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1. Beginning Theory : An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory

1. Theory before 'Theory' - Liberal humanism  
2. Structuralism   
3. Post-structuralism and deconstruction   
4. Postmodernism   
5. Psychoanalytic criticism   
6. Feminist criticism  
7. Lesbian/gay criticism   
8. Marxist criticism   
9. New historicism and cultural materialism   
10. Postcolonial criticism   
11. Stylistics   
12. Narratology   
13. Ecocriticism  
14. Literary theory - a history in ten events  
15. Theory after 'Theory'  
Appendices  
Edgar Allan Poe: 'The Oval Portrait'  
Dylan Thomas: 'A Refusal to Mourn'  
William Cowper: 'The Castaway'  
Where do we go from here: Further reading

2. Literary Theory: The Basics

1 Reading for meaning: practical criticism and new criticism 1

2 Reading for form I: formalism and early structuralism, 1914-1960 31

3 Reading for form II: French structuralism, 1950-1975 53

4 Political reading: the 1970s and 1980s 79

5 The poststucturalist revolution: Derrida, deconstruction, and postmodernism 117

6 Poststructuralism continued: Foucault, Lacan, and French feminism

3. Modern Literary Criticism and Theory: A History

Formative Moments in the History of Literary Criticism.

Historical Backgrounds of Modern Criticism and Theory.

The Scope of Modern Literary and Cultural Criticism.

**1. The First Decades: From Liberal Humanism to Formalism.**

The New Humanists, Neo-Romantics, and Precursors of Formalism.

The Background of Modernism.

The Poetics of Modernism: W.B. Yeats, Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot.

Formalism:.

Russian Formalism:.

Boris Eichenbaum (1886–1959).

Mikhail M. Bakhtin (1895–1975).

Roman Jakobson (1896–1982).

The New Criticism:.

John Crowe Ransom (1888–1974).

William K. Wimsatt, Jr. (1907–1975) and Monroe C. Beardsley (1915–1985).

**2. Socially Conscious Criticism of the Earlier Twentieth Century.**

F. R. Leavis (1895–1978) and Scrutiny.

Marxist and Left-Wing Criticism:.

Socialist Criticism in Britain.

The Fundamental Principles of Marxism.

Marxist Literary Criticism: A Historical Overview.

Early Feminist Criticism: Virginia Woolf and Simone de Beauvoir:.

Virginia Woolf (1882–1941).

Simone de Beauvoir (1908–1986).

**3. Criticism and Theory After the Second World War.**

Edmund Husserl (1859–1938) and Phenomenology.

Martin Heidegger (1889–1976) and Existentialism.

Georges Bataille (1897–1962) and Heterology.

Structuralism:.

Ferdinand de Saussure (1857–1913).

Roland Barthes (1915–1980).

**4. The Era of Poststructuralism (I): Later Marxism, Psychoanalysis, Deconstruction.**

Later Marxist Criticism:.

Terry Eagleton (b. 1943).

Psychoanalysis: Freud and Lacan:.

Sigmund Freud (1856–1939).

Jacques Lacan (1901–1981).

Jacques Derrida (1930–2004) and Deconstruction.

**5. The Era of Poststructuralism (II): Postmodernism, Modern Feminism, Gender Studies.**

Postmodernism:.

Jürgen Habermas (b. 1929).

Jean Baudrillard (1929–2007).

Jean-François Lyotard (1924–1998).

bell hooks (Gloria Jean Watkins; b. 1952).

Modern Feminism:.

French Feminism.

American Feminism.

British Feminism.

Julia Kristeva (b. 1941).

Hélène Cixous (b. 1937).

Gender Studies:.

Gayle Rubin (b. 1949).

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick (b. 1950).

Judith Butler (b. 1956).

**6. The Later Twentieth Century: New Historicism, Reader-Response Theory, and Postcolonial Criticism.**

New Historicism:.

Michel Foucault (1926–1984).

Reader-Response and Reception Theory:.

Wolfgang Iser (b. 1926).

Stanley Fish (b. 1938).

Postcolonial Criticism:.

Edward Said (1935–2004).

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (b. 1942).

Homi K. Bhabha (b. 1949).

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (b. 1950).

**7. Cultural Studies and Film Theory.**

Cultural Studies:.

Raymond Williams (1921–1988).

Stuart Hall (b. 1932).

Dick Hebdige (b. 1951).

John Fiske.

Susan Bordo (b. 1947).

Film Theory:.

Andrew Sarris (b. 1928) and Auteur Theory.

Jim Kitses: The Study of Genre.

Christian Metz (1931–1993): A Psychoanalytic Perspective.

Laura Mulvey (b. 1941): Feminist Film Theory.

**8. Contemporary Directions: The Return of the Public Intellectual.**

The New Liberalism: Martha Nussbaum, Elaine Scarry, John Carey:.

Martha Nussbaum (b. 1947).

Elaine Scarry (b. 1946).

John Carey (b. 1934).

The New Aestheticism.

The New Theorists of Revolution: Žižek, Hardt, Negri.

Slavoj Žižek (b. 1949).

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri: The Concept of Empire.

Epilogue: The Myth of Liberal Humanism.

