

**PhD Coursework 2025**

**English**

**Course II: Theory of Fiction**

Time: /

Full Marks: 80

**Questions are of equal value**

**Answer Any Four Questions**

1. How do different theoretical standpoints and frameworks from the traditional, through structuralism, to poststructuralism, inform our understanding of character and characterization? Discuss critically.
2. What are the dominant points of view used in narrative? How does postmodern fiction challenge the prevalent ideas of point of view?
3. Write a brief essay comparing deep and surface narrative structures.
4. Analyse Bakhtin's distinction between the epic and the novel as literary forms with suitable illustrations from the essay "Epic and Novel".
5. According to György Lukács both the form and the function of the epic remain intact in the novel. Do you agree? Substantiate your answer.
6. Discuss the crucial differences between Surrealism and Magic(al) Realism in art and literature. You are expected to show your familiarity with works of art and literature in referencing your response.

**PhD Coursework Examination 2023**  
**English**  
**Course II: Elective: Fiction**

**Time: 3 hours**

**Full Marks: 80**

*Questions are of equal value*  
**Answer any four questions**

1. Henry James's "Art of Fiction" theorises fiction placing it at the crossroads of production, dissemination and consumption. Discuss critically.
2. How far would you consider Virginia Woolf's contentions in "Mr. Bennet and Mrs. Brown" reflective of a modernist approach to the art of fiction? Discuss with references to the text.
3. Critically evaluate the concepts of Point of View, Perspective and Focalisation.
4. Discuss the ways in which the idea of 'character' has undergone a change in works of fiction from the nineteenth century to the twentieth.
5. How does Bakhtin differentiate between the epic and the novel in terms of their temporal orientation and relationship to historical reality? Discuss with reference to the text taught in your course.
6. From your reading of Georg Lukács' *The Theory of the Novel* critically assess the effect of the withdrawal of 'the totality of life' on the 'inner form' of the novel.
7. Critically discuss (i) Metafiction and (ii) Magic(al) Realism.
8. Critically trace the evolution of Realism in nineteenth-century European novels.

**PhD Coursework Examination, 2023**

**Paper I: *Research Methodology and Techniques***

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 80**

*Questions are of equal value*

**Answer two questions each from Group A and Group B**

**Group A**

1. How important is the historical framework for chalking out a viable dissertation topic? Answer at length with the help of examples.
2. Discuss various possible approaches to, and organising principles for, drawing up an exhaustive literature review for your dissertation. Elucidate with examples.
3. How would you describe the developing relationship between the researcher and various kinds of texts she negotiates as part of the doctoral research project? Analyse with the help of a range of examples.
4. Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of following the MLA bibliographical style vis-à-vis alternative formats in a literature-based dissertation. Give examples.

**Group B**

5. Discuss what Negri means by 'Biopolitical Production.'
6. Critically comment on Ngugi wa Thiong'o's materialist approach to the relationship of language and culture.
7. Why do scholars use the plural 'feminisms' rather than 'feminism'? Substantiate your answer.
8. Critically analyse how Adorno and Horkheimer employ Marx's idea of the reification of the bourgeois world in the field of culture.
9. Write an essay on the new trends in Ecocritical theory.



**PhD Coursework Examination 2023**

**Semester I**

**Subject: English**

**Course 2 (Elective: Fiction)**

**Time: 3 hours**

**Full marks: 80**

**Questions are of equal value**

**Answer any four questions**

- 1) Write a brief essay on deep and surface narrative structures.
- 2) Do you view a fictional character as a person or a construct? Justify your response.
- 3) The point of view often becomes crucial in interpreting the ideological basis of narratives. Discuss.
- 4) Realism in narratives often foregrounds the banal and the mundane. Analyse the statement critically with reference to at least one text.
- 5) "The novel, from the very beginning, developed as a genre that had at its core a new way of conceptualising time." Bring out the full significance of the statement.
- 6) a. How does Henry James's essay in your syllabus mark a watershed in the history of theorisation of fiction? Elucidate your response.

**or**

b. Virginia Woolf's critique of the representation of reality and characters in earlier British novelists sheds light on the fast-evolving aesthetics of fiction in the early twentieth century. How far would you agree?

**PhD Coursework Examination 2023**

**Semester I**

**Subject: English**

**Course 2 (Elective: Fiction)**

**Time: 3 hours**

**Full marks: 80**

**Questions are of equal value**

**Answer any four questions**

- 1) Write a brief essay on deep and surface narrative structures.
- 2) Do you view a fictional character as a person or a construct? Justify your response.
- 3) The point of view often becomes crucial in interpreting the ideological basis of narratives. Discuss.
- 4) Realism in narratives often foregrounds the banal and the mundane. Analyse the statement critically with reference to at least one text.
- 5) "The novel, from the very beginning, developed as a genre that had at its core a new way of conceptualising time." Bring out the full significance of the statement.
- 6) a. How does Henry James's essay in your syllabus mark a watershed in the history of theorisation of fiction? Elucidate your response.

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**Ph.D Course Work Examination 2023**

**English**

**Semester I**

**Course I**

**Research Methodology & Techniques**

**(For Regular and Back Candidates)**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 80**

*Questions are of equal value*

**Answer any four questions**

1. Write short notes with sufficient illustrations on any two of the following:
  - a) Ethnography as area versus ethnography as method
  - b) Research methodology versus theoretical framework
  - c) ICT versus digital humanities
  - d) Statistical methods versus computer-aided discourse analysis
2. What are the considerations that should determine your drafting of a title for a proposed Ph.D dissertation? Illustrate.
3. The difference between a Ph.D dissertation and a Masters' dissertation is not one of word count alone. Would you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
4. The theories of knowledge and the text expounded by Foucault, Barthes and Bakhtin have fundamentally changed research in literature and culture. Comment.
5. What criteria should one be mindful of when *mixing* research methods and tools in a Ph.D dissertation?
6. a. Discuss the inclusive and interdisciplinary nature of postcolonial ecocriticism.  
or  
b. Ecofeminism has become a portmanteau, carrying multiple, and sometimes, opposite ecocritical viewpoints. Do you agree? Elucidate your response.