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Reg. No. : .....

Name : .....

Second Semester M.A. Degree Examination, May 2020

Branch : English Language and Literature

EL 224 : CRITICAL STUDIES – I

(2017 Admission Onwards)

Time : 3 Hours Max. Marks : 75

I. Answer any **five** of the following each in not more than **50** words :

1. Distinguish between language and parole.
2. Mytheme
3. Metaphysics of presence.
4. Aporia.
5. Syntagmatic versus paradigmatic as key distinctions.
6. Jouissance
7. How does Marx critique commodity fetishism?
8. Analyse the argument that gender is performative.

(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

II. Write short notes on any **four** of the following each in about **150** words :

9. What are the cultural and psychological implications of Ecriture feminine?
10. Elucidate polyphony with examples.
11. Difference/differance as central concepts in Deconstruction.

P.T.O.

12. Defamiliarization.

13. How is deconstruction associated with notions such as post structuralism and post modernism?

14. Historical materialism as a scientific approach to the study of history.

15. Freud's tripartite structure of the psyche.

16. Baudrillard's vision of the hyperreal in *America*.

(4 × 5 = 20 Marks)

III. Answer any **three** in not more than **500** words each choosing one from every Section.

SECTION A

17. How does Lacan analyse the relationship between speech and language and the place of the subject in relation to both in "The Insistence of the Letter in the Unconscious"

18. Discuss Helene Cixous's arguments for a writing that inscribes femininity.

19. Karl Marx's discussions on division of labour, autonomy, ruling and labour classes, base and superstructure in "The German Ideology".

SECTION B

20. Structuralism is "the belief that phenomena of human life are not intelligible except through their interrelations..." Elaborate.

21. What are Simone de Beauvoir's main arguments in *The Second Sex*?

22. Analyse the most important tenets of post structuralism.

SECTION C

23. Attempt a theoretical reading of the following using any **one** of the theoretical premises prescribed for study.

I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.
Whatever I see I swallow immediately
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
I am not cruel, only truthful,
The eye of a little god, four-cornered.
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.
It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long
I think it is part of my heart. But it flickers.
Faces and darkness separate us over and over.

Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me,
Searching my reaches for what she really is.
Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.
I see her back and reflect it faithfully.
She rewards me with tears and an agitation of hands.
I am important to her. She comes and goes.
Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness.
In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman
Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.

24. One Sunday, as she was walking in the Champs Élysées to refresh herself after the week's work, suddenly she saw a woman walking with a child. It was Madame Forestier, still young, still beautiful, still charming. Madame Loisel felt emotional. Should she speak to her? Yes, of course. And now that she had paid, she would tell her all. Why not? She went up to her. "Good morning, Jeanne". The other, astonished to be addressed so familiarly by this common woman, did not recognize her. She stammered : "But - madame – I don't know. You must have made a mistake". "No, I am Mathilde Loisel". Her friend uttered a cry. "Oh ! ... my poor Mathilde, how you've changed ! ....". "Yes, I have had

some hard times since I last saw you, and many miseries.... and all because of you ! ..." "Me? How can that be"? "You remember that diamond necklace that you lent me to wear to the Ministry party?" "Yes. Well"? "Well, I lost it" "What do you mean? you brought it back". "I brought you back another exactly like it'. And it has taken us ten years to pay for it. It wasn't easy for us, we had very little. But at last it is over, and I am very glad". Madame Forestier was stunned. "You say that you bought a diamond necklace to replace mine?". "Yes ; you didn't notice then? They were similar". And she smiled with proud and innocent pleasure. Madame Forestier, deeply moved, took bath her hands. "Oh, my poor Mathilde ! Mine was an imitation ! It was worth five hundred *francs* at most !....."

25. Two or three days and nights went by ; I reckon I might say they Swum by ; they slid along so quiet and smooth and lovely.... Not a sound anywheres - perfectly still just like the whole world was asleep.... [Then] the nice breeze springs up, and comes fanning you from over there, so cool and fresh and sweet to smell on account of the woods and flowers ; but sometimes not that way, because they've left dead fish laying around, gars and such and they do get pretty rank..... [And] we would watch the lonesomeness of the river, and kind of lazy along, and by abd by lazy off to sleep..... It's lovely to live on a raft. We had the sky up there, all speckled with stars, and we used to lay on our backs and look up at them, and discuss about whether they was made or only just happened .... Jim said the moon could 'a' *laid* them ; well, that looked kind of reasonable, so I didn't say anything against it, because I've seen a frog lay most as many, so of course it could be done.

(3 × 15 = 45 Marks)