

**M.A. English**  
**Semester – IV**

**MAEM24401T: Modern Literary Theory**

**MAX. MARKS: 100**

**EXTERNAL: 70**

**INTERNAL: 30**

**PASS: 40%**

**Credits: 5**

**Objective:**

The aim of the course is to introduce learners to foundational concepts in literary theory, examining the works of influential theorists. The course aims to facilitate an understanding of the principles of theory, ideology, and existentialism, equipping students with critical tools for the analysis of modern literature.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER SETTER/EXAMINER:**

1. The syllabus prescribed should be strictly adhered to.
2. The question paper will consist of five sections: A, B, C, D, and E. Sections A, B, C, and D will have two questions from the respective sections of the syllabus and will carry 15 marks each. The candidates will attempt one question from each section.
3. Section E will have four short answer questions covering the entire syllabus. Each question will carry 5 marks. Candidates will attempt any two questions from this section.
4. The examiner shall give a clear instruction to the candidates to attempt questions only at one place and only once. Second or subsequent attempts, unless the earlier ones have been crossed out, shall not be evaluated.
5. The duration of each paper will be three hours.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES:**

Candidates are required to attempt any one question each from the sections A, B, C, and D of the question paper and any two short questions from Section E. They have to attempt questions only at one place and only once. Second or subsequent attempts, unless the earlier ones have been crossed out, shall not be evaluated.

**Section – A**

**Jonathan Culler:** *What is Theory*

**Section – B**

**Terry Eagleton:** *What is Ideology*

**Section – C**

**Louis Althusser:** *Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus*

## Section – D

### Jean-Paul Sartre: *Existentialism*

#### Suggested Readings:

1. Althusser, Louis. “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses: Notes towards an Investigation”, *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*. Monthly Press Review, 1971.
2. Barry, Peter. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. Viva Books, 2010.
3. Bertens, Hans. *Literary Theory: The Basics*. London: Routledge, 2014.
4. Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. OUP, 1997
5. Eagleton, Terry. *Ideology: An Introduction*. London: Verso, 1991.
6. ---. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. New Delhi: Doaba Publications, 1983
7. ---. *Marxism and Literary Criticism*. Berkeley: University of California, 1976.
8. Gramsci, Antonio. *Selections from Prison notebooks*. Delhi: Akaar Books, 2015
9. Hawkes, David. *Ideology: The New Critical Idiom*. London: Routledge, 2004. Martz, Louis L., ed., *Milton: A Collection of Critical Essays*, Prentice Hall, N.J., 1966.
10. Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Being and Nothingness*. New Delhi: Routledge, 1956.
11. ---. *Existentialism is a Humanism*.