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MWG-007

**M.A. IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES  
(MAWGS)**

**Term-End Examination**

**June, 2015**

**MWG-007 : POST MODERNISM AND GENDER**

*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

**Note :** *Attempt any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.*

1. (a) How does Lacan extend Freudian ideas to create a theory of the symbolic order ? Discuss. **10+10**  
(b) Explain how Julia Kristeva critically responds to these theories.
2. How is semiotics used to analyse the projection of the female body in advertisements ? Discuss with reference to the work of John Berger and Judith Williamson. **20**
3. Does the female voice have a place in Bakhtin's theory of the Carnavalesque ? Critically analyse. **20**
4. Using the work of specific feminist scholars, discuss the variety of feminist responses to Foucault's theories. **20**

5. Using any fictional work of your choice, critically analyse it from : **20**
- (a) a post modern position and
  - (b) a post colonial position
6. Discuss the relationship between language, gender and identity with the help of examples from works of post modern fiction. **20**
7. How is 'difference' manifested in post modern fiction ? Discuss with the help of examples from literary texts. **20**
8. Write short notes on any four : **4x5=20**
- (a) Roland Barthes and myth
  - (b) Judith Williamson's concept of 'Currency of Signs'
  - (c) Atthusser's notion of Ideology and State Apparatus
  - (d) Magic Realism
  - (e) Feminism and Gay Literature
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**Term-End Examination**

**December, 2015**

**MWG-007 : POSTMODERNISM AND GENDER**

*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

- Note :**
- (i) Attempt *any five* questions.
  - (ii) *All* questions carry *equal* marks.

1. Discuss the work of **any two** of the following in the context of structuralism and the theorization of gender : **10+10=20**
  - (a) Luce Irigaray
  - (b) Gayle Rubin
  - (c) Susan Lanser
2. Discuss feminist responses to Althusser in the context of the main aspects of his theory. **20**
3. Write an essay on 'Derrida, Deconstruction and the Question of Gender.' **20**
4. What role does memory play in the work of feminist writers ? Discuss with the help of specific examples from postmodern fiction / poetry. **20**

5. Discuss the relationship between postmodernism and feminism with reference to specific authors. 20
6. What is 'magical realism' ? How has it been used in postmodern literary works to engage with gender issues ? Discuss with the help of suitable examples. 20
7. Analyse the relationship between sexuality, power and the subject from a postmodern perspective. Use specific examples to support your answer. 20
8. Write short notes on **any four** : 4x5=20
- (a) Bakhtin's Carnavalesque
  - (b) Foucault and Power
  - (c) Splintered Masculinity in *Midnight's Children*
  - (d) Ms. en abyme
  - (e) Bilingue or 'dual language'
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*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

**Note :** *Attempt any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.*

1. What is 'Structuralism' ? Explain with specific references to the contributions of Ferdinand de Saussure and Claude Levi Strauss. 20
2. How does Luce Irigaray's notion of "Labial economy" engage with psychoanalytic theory ? Discuss. 20
3. Discuss the distinguishing features of multicultural feminism, womanism and third world feminism, showing how these differ from western mainstream feminism. 20
4. What do you understand by 'social constructionism versus essentialist feminism' ? Which position do you agree with and why ? Explain with the help of examples. 20
5. "Gender is a useful category for historical analysis." Explain this statement with the help of examples from literary works. 20

6. Analyse the short story "Erendira" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez from a postmodern feminist perspective. 20
7. Discuss the relationship between sexuality, power and the subject with the help of examples from literary texts or by writing and discussing a poem of your own from this perspective. 20
8. Write short notes on **any four** : 4x5=20
- (a) Ms. en abyme
  - (b) Writing Difference
  - (c) Roland Barthes and Myth
  - (d) Derrida's notion of 'bricolage'
  - (e) Splintered Masculinity

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**December, 2016**

**MWG-007 : POST MODERNISM AND GENDER**

*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

*Note : Attempt any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.*

1. Explain how Gayle Rubin's Critical feminist reading of Levi Strauss, Freud and Lacan enables her to formulate her notion of the sex/gender system. 20
2. Discuss some key concepts of Althusser's theories and feminist responses to these. 20
3. Discuss Derrida's essay "Structure, Sign and Play" as a Critique of Western Philosophy. 20
4. Explain the relationship between Women and Caste with the help of some examples from post modern literature and cinema. 20
5. Do you see the relationship between feminism and post modernism as an enabling one or as one of duplicity ? Argue convincingly in favour of the position you have chosen. 20

6. Using examples of poems by any two of the following poets - Neruda, Plath, Rich, Walker, Lorde, Dharker. Discuss the salient aspects of post modern poetry with special attention to gender issues. 20
7. What do you understand by "discursive gendered and racial identities" ? Explain this notion in the context of either Khatibi's or Ben Jelloun's works. 20
8. Write short notes on **any four** : 4x5=20
- (a) Bilingue
  - (b) Cixous "Laugh of the Medusa"
  - (c) Sign, Signifier, Signified
  - (d) Foucault and 'The Ethical Turn'
  - (e) Bell hooks and black feminism

