

OLLSCOIL Na hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

SEMESTER II EXAMINATIONS, 2000/2001

SECOND ARTS EXAMINATION

EN 291: Studies in Critical Theory and Practice

Professor E. Ní Chuilleanáin
Professor B. O'Donoghue
Professor K. Barry
Dr. Sean Ryder

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS

ANSWER QUESTION 1 AND TWO OTHER QUESTIONS.

1. Offer a detailed reading of a literary text which has been discussed during the course, making use of one particular theoretical perspective you have studied. Describe the advantages and/or disadvantages of the approach you have chosen.

2.

Write an essay on **one** of the following topics:

(a) Why it is difficult to define 'literature'.

OR

(b) The history of 'English' as an academic discipline.

3. What are the achievements and limitations of formalist criticism, in your view?

4. How useful is the narratological theory of **either** Propp or Todorov? In what ways might such a theory be termed 'structuralist'?

Contd./...

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5. Describe and evaluate the usefulness of the post-structuralist concepts **either** of 'intertextuality' or of 'deconstruction'.

6. What makes a Marxist approach to literary criticism distinctive?

7. In what ways does 'New Historicist' criticism challenge older **ideas** about the relations between literature and history?

8. How have feminist theories tried to reshape literary studies?

9. Describe some of the characteristics and purpose of 'postcolonial' criticism.

10. Write an account of any one of the following : reader-response theory; psychoanalytic theory; 'queer' theory.

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