

Post Graduate Diploma in American Literature (PGDAML)

ASSIGNMENT BOOKLET (For July, 2024 and January, 2025 session)

**MEG 05: Literary Criticism & Theory (1st Year
Compulsory)**

**MEG 04: Aspects of Language Or
MEG 15: Comparative Literature (2nd Year
Compulsory)**

Choose any **three** of the following

MEG06: American Literature

MEG 11: American Novel

MEG 17: American Drama

MEG 18: American Poetry



**School of Humanities
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068**

**ASSIGNMENTS
FOR
POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN AMERICAN LITERATURE
(PGDAML)**

Programme: PGDAML

Course Code: MEG –05, MEG 06, MEG 11, MEG 17 & MEG 18

Dear Student

You are required to do one assignment for each of the following courses of the PG Diploma in American Literature Programme. This is a Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) and carries 100 marks each. Each assignment covers the entire course of MEG –05, MEG 06, MEG 11, MEG 17 & MEG 18. Please note: you need to do **three TMAs** from amongst **MEG 06/11/12/17/18** as per your admission details.

Aims: The TMAs are concerned mainly with assessing your application and understanding of the course materials. You are not required to reproduce chunks of information from the course materials but to use the skills of critical appreciation that you may have acquired during the course of study. The assignment aim to teach as well as to assess your performance. Please ensure that you read all the texts prescribed in the courses. **Let me repeat: you must read all the texts/ critical essays prescribed.** Do make points as you go along. If there is anything you do not understand, please ask your Counsellor at the Study Centre for clarification. Once you are able to do the assignments satisfactorily, you will be ready to take the exam with confidence.

Instructions: Before attempting the assignments, please read the following instructions carefully.

1. Write your enrolment number, name, full address and date on the top right corner of the first page of your response sheet(s).
2. Write the course title, assignment number and the name of the study centre you are attached to in the centre of the first page of your response sheet(s).

The top of the first page of your response sheet should look like this:

	ENROLMENT NO:
	NAME:
	ADDRESS:
COURSE TITLE:	
COURSE CODE:	STUDY CENTRE:
DATE:	

3. Use A 4 size paper for your response and tag all the pages carefully.
4. Write the relevant question number with each answer.
5. You should write in your own handwriting.

6. **Submission:** The completed assignment should be sent to the Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you by **31st March 2025** (if enrolled in the July 2024 Session) and **30th Sept, 2025** (if enrolled in the January 2025 session).

Now read the following guidelines carefully before answering questions.

GUIDELINES FOR TMAs

You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

1. **Planning:** Read the questions carefully. Go through the units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then rearrange these in a logical order. And please write the answers in your own words. Do not reproduce passages from the study materials.
2. **Organisation:** Be a little more selective and analytic before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. In an essay-type question, give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion. The introduction must offer your brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it. The conclusion must summarise your response to the question. In the course of your answer, you may like to make references to other texts or critics as this will add some depth to your analysis.

Make sure that your answer:

- (a) is logical and coherent;
 - (b) has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs;
 - (c) is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation;
 - (e) does not exceed the number of words indicated in your question.
3. **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answers, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasise.

You may be aware that **you need to submit your assignments before you can appear for the Term End Exams. Please remember to keep a copy of your completed assignment, just in case the one you submitted is lost in transit.**

Good luck with your work!

MEG – 05: Literary Criticism & Theory
Compulsory (1st Year)

ASSIGNMENT 2024 - 2025
Based on Blocks (1 – 8)

Max. Marks: 100

Answer all questions.

1. Explain and discuss Aristotle's view of literature as imitation. 20

2. Do you think that Wordsworth establishes a new poetic theory? What are the main features of his theory? 20

3. Write short notes on the following: 4x5=20
 - a) Rasa
 - (b) Catharsis
 - (c) Postmodernism
 - (d) "Woman as other"

3. Show how literary criticism and theory have developed a materialistic dimension based on Marxism. 20

4. Draw out the ideologies set forth by Mary Wollstonecraft and Virginia Woolf as pioneer feminists. 20

MEG-06
AMERICAN LITERATURE
ASSIGNMENT 2024-25
(Based on Blocks 1-9)

Course Code: MEG-06/2024-25
Max. Marks: 100

Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Discuss the minor characters in <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> . | 20 |
| 2. Discuss the significance of the river in <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> . | 20 |
| 3. Discuss the nature as presented in Whitman's poetry. | 20 |
| 4. Write a critical note on the prose of the American civil war. | 20 |
| 5. Critically analyse the major concerns of Hemingway in his short stories. | 20 |

MEG-11: AMERICAN NOVEL

ASSIGNMENT 2024-25 (Based on Blocks (1-9))

Course Code: MEG-11/ 2024-25
Max. Marks: 100

Answer all questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss *Sister Carrie* as a city novel. 20
2. Consider *The Catcher in a Rye* as a tragedy. 20
3. Write a critical note on style of *Black Spring*. 20
4. Examine the use of irony in the *The Floating Opera* giving suitable examples from the novel. 20
5. Comment on the aspect of characterization in *The Last of the Mohicans*. 20

MEG-15
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE: THEORY AND PRACTICE
ASSIGNMENT 2024-2025
(Based on Blocks 1-8)

(COMPULSORY Component for 2nd Year: Choose between MEG 04/MEG 15)

Course Code: MEG-15/ 2024-2025
Max. Marks: 100

Attempt all the questions. All questions carry equal marks

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Write a note on cultural diversity in the contemporary world. How do cultural studies contribute to our understanding of culture? | 20 |
| 1. | Jean Rhys' <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> is a retelling of Charlotte Bronte's <i>Jane Eyre</i> . Discuss it as a Post colonial text. | 20 |
| 3. | Why do some critics describe autobiography as fiction? Explain. | 20 |
| 4. | Do you find features of magical realism in folk tales? Discuss. | 20 |
| 5. | How is 'The Palm – Wine Drinkard' compared with Ben Qkri's <i>The Famished Road</i> ? | 20 |

MEG - 17
AMERICAN DRAMA

Course Code: MEG-17
Assignment Code: MEG-17/TMA/2024-25
Max. Marks: 100

Attempt any **five** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Had it not been for the Puritans, the approach of the world to American Drama would have been different – discuss. 20
2. Discuss the American identity and social issues that influenced American drama. 20
3. Attempt a critical note on 'Musical' and 'Farce' as important forms of American Drama. 20
4. Discuss William Dean Howell's 'Self Sacrifice' as a Farce. 20
5. Discuss 'A Raisin in the Sun' as a Marxist play. 20
6. Discuss Absurd Theatre in American literature. Give some examples from your syllabus. 20

MEG-18: AMERICAN POETRY

Course Code: MEG-18
Assignment Code: MEG-18/TMA/2024-25
Max. Marks: 100

Attempt any **five** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Trace the history of colonialism in America and its impact on American poetry. 20
2. Write short notes on: (10 x 2= 20)
 - a) American Spirit and Puritan Spirit
 - b) American poetry today
3. Walt Whitman's poem, "Song of Myself" is a social document engaging American national landscape – discuss. 20
4. How does the choice of words in the poem "I Taste a Liquor Never Brewed" help to illustrate the idea of 'self' of the poet? 20
5. Critically appreciate the poems, "Home Burial" and "After apple Picking". 20
6. Discuss Joy Harjo and Leslie Marmon Silko as important Native American poets. 20