



# INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY THEORY

## **DR. SAYAN CHATTOPADHYAY**

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences  
IIT Kanpur

**INTENDED AUDIENCE :** Undergraduate and Postgraduate students of English literature

**INDUSTRIES APPLICABLE TO :** Institutions offering courses on English studies

### **COURSE OUTLINE :**

This course traces the development of the major theoretical frameworks, from classical Greek theories of mimesis to the present day concerns of ecocriticism and postcolonialism, which are used to analyse texts within the discipline of English literary studies. Apart from giving a comprehensive overview of the salient features that inform each school of literary theory, the course also connects these theoretical frameworks to the social, political, and cultural contexts that underline them. It is hoped that this course will enable the students to have a firm understanding of the various eclectic concepts that inform the field of literary theory and also to engage with literature more critically.

### **ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :**

Dr. Sayan Chattopadhyay is an assistant professor of English literature at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Kanpur. He has a doctorate degree from the University of Cambridge. His primary areas of research include Postcolonial Studies and Indian English Writings and his research articles have appeared in various scholarly journals including Journal of Postcolonial Writing (Routledge), Ariel: A Review of International English (University of Calgary), The Journal of Commonwealth Literature (Sage) and Prose Studies History, Theory, Criticism (Routledge).

### **COURSE PLAN :**

**Week 1:** Introduction, Mimesis.

**Week 2:** Classical&Neo-Classical Literary Theories, Romanticism.

**Week 3:** Formalism, Dialogism, Reader Response theory.

**Week 4:** Reader Response Theory, Structuralism, Post-Structuralism.

**Week 5:** Marxism, Psychoanalytic Theory.

**Week 6:** Psychoanalytic Theory, Gender.

**Week 7:** Modernism, Post-Modernism, Postcolonialism

**Week 8:** Eco-Criticism, Indian Literary Theory.