

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**

<b>Course Title &amp; Code Credits</b>	<b>Credit Distribution of the Course</b>			<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	<b>Pre-requisite of the course (if any)</b>	<b>Department offering the course</b>
	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Tutorial</b>	<b>Practical/Practice</b>			
<b>Theory of Literature</b>	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)**

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- 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.