

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications:-

M.A.

French G21: Post-War Theory of Literature (take-home paper)

COURSE CODE : **FRENG021**

DATE : **To be collected at 10.00 on 21 May and returned
by 17.00 on 23 May 2002.**

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TURN OVER

LITERARY THEORY

Answer THREE questions, EACH taken from a DIFFERENT SECTION of the paper.

You may answer in English or in French, but no special credit will be given for writing in French rather than in English.

DO NOT BASE YOUR ANSWERS ON THIS PAPER, OR AN ANSWER ON THIS PAPER AND ONE IN AN OPTION PAPER, OR YOUR DISSERTATION, ON THE SAME TEXT OR ON SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MATERIAL.

No answer should be longer than 1500 words.

*The examination lasts 55 hours (i.e. it begins at 10:00am on Day 1, and all answers must be returned by 5:00pm on Day 3). **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.***

For further guidelines, see the MA information sheet: Take-home examination in Literary Theory.

SECTION A

1. 'Far from the world determining the order of our language, our language determines the order of the world.' Discuss this assertion and assess its significance for a reading of ONE or MORE theoretical texts.
2. 'Literary Structuralism is distinctive as a mode of interpretation of texts in taking a "functional" view of meaning.' Discuss this remark, illustrating your answer with reference to ONE or MORE theoretical texts.
3. 'Structuralism and post-Structuralism are anti-authoritarian in that they assert the inexhaustibility of the Text and thus its perpetual openness to critical discoveries.' Discuss with reference to ONE or MORE theoretical texts.
4. In what ways and for what reasons have theorists sought to challenge the notion that literature is a reliable reflection of reality? Answer with reference to ONE or MORE theorists you have studied in this course.
5. With reference to the work of ONE or MORE theorists you have studied, discuss the relationship between authorship and authority.

SECTION B

6. 'Works of art can only reflect and reproduce the dominant ideology; they allow no possibility of resistance or change.' Discuss this assertion with reference to ONE or MORE theoretical texts AND/OR ONE or MORE literary/filmic texts.
7. Analyse and discuss the relations between sexuality and identity posited in ONE or MORE theoretical works.
8. Discuss the different analyses offered by social-constructivist and psychoanalytic theories of identity. Answer with reference to AT LEAST TWO thinkers.

SECTION C

9. 'Le roman est le seul genre littéraire où l'éthique du romancier devient un problème esthétique de l'œuvre.' Discuss with reference to ONE or MORE theoretical texts.
10. 'The role of good literature is to be critical and challenging. The rest is of little value, mere mental chewing gum.' Discuss with reference to ONE or MORE theoretical texts.
11. If, as Trotsky states, 'what serves as a bridge from soul to soul is not the unique but the common', how might Marxist approaches to literature help us to understand literary works across the gap of time? Discuss with reference to ONE or MORE theoretical texts.
12. 'Individual consciousness is not the architect of the ideological superstructure, but only a tenant lodging in the social edifice of ideological signs.' Discuss with reference to ONE or MORE theoretical texts.
13. 'Le miroir est expressif autant par ce qu'il ne réfléchit pas que par ce qu'il réfléchit. L'absence de certains reflets, ou expressions, voilà l'objet véritable de la critique.' In the light of this statement, discuss the function of literature and of ideology with reference to ONE or MORE theoretical texts.

SECTION D

14. Discuss, with reference to ONE or MORE theorists, the view that autobiographical writing is fictional, and that what receives a voice or a face in this writing is the voiceless and faceless. You may, if you wish, illustrate your answer by reference to any autobiographical text(s) and/or film(s).
15. Discuss, with reference to ONE or MORE theorists, the description of the 'autobiographical moment' as one in which *two* subjects constitute *the* subject through a mirror relationship. You may, if you wish, illustrate your answer with reference to any autobiographical text(s) and/or film(s).
16. Discuss, with reference to ONE or MORE autobiographical films AND/OR texts, the view that autobiographical works (whether film or text) are inherently theoretical, and that this creates a problem for theoretical writing about autobiography. You may also, if you wish, draw on the work of any theorists studied in this course.

END OF PAPER