NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

TAMIL NADU – 620015

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
COURSE PLAN – PART I

Course Title: **Postmodern Literature**	
Course Code: **HS606**	No. of Credits: **3**
Course Code of Pre-requisite subject(s): **Nil**	
Session **Jan 2023**	Section (if, applicable)**: --**
Name of Faculty: **Dr. Nisha Viswanathan**	Department: **Humanities & Social Sciences**
Official Email: **nishav@nitt.edu**	Telephone No. **+91-7738477327**
Course Type (please tick appropriately)	☑ **Core course** ☐ **Elective course**

SYLLABUS (approved in BoS)

Course Content:

Postmodernism: A Genealogy: Jean-François Lyotard, "Answering the Question: What is postmodernism?," "Note on the Meaning of „Post-‟"; Jürgen Habermas, "Modernity versus Postmodernity"; Michel Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History"; Frederic Jameson, from *Postmodernism, or The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* (1991); Ihab Hassan, "Toward a Concept of Postmodernism"; Andreas Huyssen, "Mapping the Postmodern"; Flann O'Brien, *The Third Policeman* (1967); Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities* (1972).

Delineating a Postmodern Poetics: John Barth, "The Literature of Exhaustion," "The Literature of Replenishment"; Brian McHale**,** "From Modernist to Postmodernist Fiction: Change of Dominant"; Linda Hutcheon, from *A Poetics of Postmodernism* (1988); Charles Jencks, "The Emergent Rules"; Robert Coover, "The Babysitter"; Donald Barthelme, "To London and Rome," "The Balloon," "The Glass Mountain"; Ana María Shua, "Cannibals and Explorers," "Respect for Genres," "Theologian"; Natasza Goerke, "Stories"; Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969); Enrique Vila-Matas, *Bartleby & Co.* (2000).

Signs, Simulations, Alter Realities: Jacques Derrida, "The End of the Book and the Beginning of Writing"; Jean Baudrillard, "The Evil Demon of Images" and "The Precession of Simulacra," selections from *Symbolic Exchange and Death* (1976); Gilles Deleuze, "The Simulacrum and Ancient Philosophy"; Jorge Luis Borges, selections from *Labyrinths* (1962); Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (1965); Paul Auster, *City of Glass* (1985); Roberto Bolaño, *Nazi Literature in the Americas* (1996).

Postmodernism and „Other‟ Identities: Luce Irigaray, "The Sex Which is Not One"; Judith Butler, "Contingent Foundations: Feminism and the Question of „Postmodernism‟"; Rita Felski, "Feminism, Postmodernism, and the Critique of Modernity"; bell hooks, "Postmodern Blackness"; Cornel West, "Black Culture and Postmodernism"; Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Is the Post- in Postmodernism the Post- in Postcolonial?"; Audre Lorde, "Coal"; Angela Carter, *The Passion of New Eve* (1977), selections from *The Bloody Chamber* (1979); Amiri Baraka, "An Agony. As Now"; Ishmael Reed, *Flight to Canada* (1976); Nuruddin Farah, *Maps*
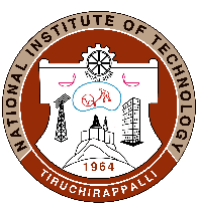
(1986).

Postmodern Subjectivities/Virtualities: Ihab Hassan, "Prometheus as Performer: Toward a Posthuman Culture?" (1977); N. Katherine Hayles, from *How We Became Posthuman* (1999); Donna Haraway, "The Cyborg Manifesto" (1991); Jeanette Winterson, *Sexing the Cherry* (1989); Philip K. Dick, "We Can Remember It for You Wholesale" (1966); William Gibson, "The Gernsback Continuum" (1981), "Burning Chrome" (1982); selections from *Mirrorshades: The Cyberpunk Anthology* (1986).
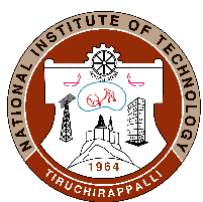
COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course offers an introduction to the cultural, political, aesthetic and philosophical debates that shaped the broad intellectual movement we call "postmodernism" through readings of representative literary and critical texts. It aims:

1. to familiarize students with literature's response to mid-to-late 20th C. preoccupations with altered experiences of time, space and reality, metafictionality, and the emergence of new forms of consciousness and technology

2. to trace the movement's relationship to modernism, poststructuralism, feminism and postcolonialism

3. to examine its inflection of literary representations of gender, sexuality and race.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1. have a nuanced understanding of postmodern literature and critical scholarship, and their relationship to the broader intellectual preoccupations of the twentieth century

2. be able to identify, analyze and reflexively examine postmodern texts and the ideas that characterize them conceptually.

