

**CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION
SRI SRI UNIVERSITY, CUTTACK**
MASTER OF ARTS (HINDU STUDIES)
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Course Code: MHS 201

Academic Year: 2025-26

Course Name: Western Methods for Understanding Discourses

Session: February 2025

Semester: 2nd

Total Marks: 100

A. Answer any eight questions (essay type). Answer in about 350-500 words each.

(10 X 8 = 80)

1. Explain Formalism as a method of literary criticism. Discuss its key concepts such as defamiliarization, literariness, and close reading.
2. Elaborate in detail about the different levels of language?
3. How does Marxism shape the way we read and understand texts? Discuss its major idea about society, power, class, in which texts are produced.
4. What is Postcolonial theory? Discuss important ideas such as colonizer vs. colonized, and identity.
5. Compare Formalism and New Criticism. In what ways are they similar, and where do they differ?
6. Discuss the concepts of signifier and signified, and their arbitrary relationship with reference to the theory of Structuralism.
7. What do you mean by “Text as Autotelic”? Why do New critics emphasise on the text itself.
8. Discuss the role of the reader in creating meaning. Refer to any two theories of your choice.
9. Who wrote the seminal book “The Empire Writes Back”? What is the chief argument?
10. Discuss the major concerns of Postmodern theory. What features make a text “postmodern”?

B. Write short notes on any four. Answer in about 150-200 words each.

(5 X 4 = 20)

1. Defamiliarization
2. Intentional Fallacy
3. Binary Oppositions
4. Patriarchy
5. Id and Ego
6. Othering