Course No: SLS 3004

Course Title: An Introduction to Modern Western Literary Theory and Criticism

Part I
Credits: 3

**Prerequisites: None** 

**Core/Optional: Optional** 

## **Objectives:**

To provide the students with an overview of modern Western literary theories

To understand the function/s of various literary theories

To develop students' skills in literary analysis and interpretation

## **Intended Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion the course, student will be able to

Use the basic concepts of modern literary theory in reviewing literature and related arts

Teach key concepts of modern Western literary theory to someone else

Conduct research in the field of literature and art

**Time Allocation:** (Hours): Supervised Independent Research: 300

## **Course Description**

This course is a comprehensive introduction to modern Western literary theories such as Formalism through Structuralism, Semiotics, Post-structuralism and Deconstruction. The course also evaluates new trends and developments in the field, and attempts to critically assess the impact on such theories in Sinhala literary scene. Even though the course is primarily on modern Western literary theories, the key moments in the history of classical Western theories, Aristotelian theories for example, will be introduced when needed.

## **Recommended Texts:**

Belsey, Katherine. Critical Practice. London: Routledge, 1996.

Dissanayake, Wimal. Nava Vichara Sankalpa. Boralesgamuwa: Visidunu Publishers, 2005.

Eagleton, Terry. *Introduction to Literary Theory*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press,

1991.

Assessment	Percentage Mark
Continuous Assessment	40
(Assignments, Presentation, Examinations)	
End Semester Examination	60