

VEER NARMAD SOUTH GUJARAT UNIVERSITY



SYLLABUS FOR MINOR COURSES IN ENGLISH FOR T.Y.B.A. (REGULAR)

SEMESTER VI

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEARS 2025-26, 2026-27 & 2027-28

Syllabus: At a Glance

B.A. Sem. – VI

Minor – 6: Literary Criticism and Theory (Classicism to New Criticism)

Dr.G K Nanda

Minor – 6: Literary Criticism and Theory (Classicism to New Criticism)

Course Code																									
Course Title	Minor – 6 : Literary Criticism and Theory (Classicism to New Criticism)																								
Credit	04																								
Teaching per Week	4hrs																								
Minimum weeks per Semester	15 Weeks (including assignment work, examinations, holidays etc.)																								
Effective From	June 2025																								
Purpose of Course	The course intends to provide a critical understanding of the developments in literary criticism from Plato to mid twentieth century .																								
Course Objective	The course intends to provide a conceptual framework for developing an understanding of the function and practice of traditional modes of literary criticism.and to promote critical thinking to understand and enjoy Literature better.																								
Course Outcomes	After completing this course, students will have: CO1 familiarity with origin of critical ideas in literature from Plato to the new criticism . CO2 better understanding of function of criticism. CO3 develop critical ability.																								
Mapping between COs with PSOs	<table><tr><td></td><td>PSO1</td><td>PSO2</td><td>PSO3</td><td>PSO4</td><td>PSO5</td></tr><tr><td>CO1</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>CO2</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>CO3</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		PSO1	PSO2	PSO3	PSO4	PSO5	CO1						CO2						CO3					
	PSO1	PSO2	PSO3	PSO4	PSO5																				
CO1																									
CO2																									
CO3																									
Pre-requisite	Acquaintance with the history of literary Criticism.																								
Course outcome	On completion of the course , the students will be able to : 1. get a comprehensive picture of the origin and development of literary criticism from Plato to the New Criticism. 2. boost their critical sensibility after understanding the critical methods of a plethora of critics. 3. have a comparative view of literary criticism by studying various critics and critical methods.																								
Course Content	Unit –1 Topics for Self -Study / Assignments / Library Work 1) Introduction to Greco Roman Literary Criticism 2) Introduction to Neo Classical Criticism 3) Introduction to Romantic and Victorian Criticism																								

4) Introduction to Modernism and Modern Critical Methods.

Unit – 2

The Major Authors and Their Important Works:

1.	Plato	:	<i>Ion, Republic, Sophist, Cratylus</i>
2.	Aristotle	:	<i>Poetics, Rhetoric, Organon</i>
3.	Horace	:	<i>Ars Poetica</i>
4.	Longinus	:	<i>On the Sublime</i>
5.	Dante	:	<i>De Vulgari Eloquentia, The Banquet</i>
6.	Gosson	:	<i>The School of Abuse</i>
7.	Sidney	:	<i>An Apology for Poetry</i>
8.	Ben Jonson	:	<i>Discoveries or Timber</i>
9.	Boileau	:	<i>The Art of Poetry</i>
10.	Dryden	:	<i>Essay of Dramatic Poesy, Prefaces to the Heroic Plays</i>
11.	G.E. Lessing	:	<i>Laocoon</i>
12.	Friedrich Schlegel	:	<i>Critical Fragments , On Incomprehensibility</i>
13.	Pope	:	<i>An Essay on Criticism</i>
14.	Addison	:	<i>The Pleasures of Imagination</i>
15.	Dr.Johnson	:	<i>The Rambler, Preface to Shakespeare, The Lives of the English Poets</i>
16.	Wordsworth	:	<i>Preface to the Lyrical Ballads</i>
17.	Coleridge	:	<i>Biographia Literaria ,On the Principles of Genial Criticism</i>
18.	John Keats	:	<i>Letters</i>
19.	P.B.Shelley	:	<i>A Defence of Poetry</i>
20.	J.S.Mill	:	<i>What is Poetry ?</i>
21.	Sainte - Beauve	:	<i>What is a Classic ?</i>
22.	Matthew Arnold	:	<i>The Function of Criticism at the Present Time, Culture & Anarchy</i>
23.	Friedrich Nietzsche	:	<i>The Birth of Tragedy</i>
24.	Walter Pater	:	<i>Studies in the History of the Renaissance</i>
25.	Peacock	:	<i>The Four Ages of Poetry</i>
26.	Friedrich Nietzsche	:	<i>Beyond Good and Evil, On Genealogy, God is Dead</i>

