

Anglophone literature

Brief exam description:

The exam centres on a selection of issues that are frequently fictionalised in American literature, emphasising the variety of writing styles, subject matters, narrative elements, character types, and ideological issues that manifest themselves in post-WWII fiction, drama, and poetry written in English.

Areas of competence required:

- Candidates are required to demonstrate their ability to compare and contrast a variety of texts relevant to the chosen topic, using specific examples they consider relevant and avoiding unsupported generalisations.
- Candidates are required to apply various reading strategies (e.g. biographical, feminist, formalist, psychological, etc.) to reveal subtle text cues and layers of narrative and non-narrative texts relevant to the chosen topic.
- Candidates are required to provide support for their general claims, i.e. to use specific examples from relevant primary and secondary literature, referring to specific passages, characters, actions, scenes, etc.
- Candidates are required to introduce the chosen topic briefly (including the relevant cultural and historical background, if applicable), then move on to discuss relevant details, and try and respond to any questions raised or comments made by members of the examination board;
- Candidates are required to avoid stating the obvious (e.g. irrelevant plot synopses, extended author biographies, or complete lists of works written by an author) and overgeneralised reader-response comments.
- Candidates are required to make references to any compulsory literature within the scope of the literature-related subjects that they consider relevant.
- Candidates are required to use established terms/concepts of literary theory rather than to use a non-academic jargon.

Most importantly, candidates are encouraged to use their original ideas and interpretations, however unusual or controversial, as long as they can be supported by evidence from literary works of art relevant to the chosen topic

Exam topics:

- 1) Feminism, its Basic Concepts, Early Feminism
 - The Second, Third Waves and Contemporary Feminism
 - Feminism and Literature, Feminist Analysis of a Literary Text
- 2) Basic Concepts/Ideas of Post-Colonial Theories
 - Colonialism, Post-Colonialism and Literature: The Empire Writes Back
 - Key Terms of Post-Colonial Theories: Cultural Identity (Stuart Hall), Orientalism (E.Said), Diaspora (J. Safran), Colonialism, Post-Colonialism

- 3) Postmodernism and Postmodern Theories: Postmodernism and Literature
 - Postmodernism and Capitalism: Frederic Jameson, Parody, Pastiche, and Consumer Culture
 - Postmodernism, Representation, Simulacra and Simulation: Jean Baudrillard's Concept of Simulacrum
- 4) Postmodernism, Popular Culture and Theories: J. Storey's Understanding of Pop Culture (J. Storey: "What is Popular Culture?")
 - Pop Culture and Literature: Leslie Fiedler: "Cross the Border-Close That Gap"
- 5) Pop Culture and Music: Hip Hop Culture and Rap Music
 - R. Shusterman's Understanding of Rap Music, High or Low Culture? ("The Fine Art of Rap")
- 6) Pop Culture and Soap Opera: John Fiske's concept of the Soap Opera
 - Pop Culture and Television: John Fiske on Television ("Moments of Television: Neither the Text nor the audience")

Compulsory Reading:

Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin. *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-colonial Literatures*. London and New York: Routledge, 1989 (The first two chapters only).

Jean Baudrillard: "Simulacra and Simulations", In: Jean Baudrillard, *Selected Writings*, ed. Mark Poster (Stanford; Stanford University Press, 1988), pp.166-184.
https://epk.home.xs4all.nl/theory/Simulation/Baudrillard_Simulacra%20and%20Simulations.pdf

Fiedler, L. "Cross the Border-Close That Gap"

Fiske, J. "Moments of Television: Neither the Text nor the audience," In: Seiter, E., Borchers, H., Kreutzner, G., Worth, E.M. (eds.), *Remote Control*. London: Routledge, 56-78. <https://www.aau.at/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/text-fiske.pdf>

Hall, S. "Cultural Identity and Diaspora" Hall, Stuart, (1994) "Cultural identity and diaspora" from Williams, Patrick and Laura Chrisman, *Colonial discourse and post-colonial theory: a reader*, London: Harvester Wheatsheaf. pp.227-237.
 (http://sites.middlebury.edu/nydiasporaworkshop/files/2011/04/D-OA-HallStuart-CulturalIdentityandDiaspora.pdf)

Jameson, F. 2009. "Postmodernism and Consumer Society", in *The Cultural Turn: Selected Writings on the Postmodern, 1983-1998*. London; Verso, pp.1-20.
https://art.ucsc.edu/sites/default/files/Jameson_Postmodernism_and_Consumer_Society.pdf

Safran, W. "Diaspora in Modern Societies: Myths of Homeland and Return, In: James Clifford, "Diasporas," *Cultural Anthropology* 9(3): 302-338.
 (https://www.academia.edu/5029348/Diasporas_in_Modern_Societies_Myths_of_Homeland_and_Return)

Shusterman, R. "The Fine Art of Rap" *Pragmatist Aesthetics*, 2000

Storey, J. *Postmodernism and Television*, in, Storey, J. (ed.). *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture* (http://www.mdw.ac.at/upload/MDWeb/ims/pdf/Storey,_Kap.1.pdf)

Fiction:

S. Perkins Gilman: *The Yellow Wall Paper*

J. Lahiri: *The Interpreter of Maladies* (short story)

R. Coover: *Lucky Pierre in the Doctor's Office* (short story)

Literature:

Barry, P. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. Manchester and New York: Manchester UP. 2nd edition, 2002.

Green, K., LeBihan, J. *Critical Theory and Practise: A Coursebook*. London and New York: Routledge, 1996.

Hall, D.E. *Literary and Cultural Theory. From Basic Principles to Advanced Applications*. Boston, New York: Houghton/Mifflin, 2001.

Sutherland-Smith, J. *Multiple Visions: Approaches to Cultural Studies I*. Prešov: FF PU, 2016. http://www.pulib.sk/web/kniznica/elpub/dokument/Sutherland_Smith1

Sutherland-Smith, J. *Multiple Visions: Approaches to Cultural Studies II*. Prešov: FF PU, 2016. http://www.pulib.sk/web/kniznica/elpub/dokument/Sutherland_Smith2

Tyson, L. *Using Critical Theory. How to Read and Write About Literature*. London, New York, 2011, second ed.

Dátum poslednej aktualizácie: marec 2023