

Quadrant IV – In Module Assessment

Programme: Bachelor of Arts (Third Year)

Subject: English

Paper Code: END 105

Paper Title: British Literature – Post World War II

Unit: 3 (Novel)

Module Name: John Fowles 'The French Lieutenant's Woman' – An analysis
Module No: 08

Name of the Presenter: Ms. Michelle D'Mello

Q I. Topics for Study

- 1) Research the treatment of women in England in the 1860s. How does Fowles' depictions of Ernestina and Sarah reflect and challenge Victorian notions of the proper behavior of women?
- 2) Decide if you think Sarah was an innocent victim of her times or a calculating femme fatale. Write an essay supporting your claim and be sure to use quotes from the novel.
- 3) Provide another ending to the novel.
- 4) In what ways does the novel employ and reinterpret elements of a conventional Victorian novel?
- 5) Analyse the themes in the novel.
- 6) Symbolism in the novel
- 7) Analyse the characters in the novel.
- 8) Justify the narrator's actions of intruding and intervening in the action of the novel.
- 9) The significance of the title.
- 10) How is Sarah Woodruff a modern woman?

- 11) Who is the protagonist in the novel? Justify.
- 12) Compare the characters of Sarah and Ernestina. In what ways are they affected by Victorian attitudes towards women? In what ways do their different social and economic status affect their experiences?
- 13) Compare the lives of Sam, Mary, and other members of the working class with those of their employers. What social attitudes do they have? In what ways do their attitudes diverge?
- 14) Discuss Charles. In what ways does he avoid learning about who he is? For example, discuss his interest in paleontology or his desire to help Sarah.
- 15) Why does Charles decide to go to the brothel and then change his mind? Compare this with his experience with the prostitute Sarah. What do his reactions mean? Discuss whether it would be possible for a man to idealize some women, while he might feel no guilt about exploiting others. What attitudes towards women would this foster?
- 16) Why does Fowles give the novel two conclusions? Do you consider them to be equally viable options, or is one more of a conclusion than the other?
- 17) How is Charles changed by his romance with Sarah? Is it a change for the better or for the worse?
- 18) Why does Sarah allow herself to be called "the French lieutenant's whore" when in fact she never had sex with him? Why in fact did she start the rumor at all, since she was the one who first mentioned it to her employer, Mrs. Talbot?
- 19) Compare this novel with a popular romance or a gothic novel, either of the nineteenth century or the present. What conventions of these novels does Fowles adopt? What does he change or discard?
- 20) Compare this novel with a novel by Thomas Hardy, George Eliot, or Charles Dickens.
- 21) Discuss the two long poems quoted by Fowles in his novel.
- 22) Read the other poems referred to in the opening quotations. What light, if any, do they throw on your understanding of either the novel or Victorian attitudes towards life?

23) Is Fowles too one-sided in his description of people in the nineteenth century? Discuss.

24) What is Fowles saying about the novel as an art form? Does he practice what he preaches?