**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

**End Semester Examination - APRIL2017**

**MA ENGLISH - II Semester**

**EN 8514: Reading and Writing II**

**TIME: 2 1/2 hours MARKS: 70**

**I. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions: (2x15=30)**

1. The key difference between structuralism and post structuralism is located in the latter's more radical extension of Saussurean linguistic theory. Comment.
2. Trace the major concerns of feminist literary theory during the three waves of feminism. What do you think would be the emerging concerns of feminist literary theory in a hyper digitised age?
3. As a way of interpreting both texts and their worlds, is ‘writing’, academic or otherwise, completely dependent on ‘reading’? Or, are ‘reading’ and ‘writing’ two different and separate processes, one belonging to ‘audience reception’ and the other, to ‘writer production’? Which stance do you privilege? Justify your point of view using suitable illustrations from your reading.

**II. Answer ANY THREE of the following questions: (3x10=30)**

1. Comment on how caste and gender converge to form ideologies of oppression and suppression. Using your reading illustrate how this convergence unfolds in literary and non- literary texts.
2. Explain the similarities and differences between the two critical strategies of ‘cultural materialism’ and ‘new historicism’. Comment on each one’s value for literary and cultural studies today.
3. “I was trained in the ‘50s as a New Critic. I remember what literature was like before the New Critics, when people stood up and talked about Shelley's soul and such things.” Explain Clifford Geertz’s statement with reference to your readings on New Criticism.
4. All texts are ultimately ‘intertextual’ in nature. Explain the above proposition using the readings that you have done in this semester
5. Based on your reading, elucidate the similarities and differences between the ‘personal essay’ and the ‘reflective essay’.
6. **III. Respond to following poem using one of the approaches you have studied this semester. (10 marks)**

Lessons from a Mirror

BY THYLIAS MOSS

Snow White was nude at her wedding, she’s so white

the gown seemed to disappear when she put it on.

Put me beside her and the proximity is good

for a study of chiaroscuro[[1]](#footnote-1), not much else.

Her name aggravates me most, as if I need to be told

what’s white and what isn’t.

Judging strictly by appearance there’s a future for me

forever at her heels, a shadow’s constant worship.

Is it fair for me to live that way, unable

to get off the ground?

Turning the tables isn’t fair unless they keep turning.

Then there’s the danger of Russian roulette[[2]](#footnote-2)

and my disadvantage: nothing falls from the sky

to name me.

I am the empty space where the tooth was, that my tongue

rushes to fill because I can’t stand vacancies.

And it’s not enough. The penis just fills another

gap. And it’s not enough.

When you look at me,

know that more than white is missing.

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1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)