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**Term-End Examination**

**June, 2017**

**MWG-007 : POST MODERNISM AND GENDER**

*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

*Note : Attempt any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.*

1. Write an essay on the intersections between gender and structuralism. 20
2. Discuss gendered approaches to Bakhtin's idea of the Carnavalesque. 20
3. Discuss feminist responses to Foucault's theories. 20
4. Do you believe literature offers an effective way of challenging social inequalities of caste, gender and untouchability ? Justify with the help of examples from any literary works. 20
5. Discuss the terms "Ms En Abyrne" and "Gynesis" in the context of feminism and deconstruction. 20
6. Discuss elements of magical realism in any work of your choice, showing how it supports a gendered reading of the work. 20

7. Examine *either* Abdelkebir Khatibi's *Love in Two Languages (Amour Bilingue)* or Tahar ben Jelloun's *Sand Child (L'enfant de sable)* from a post modern Perspective. 20
8. Write short notes on **any four** : 4x5=20
- (a) Roland Barthes and Myth
  - (b) Althusser's State Apparatus
  - (c) Womanism
  - (d) Post colonial Feminism
  - (e) Writing Difference



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**Term-End Examination**

**December, 2017**

**MWG-007 : POST MODERNISM AND GENDER**

*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

*Note : Attempt any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.*

1. Explain, in your own words, the basic concepts of Semiotics and Structuralism with special attention to the contributions of Saussure and Lévi - Strauss. 20
2. Discuss Foucault's contribution to the study of power and knowledge. 20
3. How would you distinguish between essentialist and Social Constructivist feminist approaches ? Discuss. 20
4. Do you believe gender is an effective category of analysis in examining the way history has been written ? Justify your position with the help of examples. 20
5. "The relationship between Postmodernism and Feminism is an essentially enabling one". Agree or disagree with this statement and present a detailed argument in favour of your position. 20

6. Discuss **any one** of the following short stories as an example of postmodern fiction : **20**  
Maria Bombal's "The Tree" or Garcia Marquez's "Erendira".
7. Using **any one** play discussed in the course, **20**  
highlight its postmodern elements in the light of postmodern theory.
8. Write short notes on **any four** : **4x5=20**  
(a) Deconstruction  
(b) Foucault, freedom and ethics  
(c) Bell hooks and postmodernism  
(d) Mahasweta Devi's "The Breastgiver"  
(e) Some examples of 'Sub - Verse'



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**MWG-007**

**M.A. IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES  
(MAWGS)**

**Term-End Examination**

**June, 2018**

**MWG-007 : POST MODERNISM AND GENDER**

*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

**Note :** *Attempt any four questions. All questions carry equal marks.*

1. Discuss how Julia Kristeva proposes a revolution in language in terms of the ideas put forth by psychoanalysts and linguists. 25
2. Discuss John Berger's and Judith Williamson's use of femiotics as a tool of critical analysis in the context of advertisements. 25
3. Elaborate on Althusser's explanation of ideology from a feminist perspective. 25
4. Do you believe that Derrida's notion of deconstruction can be considered useful for feminist purposes ? Justify. 25
5. Using any work of literature, analyse the relationship between caste and gender from a postmodern perspective paying special attention to issues of marginality and subalternity. 25

6. What is the role played by memory in feminist postmodern fiction ? Discuss with the help of suitable examples. 25

7. Present a postmodern feminist analysis of the following poem by Maya Angelou : 25

The free bird leaps  
on the back of the wind  
and floats downstream  
till the current ends  
and dips his wings  
in the orange sun rays  
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks  
down his narrow cage  
can seldom see through  
his bars of rage  
his wings are clipped and  
his feet are tied  
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings  
with fearful trill  
of the things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze  
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees  
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn - bright  
lawn  
and he names the sky his own.

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams  
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream  
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied  
so he opens his throat to sing

The caged bird sings  
with a fearful trill  
of things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom.

source :

"I know why the caged bird sings"

by Maya Angelou

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**MWG-007**

**M.A. IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES  
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**Term-End Examination**

**December, 2018**

**MWG-007 : POST MODERNISM AND GENDER**

*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

*Note : Attempt any four questions. All questions carry equal marks.*

1. Discuss the sex/gender system as outlined by the cultural anthropologist Gayle Rubin, as well as its critique from a feminist perspective. 25
2. Discuss Bakhtin's notion of the 'Carnavalesque' from a feminist perspective. 25
3. Discuss the most important aspects of Foucault's theories and explain how feminists have responded to these. 25
4. Illustrate the use of Magic Realism from a gendered perspective with the help of suitable examples from postmodern literary fiction. 25
5. Illustrate the postmodern aspects of any play discussed in the course to show how the work deconstructs gender hierarchies. 25
6. What is meant by the term 'Writing Differences' ? Discuss with the help of examples from the work of Hélène Cixous. 25



7. Present a postmodern feminist analysis of the following poem by Alice Walker : 25

**"Be Nobody's Darling"**

Be nobody's darling ;  
Be an outcast.  
Take the contradictions  
Of your life  
And wrap around  
You like a shawl,  
To parry stones  
To keep you warm.  
Watch the people succumb  
To madness  
With ample cheer ;  
Let them look askance at you  
And you askance reply.  
Be an outcast ;  
Be pleased to walk alone  
(Uncool)  
Or line the crowded  
River beds  
With their impetuous  
Fools.  
Make a merry gathering  
On the bank  
Where thousands perished  
For brave hurt words  
They said.  
But be nobody's darling ;  
Be an outcast.  
Qualified to live  
Among your dead.

