

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING (IIITDM) KANCHEEPURAM

COURSE FORMAT

Course Title	Contemporary Literary Theory	Course Code				
Dept./ Specialization	SH - English	Structure (LTPC)	3	1	0	4
To be offered for	Ph.D.	Status	Core <input type="checkbox"/>	Elective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Faculty Proposing the course	Dr. Parvathy Das	Type	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Modification <input type="checkbox"/>		
Recommendation from the DARC		Date of DARC	28.04.2025			
External Expert(s)	1. Prof. Mini Chandran, Professor, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kanpur 2. Dr. Gigy J Alex, Associate Professor, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIST - Thiruvananthapuram					
Pre-requisite	COT	Submitted for approval				
Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce students to major branches of literary theory starting from structuralism To help students understand the influence of material conditions and philosophical concepts in the perception of human life through cultural texts To help students read cultural texts from a theoretical standpoint 					
Learning Outcomes	At the end of the course, the students would be able to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> critically analyze and present the connection between cultural texts, philosophy and human life present literary/cultural criticism in writing 					
Contents of the course (With approximate break-up of hours for L/T/P)	<p>Structuralism and poststructuralism (6 L)</p> <p>Introduction to Ferdinand de Saussure and structuralism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roland Barthes: “The Death of the Author” Jacques Derrida: “Structure Sign and Play in the Discourses of Human Sciences” <p>Subjectivity/Identity (7 L)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michele Foucault : “Subject and Power” Louis Althusser : “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses” Giorgio Agamben : <i>Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life</i> <p>Mind and Consciousness (6L)</p> <p>Introduction to Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slavoj Žižek: Chapter 4 - “The Loop of Freedom” from <i>Parallax View</i> Julia Kristeva: <i>Revolution in Poetic Language</i> <p>Human Communities (7L)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benedict Anderson: <i>Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism</i> Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri: <i>Empire</i> Edward Said: <i>Culture and Imperialism</i> - “Introduction” 					

	<p>Gender Studies (8L)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancy Fraser: “What’s Critical about Critical Theory? The Case of Habermas and Gender” • Judith Butler: <i>Gender Trouble</i> • Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick: <i>Between Men: English Literature and Male Homosocial Desire</i> • Judith Jack Halberstam: <i>Female Masculinity</i> <p>Science and Culture (4L)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruno Latour: “Why has Critic Run out of Steam?” • Donna J Haraway: <i>A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the 1980s</i> <p>Art and Society (4L)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walter Benjamin: “The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility” • Mikhail M. Bakhtin : <i>Discourse in the Novel</i> <p>Seminar:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecocriticism (3T) 2. Posthumanism (3T) 3. Affect Studies (3T) 4. Popculture (3T) 5. Digital Humanities (2T)
Text Book	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leitch, Vincent B., and William E. Cain, editors. <i>The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism</i>. Third edition, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018. ISBN 978-0-393-60295-1 2. Di Leo, Jeffrey R. <i>Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory: An Overview</i>. Bloomsbury Academic, 2023. ISBN 978-1-3503-6616-9
Reference Books	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selden, Raman, et al. <i>A Reader’s Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory</i>. Sixth edition, Routledge, 2017. 978-1-138-91743-9