmodernism

- a late 20th-century movement
- The very term Postmodernism implies a relation to Modernism. Modernism was an earlier aesthetic movement which was in vogue in the early decades of the twentieth century. It has often been said that Postmodernism is at once a continuation of and a break away from the Modernist stance.
- Modernism and Postmodernism give voice to the insecurities, disorientation and fragmentation of the 20th century western world.
- Both Modernism and Postmodernism employ fragmentation, discontinuity and decentredness in theme and technique.
- The term postmodernism was first used in the 1960s by the critics such as Leslie Fielder and Ihab Hassan for the change sensibility that occurred during the period. Arnold Toynbee became the first person to use the term outside the specific literary critical sense when he announced in 1947 that we were entering the postmodern age.
- Jean Francois Lyotard, one of the most important early theoretician of postmodernism. He used the word "postmodern" to describe the condition of knowledge in the most highly developed societies.
- Another important theoretician is Frederic Jameson.
- A keynote feature of postmodernism is the fading of boundaries between genres.

Cultural Studies

- Gained currency with the publication of Richard Hoggart's *"Use of Literacy"* and Raymond Williams *"Culture and Society"* and with the establishment of Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies in England in 1968.
- It looks at popular culture and everyday life.
- It rejects the distinction between "high" and "low" art or "elite" and "popular" culture.
- It analyses not only the cultural works but also the means of production.

Ecocriticism

- A study of literature and environment.
- Officially heralded by the publication two seminal works, *The Ecocriticism : Reader*, edited by Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm, and *The Environmental Imagination*, by Lawrence Buell.
- Ecocriticism investigates the relation between humans and the natural world in literature.

- One of main goals is to study how individuals in society behave and react in relation to nature and ecological aspects.
- Known by a number of other designations, including "green studies", "ecopoetics", "and environmental literary criticism".
- Deep ecology and ecofeminism were two important developments.
- These new ideas questioned the notion of "development" and "modernity" and argued that all Western notions were "anthropocentric" (human-centered) and "androcentric" (man/male-centered).