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**MWG-007**

**M.A. IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES  
(MAWGS)**

**Term-End Examination, 2019**

**MWG-007 : POST MODERNISM AND GENDER**

**Time : 3 Hours]**

**[Maximum Marks : 100**

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**Note : Attempt any four questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

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1. Discuss Julia Kristeva's use of psychoanalytic theory with special attention to the notion of 'Semanalysis'. [25]
2. Explain Gayle Rubin's conceptualization of Kinship relations and the Sex/gender system with reference to Levi Straus's theory. [25]
3. Write an essay describing the distinctions between Third World Feminism and Black Feminism. [25]
4. "The Positions of Social Constructivist and Essentialist feminists are theoretically irreconcilable." Elaborate. [25]

5. Discuss gender as a category of historical analysis. Describe some specific strategies of refiguring history used by postmodern writers. [25]
6. What is "Magic realism" ? Discuss its significance for postmodern feminist literature with the help of suitable examples. [25]
7. Analyse the relationships between language, gender and identity in the context of postcolonial identities. Use suitable examples from postmodern literature in support of your response. [25]

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**M.A. IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES  
(MAWGS)**

**Term-End Examination, 2019**

**MWG-007 : POST MODERNISM AND GENDER**

**Time : 3 Hours**

**Maximum Marks : 100**

**Note : Attempt any four questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Discuss Luce Irigaray's revisioning of psychoanalytic theory with special attention to her notion of "Labial economy". [25]
2. What do you understand by the term "Semiotics of advertisements" ? Discuss with reference to specific authors. [25]
3. "Postmodern and Postcolonial feminists have drawn upon Marxist notions of class to develop their ideas on the relationship between gender and class." Elaborate. [25]
4. Elaborate on Derrida's theory of deconstruction and feminist responses to Derrida's ideas. [25]

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( 1 )



5. Discuss the notions of "memory" and "rememory" as feminist devices with the help of illustrative examples from Postmodern Literature. [25]
6. Is the relationship between postmodernism and gender one of duplicity? Discuss with the help of views offered by postmodern feminists. [25]
7. Discuss Foucault's ideas on the links between sexuality, power and the subject. Elaborate on feminist responses to Foucault's ideas. [25]



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**MWG-007**

**M. A. IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER  
STUDIES (MAWGS)**

**Term-End Examination**

**June, 2020**

**MWG-007 : POST-MODERNISM AND GENDER**

*Time : 3 Hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

*Note : Attempt any four questions. All questions  
carry equal marks.*

1. Discuss Julia Kristeva's account of semiotics and psychoanalysis showing her agreement/disagreement with Lacan's theories.  
25
2. Discuss, how Althusser expands on Marx's notions of ideology.  
25
3. Do you think that a reconciliation between deconstruction (as proposed by Derrida) and feminism is possible ? Justify.  
25

4. Write an essay on the theme "Foucault Power and Ethics" from a feminist perspective. 25
5. Discuss Bell Hooks' response to post-modernism from the perspective of black culture. 25
6. Using Abdelkebir Khatibi's *Love in Two Languages*, analyze the complex relationships between language, gender and post-colonial identity. 25
7. Describe in detail : 10, 10, 5
  - (a) Hetene Cixous' essay "The Laugh of the Medusa"
  - (b) *The Malady of Death* by Margvente Duras
  - (c) Post-modern elements of both of the above

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STUDIES (MAWGS)**

**Term-End Examination  
December, 2020**

**MWG-007 : POST-MODERNISM AND GENDER**

*Time : 3 Hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

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**Note :** (i) Attempt any **four** questions.

(ii) All questions carry equal marks.

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1. Discuss Luce Irigaray's ideas on the notion of 'labial economy' in the context of Lacan's theories of psychoanalysis. 25
2. Analyze feminist responses to Althusser's conceptualization of Marxist theory. 25
3. Do you think that Bakhtin's notion of the 'carnavalesque' excludes the female perspective ? Justify your position. 25



[ 2 ]

4. Write an essay on explaining the significance of the concepts of 'Ms. en abyme' and 'gynesis' in the context of feminism and deconstruction. 25
5. "Magic realism draws our attention to the constructed nature of fiction." Discuss in the context of post-modernism with the help of specific literary examples. 25
6. Analyze the inter-relationships between hegemony, gender and post-colonial identity in the context of Tahar Ben Jelloun's *Sand Child*. 25
7. Write brief accounts of the following :

10+10+5=25

- (a) The sub-verse of Andre Lorde
- (b) The sub-verse of Intiaz Dharker
- (c) Post-modern elements of both of the above