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N – 7187

Reg. No. :

Name :

Second Semester M.A. Degree Examination, August 2022

English Language and Literature

EL 224 : CRITICAL STUDIES I

(2017 Admission Onwards)

Special Examination

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks : 75

I. Answer any **five** of the following **each** in about **50** words.

1. Syntagmatic and Paradigmatic.
2. Polyphony.
3. Intertextuality.
4. Discourse according to Foucault.
5. Dialectical materialism.
6. Symbolic order.
7. Waves of Feminism.
8. Rhizome.

(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

II. Answer **four** of the following **each** in not more than **150** words.

9. Écriture feminine.
10. Sign Signifier Signified.

P.T.O.


11. Logocentrism in Deconstruction.
12. False consciousness.
13. Reflectionism in Marxism.
14. Id, Ego, Superego.
15. Feminine, Feminist and Female phase according to Elaine Showalter.
16. Reality principle.

(4 × 5 = 20 Marks)

- III. Answer **three** of the following **each** in not more than **450** words, Choosing at least **one** from each sections.

SECTION A

17. Elaborate on Derrida's views in "Structure sign and play in the discourse of the human sciences".
18. Discuss Helena Cixous's "The Laugh of the Medusa".
19. Elaborate on Marx's insights in "The German ideology".

SECTION B

20. Psychoanalytic criticism adopts the methods of reading employed by Freud to interpret texts. Discuss.
21. Feminist criticism is concerned with "the ways in which literature reinforces or undermines the economic, political, social, and psychological oppression of women". Elaborate.
22. Write an essay on Marxist Literary criticism.

SECTION C

Attempt a theoretical reading of the following using any **one** of the theoretical premises prescribe for study:

23. It is we sinful women
who are not awed by the grandeur of those who wear gowns



who don't sell our lives
who don't bow our heads
who don't fold our hands together.

It is we sinful women
while those who sell the harvests of our bodies
become exalted
become distinguished
become the just princes of the material world.

It is we sinful women
who come out raising the banner of truth
up against barricades of lies on the highways
who find stories of persecution piled on each threshold
who find that tongues which could speak have been severed.

24. You do not do, you do not do
Any more, black shoe
In which I have lived like a foot
For thirty years, poor and white,
Barely daring to breathe or Achoo.

Daddy, I have had to kill you.

You died before I had time ____

Marble-heavy, a bag full of God,

Ghastly statue with one gray toe

Big as a Frisco seal

And a head in the freakish Atlantic

Where it pours bean green over blue

In the waters off beautiful Nauset.

I used to pray to recover you.

Ach, du.



25. "America is the wealthiest nation on Earth, but its people are mainly poor, and poor Americans are urged to hate themselves. To quote the American humorist Kin Hubbard, 'It ain't no disgrace to be poor, but it might as well be.' It is in fact a crime for an American to be poor, even though America is a nation of poor. Every other nation has folk traditions of men who were poor but extremely wise and virtuous, and therefore more estimable than anyone with power and gold. No such tales are told by the American poor. They mock themselves and glorify their betters. The meanest eating or drinking establishment, owned by a man who is himself poor, is very likely to have a sign on its wall asking this cruel question: 'if you're so smart, why ain't you rich?' There will also be an American flag no larger than a child's hand - glued to a lollipop stick and flying from the cash register.

Americans, like human beings everywhere, believe many things that are obviously untrue. Their most destructive untruth is that it is very easy for any American to make money. They will not acknowledge how in fact hard money is to come by, and, therefore, those who have no money blame and blame and blame themselves. This inward blame has been a treasure for the rich and powerful, who have had to do less for their poor, publicly and privately, than any other ruling class since, say Napoleonic times. Many novelties have come from America. The most startling of these, a thing without precedent, is a mass of undignified poor. They do not love one another because they do not love themselves".

(3 × 15 = 45 Marks)

