

Department of Slavonic & Finno–Ugrian Studies
University of Delhi

Semester- III
DSE – 7
Theory of Literature

Discipline-Specific Elective Course-7
Theory of Literature

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course Title & Code Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)	Department offering the course
	Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice			
Theory of Literature	3	1	-	As per university rules	NA	Department of Slavonic & Finno– Ugrian Studies

Aims and Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the fundamental concepts of literature and its role in society.
2. To familiarize students with the historical and theoretical foundations of literary studies.
3. To develop students' analytical skills in examining literary forms, genres, and structures.
4. To provide a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of literature from ancient to modern times.

Assessment Methods:

As per the university examination/assessment scheme

Unit 1: Theory of Literature

(15 Hours)

- 1.1. Literature and its significance in society.
- 1.2. The relationship between literature and folklore.
- 1.3. Types and genres of literature: poetry, prose, drama, and hybrid forms.

Unit 2: Historical and Literary Processes

(15 Hours)

- 2.1. Definitions and salient features of literary periods.
- 2.2. Key literary movements: Classicism, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, and Postmodernism.
- 2.3. The influence of historical events on literary development.

Unit 3: The Idea of a Literary Work

(15 Hours)

Department of Slavonic & Finno–Ugrian Studies

University of Delhi

3.1. Basic elements of a literary text: plot, theme, and motif.

3.2. Conflict and its types in literature.

3.3. Composition and structure of a literary work.

3.4. Narrative techniques and point of view.

Unit 4: Historical Background of Literature

(15 Hours)

4.1. Overview of ancient literature (Greek, Roman, and Indian traditions).

4.2. Medieval and Renaissance literature.

4.3. The evolution of Russian literature from its origins to the modern era.

Recommended books/readings:

1. Barisova, Irina. Theory of Literature. Moscow, 2010.
2. Culler, Jonathan. Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford University Press, 1997.
3. Eagleton, Terry. Literary Theory: An Introduction. Blackwell, 1983.
4. Gulaev, Theory of Literature. Moscow, 2015.
5. Khalizev, V.I. Theory of Literature. Moscow, 2002.
6. Lotman, Yuri. The Structure of the Artistic Text. University of Michigan Press, 1977.
7. Pospelova, G.N. Introduction to Literary Studies (Introduction to Literary Studies). Moscow, 2005.
8. Propp, Vladimir. Morphology of the Folktale. University of Texas Press, 1928.
9. Gasparov, Mikhail. A History of European Versification. Oxford University Press, 1996.
10. Todorov, Tzvetan. Introduction to Poetics. University of Minnesota Press, 1981.
11. Titarenko, E.A., & Khadyko, E.F. Literature in Diagram. Minsk, 2005.
12. Wellek, René & Warren, Austin. Theory of Literature. Harcourt, 1949.