

HUL237 Contemporary Fiction

Major Examination

9th May 2016, 8.00 – 10.00 am, LH121

Answer BOTH questions. The total exam carries ²⁵~~10~~ marks. Answer 2 should be in the form of an essay. You may quote selectively from the readings but the amount of quotes should not exceed 10% of the answer. DO NOT answer in bullet points.

Question 1. (15 marks)

"To instill into the Established Order the complacent portrayal of its drawbacks has nowadays becomes a paradoxical but incontrovertible means of exalting it [i.e. the established order]" – Roland Barthes.

Write a long essay analysing one of the two novels (*Demon Seed* or *Andromeda Strain*) for the way they present the established order and its drawbacks, if any. Also discuss whether you agree with Barthes' remark, and if so why.

Question 2. (10 marks)

Write a long comparative note on one of the following:

- The significance of the baby in view of the different themes of both novels;
- The significance of the genre (narrative form) used in both the techno-fiction novels.