COURSE PLAN – PART II

COURSE TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES		
Week/Contact Hours	**Topic**	**Mode of Delivery**
Week 1	Introduction to Postmodernism: definitions	Lecture mode
Weeks 2 to 4	A genealogy: charting the intellectual history of the movement –Lyotard, Jameson, Hassan Jorge Luis Borges, Italo Calvino	Lecture mode
Weeks 5 to 7	Delineating a Postmodern Poetics: Barth, Hutcheon, McHale Robert Coover, Donald Barthelme, Ana María Shua	Lecture and Assignment
Weeks 8 to 10	Signs, Simulations, Alter Realities – Derrida, Baudrillard Paul Auster, Roberto Bolaño	Lecture and Presentations
Weeks 11 to 13	Postmodernism and "Other" Identities: postmodern perspectives on questions of gender, sexuality and race – Butler, Felski, Hooks Angela Carter, Kathy Acker, Ishmael Reed, Nuruddin Farah	Lecture mode Mid-Semester Review
Weeks 14 to 15	Postmodern Subjectivities/Virtualities: Introduction to Posthumanism – Hayles, Haraway Philip K. Dick, William Gibson	Lecture mode End Semester Exam

COURSE ASSESSMENT METHODS

Sl. No.	Mode of Assessment	Week/Date	Duration	% Weightage
1	Assignment	Week 6	--	25
2	Presentations	Weeks 7 to 10	--	15
3	Mid-Semester Exam	Week 11	--	20
4	End semester exam	Week 15	3 hrs	40
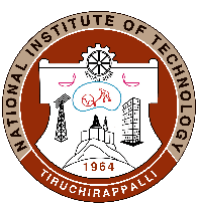
ESSENTIAL READINGS: Selected fiction, poetry and critical essays

Reference Books:

1. Bertens, Hans. *The Idea of the Postmodern: A History*, Routledge, 1994.

2. Cahoone, Lawrence E. *From Modernism to Postmodernism: An Anthology*, Blackwell, 2003.

3. Docherty, Thomas. *Postmodernism: A Reader*, Columbia University Press, 1993.

4. Harvey, David. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*, Blackwell, 1990.

COURSE EXIT SURVEY (mention the ways in which the feedback about the course shall be assessed):

Feedback will be collected from the students towards the end of the course.

COURSE POLICY (including compensation assessment to be specified)**:**

Attendance

At least 75% attendance is required to be allowed to attend the end semester exam.

Attendance during assessment days is compulsory.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY & PLAGIARISM

Copying in any form during assessments is considered as academic dishonesty and will attract suitable penalty.

- ➢ Possessing a mobile phone, carrying bits of paper, talking to other students, copying Possessing a mobile phone, carrying bits of paper, talking to other students, copying from others during an assessment will be treated as punishable dishonesty.

- ➢ Zero mark to be awarded for the offenders. For copying from another student, both students get the same penalty of zero mark.

- ➢ The departmental disciplinary committee including the course faculty member, PAC chairperson and the HoD, as members shall verify the facts of the malpractice and award the punishment if the student is found guilty. The report shall be submitted to the Academic office.

- ➢ The above policy against academic dishonesty shall be applicable for all the programmes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IF ANY

The course faculty will be available for consultation regarding course concerns over email.
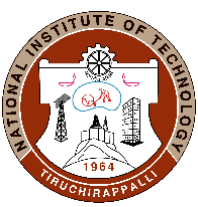
FOR APPROVAL

Course Faculty_____ CC- Chairperson Dr. Sathyaraj Venkatesan **_____HOD _____**

GUIDELINES

a) The number of assessments for any theory course shall range from 4 to 6.

b) Every theory course shall have a final assessment on the entire syllabus with at least 30% weightage.

c) One compensation assessment for absentees in assessments (other than final assessment) is mandatory. Only genuine cases of absence shall be considered.

d) The passing minimum shall be as per the regulations.

B.Tech. Admitted in				P.G.
2018	**2017**	**2016**	**2015**	
35% or (Class average/2) whichever is greater.		(Peak/3) or (Class Average/2) whichever is lower		40%

e) Attendance policy and the policy on academic dishonesty & plagiarism by students are uniform for all the courses.

f) Absolute grading policy shall be incorporated if the number of students per course is less than 10.

g) Necessary care shall be taken to ensure that the course plan is reasonable and is objective.