

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

**ASSIGNMENT BOOKLET  
(For July, 2023 and January, 2024 session)**

**MEG 05: Literary Criticism & Theory**

Choose any **three** of the following:

**MEG 06: 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 06/11/17/18 as per your admission details.

**Aims:** These 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. These 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:

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

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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 **31<sup>st</sup> March 2024** (if enrolled in the July 2023 Session) and **30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2024** (if enrolled in the January 2024 session)/or as per the dates given in the University website.

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**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2023 - 2024**  
**Based on Blocks (1 – 8)**

**Max. Marks: 100**

**Answer all questions:**

1. Why does Plato want the artists to be kept away from the ideal state? Discuss. (20)
2. Examine the purpose that spontaneity, emotions and personality serve in Wordsworth's theory of poetry. (20)
3. Write short notes on the following: (4 x 5 = 20)
  - a) Peripetia
  - (b) Sphota
  - (c) Class ideology
  - (d) Poetic Diction
4. Discuss briefly, the ideas of Marx and Engels on class relations (20)
5. Comment on Mary Wollstonecraft's contributions to the rights of women. (20)

**MEG-06: AMERICAN LITERATURE**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2023 - 24**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-9)**

**Course Code: MEG-06/2023-24**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

**Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Analyse *Death of a Salesman* as a realistic tragedy. 20
2. Write a critical note on the dramatic form in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. 20
3. Discuss the development of the revolutionary prose in America. 20
4. Write a note on imagism in Ezra Pound's poetry. Cite instances from his poems prescribed in your course. 20
5. Write a critical note on the ideology of Puritanism reflected in American literature. 20

**MEG-11: AMERICAN NOVEL  
ASSIGNMENT 2022-23  
(Based on Blocks (1-9))**

Course Code: MEG-11/ 2023-24

Max. Marks: 100

**Answer all questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

1. Critically examine the chief characteristics of Black American Women's writings. Illustrate your answer with reference to the novel prescribed in your syllabus. 20
2. Discuss the common themes in the novels of Theodore Dreiser. Answer with suitable examples. 20
3. Would you agree that Faulkner explores the issue of racial identity through the portrayal of the character of Joe Christmas in *Light in August*? 20
4. Critically comment on the concept of the "American Dream" in *The Great Gatsby*. 20
5. Discuss the major themes and characters of the novel *The Catcher in the Rye*. 20

**MEG – 17: AMERICAN DRAMA  
ASSIGNMENT 2023 – 24  
(Based on Blocks 1-7)**

**Course Code: MEG-17  
Assignment Code: MEG-17/TMA/2023-24  
Max. Marks: 100**

Answer any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Had it not been for Puritans, American Drama would have been different – discuss. 20
2. What do you understand by Experimental Theatre? 20
3. Attempt a critical note on 'Musical' and 'Farce' as 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. What is Absurd Theatre? Elucidate with some examples. 20

**MEG-18: AMERICAN POETRY**  
**ASSIGNMENT 2023 - 24**  
**(Based on Blocks 1-7)**

**Course Code: MEG-18**  
**Assignment Code: MEG-18/TMA/2023-24**  
**Max. Marks: 100**

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

1. Enumerate on the Revolutionary War and Treaty of Paris and their impact on American poetry. 20
2. Write short notes on: (10 x 2 = 20)
  - a) American Spirit
  - b) Puritan Spirit
3. Philip Freneau's poem, "The Wild Honey Suckle" is a political 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 drunkenness? 20
5. Critically appreciate Robert Lowell's poem, "For the Union Dead" 20
6. Discuss the use of imageries by Joy Harjo and Leslie Marmon Silko in the poems given in your syllabus. 20