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27.	Karl Marx	:	<i>Das kapital, The Poverty of Philosophy, The Holy Family</i>
28.	Sigmund Freud	:	<i>The Ego & the Id, Interpretations of Dream, Civilization & Its discontent, Beyond the Pleasure Principle, Totem & Taboo</i>
29.	I. A. Richards	:	<i>Principles of Literary Criticism, The Philosophy of Rhetoric, Poetry and Sciences, Interpretation in Teaching, How to Read a Page, Complementarities, The Meaning of Meaning</i>
30.	T.S. Eliot	:	<i>The Sacred Wood, The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism, On Poetry and Poets, After Strange Gods, Christianity and Culture</i>
31.	F. R. Leavis	:	<i>The Great Tradition, The New Bearings in English Poetry, The Common Pursuit, The Critic as Anti – Philosopher</i>
32.	William Empson	:	<i>Seven Types of Ambiguity ,Some Versions of Pastoral, Milton 's God, Argufying, Essays on Shakespeare</i>
33.	John Crowe Ransom	:	<i>The World's Body, The New Criticism, God without Thunder</i>
34.	Allen Tate	:	<i>Reason in Madness, Essays of Four Decades, The Forlorn Demon , On the Limits of Poetry</i>
35.	R.P. Blackmur	:	<i>The Double Agent , Language as Gesture, Form and Value in Modern Poetry</i>
36.	Cleanth Brooks	:	<i>Understanding Poetry , The Well Wrought Urn, Modern Poetry and the Tradition, A Shaping Joy</i>
37.	W.K. Wimsatt	:	<i>The Verbal Icon, Hateful Contraries, Literary Criticism Idea and Act</i>

Unit -3 Texts

Text 1 *An Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism* : Kulkarni & Chaskar(OB)

The following Sections to be studied in detail :

Unit 1

- a. Classicism : Plato & Aristotle
- b. Roman Classical Literary Criticism
- c. Introduction to Aristotle's Poetics (Chapter 1 to 10)
- d. Neoclassicism : Dryden , Pope and Dr. Johnson

Unit 2

- e. Romanticism :Introduction to Wordsworth's 'Preface to Lyrical Ballads'
- f. Victorian Literary Criticism :Introduction to Matthew Arnold's' The Study of Poetry'
- g. Modernism : Introduction to Eliot's "Tradition & the Individual Talent"
- h. New Criticism : Historical background to W.K.Wimsatt

Unit 3

The following critical terms from “ **Glossary**” to be studied :

- 1. Ambiguity
- 2. Author
- 3. Canon
- 4. Decorum
- 5. Denotation and Connotation
- 6. Diction
- 7. Discourse
- 8. Fancy and Imagination
- 9. Gender
- 10. Hero



Distribution of Marks for the University Examination

Q-1	10 MCQs from Unit: 2 with four options.	10 Marks
Q-2	Long Answer Questions from the Text: Unit 1 (1/2)	13 Marks
Q-3	Long Answer Questions from the Text : Unit 2 (1/2)	13 Marks
Q-4	Two short notes on Critical terms from Glossary(Text :Unit 3)(2/4)	14 Marks
Total:		50 Marks

Reference Books	1) <i>English Literary Criticism and Theory</i> – M.S. Nagarajan (Orient Blackswan) 2) <i>An Introduction to English Criticism</i> : Birjadish Prasad (Macmillan) 3) <i>Critical Approaches to Literature</i> : David Daiches (Free PDF Available) 4) <i>A History of Literary Criticism</i> :Harry Blamires (Laxmi Publication) 5) <i>English Literary Criticism and Theory</i> : M.S.Nagarajan (O.B.) 6) <i>Literary Criticism and Theory</i> : Habib (Blacknell)
Teaching Methodology	Class work, Discussion, Self-Study, Seminars and/or Assignment, Quiz Competition
Evaluation Method	This course has 04 credits during the semester. The internal evaluation will be out of 50 marks, based on Home Assignments ,Class Assignments and attendance marks; while the external evaluation will be out of 50 marks at the university examination

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