

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

*University of London*

## EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

*For the following qualifications:-*

*M.A.*

**French G21: Literary Theory (take-home paper)**

COURSE CODE : **FRENG021**

DATE : **27-May-03**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **55 hours**

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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 10:00 a.m. on Day 1, and all answers must be returned by 5:00 p.m. 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. Identify and analyse, with reference to **TWO** or **MORE** texts studied on this course, any strains of argument within literary theory that suggest that literary realism should be viewed as inherently politically conservative.
2. In what ways, if any, might the notion of a 'code' be useful in theorising literature? Answer with reference to **TWO** or **MORE** texts studied on this course.
3. Discuss, with reference to **TWO** or **MORE** texts studied on this course, the uses made by literary theorists of the notion of 'the reader'.

### SECTION B

4. 'Man must break the charm of his reflected image by accepting the reality of its unreality.' Discuss this statement with reference to **TWO** or **MORE** theoretical texts you have studied for this course.
5. 'Le pluriel du signe est en réalité un des effets les plus insidieux du discours phallique.' Discuss this statement with reference to **TWO** or **MORE** theoretical texts you have studied for this course.
6. Discuss, with reference to **TWO** or **MORE** theoretical texts you have studied for this course, the view that the body provides the only sustainable resistance to the subject's captivation by the imaginary.

**CONTINUED**

### **SECTION C**

7. In what ways does postcolonial theory attempt to problematise the relation between language and the postcolonial subject? Answer with reference to ONE or MORE texts you have studied for this course.
8. To what extent does the notion of the 'unrepresentable', as used in texts you have studied for this course, constitute a critique of humanist accounts of representation? Answer with reference to TWO or MORE texts.
9. 'The work of art allows us to see beyond the ideological limits of its time.' Discuss this statement with reference to TWO or MORE theoretical texts you have studied for this course.

### **SECTION D**

10. With reference to TWO or MORE works studied on this course, analyse and discuss the view that 'the gendered/sexual self is always-already a construct produced at the intersections of history, language and class'.
11. Analyse and discuss, with reference to TWO or MORE works studied on this course, the view that writing/filming the self 'posits itself as offering a *resemblance* of the truth and an *image* of the real, rather than strict verisimilitude'.
12. Discuss the extent to which, in ONE or MORE of the film-essays studied, the self-image presented is a poetic image. You should refer to relevant theorisations of the image.

**END OF PAPER**