

## LITS2306 HISTORY OF CRITICISM

### SEMESTER I, 2010-2011

#### EXAM ADVICE

Here are the general instructions:

Answer **TWO** questions in all, **ONE** from Section A and **One** from Section B.

In each answer, you should refer closely to the arguments advanced by the theorists in question.

The exam is divided into two sections, each containing three questions:

#### SECTION A: THE 'PHILOSOPHICAL' TRADITION

1. A question on the Author / Literary Tradition (the 'Expressive Pole') to be answered with reference to TWO of the following works:
  - Arnold, "The Study of Poetry";
  - Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent";
  - Wimsatt and Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy."
2. A question on the Reader / the Reading Process (the 'Pragmatic Pole') to be answered with reference to TWO of the following works:
  - Arnold, "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time";
  - Richards, Practical Criticism;
  - Wimsatt and Beardsley, "The Affective Fallacy."
3. A question on Representation and Literary Form (the 'Mimetic' and the 'Objective' Poles). You may choose to answer EITHER the one on poetry with reference to Ransom's "Criticism as Pure Speculation" and Brooks' "The Heresy of Paraphrase," OR the one on prose fiction with reference to Zola's The Experimental Novel and Watt's "Realism and the Novel Form."

#### SECTION B: THE 'RHETORICAL' TRADITION

4. A question on the Author / Literary History (the 'Expressive Pole') to be answered with reference to TWO of the following works:
  - Taine, Introduction to The History of English Literature;
  - Dilthey, "The Development of Hermeneutics";
  - Schleiermacher, "Compendium of 1819" [due to an error on my part, I omitted to mention Schleiermacher by name on the exam but you may use him to answer this question]
  - Spitzer, "Linguistics and Literary History."
5. A question on the Reader / the Reading Process (the 'Pragmatic Pole') to be answered with reference to TWO of the following works:
  - Pater, Introduction and Conclusion to The Renaissance;
  - Rosenblatt, Literature as Exploration
  - Fish, "Interpreting the Variorum"

6. A question on Representation and Literary Form (the 'Mimetic' and the 'Objective' Poles). You may choose to answer EITHER the one on poetry with reference to Ong's "A Dialectic of Aural and Objective Correlatives," OR the one on prose fiction with reference to Booth's The Rhetoric of Fiction.

I would advise you to:

- choose a topic and a back-up topic in each section which interest you and to carefully read the relevant primary sources in conjunction with my notes on the essays in question (the best way to assimilate information in this and every course is to jot down your own notes);
- carefully study my handouts on Authorship, the Literary Tradition / Literary History, the Reader, Representation and Literary Form to get a handle on the issues which are important; and
- last but not least, click on the link to access the past exam papers in order to familiarise yourself with the kinds of questions that may be asked.