

M.A. Sem.-4 (Rep) Examination

509 - English (EB)

Cont.Theo.

November-2025

Time : 2-30 Hours]

[Max. Marks : 70

Instructions:

1. Attempt all questions
2. All questions carry equal marks

1. "Power is everywhere; not because it embraces everything, but because it comes from everywhere." Discuss (14)

OR

How does Foucault's concept of "power/knowledge" challenge traditional understandings of objective truth?

2. "The absence of the transcendental signified extends the domain and play of signification infinitely." Critically examine this statement in the context of Derrida's critique of structuralism. (14)

OR

"The center is not the center." - Discuss how Derrida's critique of structuralism destabilizes the basic tenets of Western metaphysics.

3. Discuss the role of memory, narrative, and cultural practice in shaping diasporic identities according to Stuart Hall. (14)

OR

"Cultural identity is a matter of 'becoming' as well as of 'being' – Elaborate on how this statement reflects Hall's argument about identity as a dynamic and contested process.

4. How does Bakhtin's notion of dialogism reshape our understanding of voice, authority, and meaning in the novel? (14)

OR

"The word in language is half someone else's." – Elaborate on how Bakhtin's concept of intertextuality suggests that meaning is always shaped by prior discourse.

5. Attempt any seven MCQs: (14)

- (1) Which concept refers to the framework through which societies define and enforce what is considered true?

- A) Power dynamics
- B) Regime of truth
- C) Biopolitics
- D) Archaeology of knowledge

- (2) According to Foucault, truth is:

- A) Universal and independent of context
- B) A product of logical reasoning

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- C) Produced through power relations and discourse
D) Discovered through scientific inquiry alone
- (3) What event does Derrida describe as the 'rupture' in the history of thought?
A) The development of psychoanalysis.
B) The emergence of modern philosophy.
C) The rise of empirical science.
D) The interrogation of "the structurality of structure.
- (4) Derrida's concept of 'bricolage' refers to:
A) The use of pre-existing concepts to construct new meanings.
B) The rigid structure of language.
C) The scientific method of knowledge production.
D) The random nature of human speech.
- (5) Stuart Hall identifies how many approaches to cultural identity in his essay?
A) One
B) Four
C) Three
D) Two
- (6) In which year was Stuart Hall's essay "Cultural Identity and Diaspora" published?
A) 1983
B) 1990
C) 1978
D) 2000
- (7) What does Bakhtin mean by heteroglossia?
A) A singular, unified voice in literature.
B) The use of poetic language in the novel.
C) The coexistence of multiple voices and perspectives within a text.
D) The author's control over meaning.
- (8) Which of the following concepts is NOT central to New Criticism?
A) Close reading
B) The autonomy of the text
C) Intertextuality
D) Unity and coherence in a work
- (9) Which Marxist critic developed the concept of ideological state apparatuses (ISAs)?
A) Karl Marx
B) Louis Althusser
C) Raymond Williams
D) Walter Benjamin
- (10) Which among the following is NOT an African postcolonial author?
A) Chinua Achebe
B) Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o
C) Isabel Allende
D) Wole Soyinka
- (11) In minority discourse, the term "subaltern" refers to:
A) Individuals and groups who are socially, politically, and culturally marginalized.
B) The ruling elite in postcolonial societies.
C) Members of the dominant social class.
D) Colonial administrators and their descendants.
- (12) Who coined the term 'ecofeminism' in 1974?
A) Vandana Shiva
B) Carolyn Merchant
C) Val Plumwood
D) Françoise d'Eaubonne
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