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4. American Literary Criticism since the 1930s

Marxist Criticism in the 1930s

The"New Criticism"

TheChicago School

TheNew York Intellectuals

Myth Criticism

Phenomenological and Existential Criticism

Hermeneutics

Reader-Response Criticism

Literary Structuralism and Semiotics

Deconstructive Criticism

Feminist Criticism

Black Aesthetics

Cultural Criticism from the 1960s to the 1980s

American Criticism Since 1987

5. The Theory Toolbox: Critical Concepts for the Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences

Why theory? -- Author/ity -- Reading -- Subjectivity -- Culture.   
Multiculturalism ; Popular culture ; Media culture ; Media culture 2.0 --   
Ideology -- History -- Space/Time -- Posts. Postmodernism ; Poststructuralism ; Postcolonialism -- Differences. Gender ; Queer ;   
Race ; Class ; Concluding differences -- Life.   
Biopower ; Resistance ; The economics of culture; or, The biopower business --  
Nature. Animals -- Agency.

6. How to Interpret Literature : Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies

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**CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION** –

**CHAPTER 2: NEW CRITICISM** -- How to Interpret: Key Concepts from New Criticism -- Historicizing the New Criticism: Rethinking Literary Unity -- The Intentional Fallacy and the Affective Fallacy -- How to Interpret: A New Critical Example –

**CHAPTER 3: STRUCTURALISM** -- Key Concepts in Structuralism -- How to Interpret: Structuralism in Cultural and Literary Studies -- The Death of the Author -- How to Interpret: The Detective Novel -- Structuralism, Formalism, and Literary History -- The Structuralist Study of Narrative: Narratology -- Narrative Syntax, Metaphor, and Metonymy –

**CHAPTER 4: DECONSTRUCTION** -- Key Concepts in Deconstruction -- How to Interpret: A Deconstructionist Example -- Writing, Speech, and Differance -- Deconstruction beyond Derrida -- Deconstruction, Essentialism, and Identity -- How to Interpret: More Deconstructive Examples

**CHAPTER 5: PSYCHOANALYSIS** -- The Psychoanalytic Understanding of the Mind -- Sigmund Freud -- How to Interpret: Models of Psychoanalytic Interpretation -- From the Interpretation of Dreams to the Interpretation of Literature -- How to Interpret: Psychoanalytic Examples -- Jacques Lacan –

**CHAPTER 6: FEMINISM** -- Early Feminist Criticism -- Sex and Gender -- Feminisms -- How to Interpret: Feminist Examples -- Feminism and Visual Pleasure –

**CHAPTER 7: QUEER STUDIES** -- Key Concepts in Queer Studies -- How to Interpret: A Queer Studies Example -- Queer Studies and History -- Outing: Writers, Characters, and the Literary Closet -- Homosociality and Heterosexual Panic -- How to Interpret: Another Queer Studies Example –

**CHAPTER 8: MARXISM** -- Key Concepts in Marxism -- Contemporary Marxism, Ideology, and Agency -- How to Interpret: Marxist Examples –

**CHAPTER 9: HISTORICISM AND CULTURAL STUDIES** -- New Historicism -- How to Interpret: Historicist Examples -- Michel Foucault -- Cultural Studies -- How to Interpret: A Cultural Studies Example -- Cultural Studies, Historicism, and Literature –

**CHAPTER 10: POSTCOLONIAL AND RACE STUDIES** -- Postcolonialism -- From Orientalism to Deconstruction: Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, and Gayatri -- Chakravorty Spivak -- How to Interpret: A Postcolonial Studies Example -- Race Studies: Postcolonial Theory and the Construction of Race -- How to Interpret: Postcolonial and Race Studies Examples –

**CHAPTER 11: READER RESPONSE** -- Ideal, Implied, and Actual Readers -- Structuralist Models of Reading and Communication -- Aesthetic Judgment, Interpretive Communities, and Resisting Readers -- Reception Theory and Reception History -- Readers and the New Technologies -- AFTERWORD -- WORKS CITED -- FURTHER READING.

7. Doing Research in Cultural Studies

PART ONE: THINKING METHODOLOGICALLY Introduction Locating Cultural Studies and the Book Combining Methodologies in Cultural Studies

PART TWO: STUDYING LIVED EXPERIENCE Studying Lived Resistance New Ethnography and Understanding the Other Between Experience and Discourse

PART THREE: READING DISCOURSES Reading Ideology Genealogical Analysis On Deconstruction and Beyond

PART FOUR: ANALYZING THE GLOBAL CONTEXT Analysis of 'Reality' and Space Studying Multiple Sites and Scapes

8. A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory

Preface to the Fifth Edition.

Introduction.

1. New Criticism, moral formalism and F. R. Leavis

2. Russian formalism and the Bakhtin school

3. Reader-oriented theories

4. Structuralist theories

5. Marxist theories  6. Feminist theories  7. Poststructuralist theories

8. Postmodernist theories  9. Postcolonialist theories  10. Gay, lesbian and queer theories

Conclusion: Post-Theory.

Appendix 1: Recommended glossaries of theoretical and critical terms and concepts.

Appendix 2: Literary, critical and cultural theory journals.  Index

9. Critical Theory Today : A User-Friendly Guide

Psychoanalytic Criticism

The Unconscious and the Defenses \* Dreams \* Dream Symbols \* Death and Sexuality \* Psychoanalysis and Literature \* A Psychoanalytic Reading of *The Great Gatsby*; \*

Marxist Criticism

Marxist Premises \* Ideology and Human Behavior \* Marxism and Literature \* A Marxist Reading of *The Great Gatsby*\*

Feminist Criticism

Feminist Premises \* Multicultural Feminism \* Feminism and Literature \* A Feminist Reading of *The Great Gatsby*\*

New Criticism

"The Text Itself": Literary Language and Organic Unity \* A Close Reading of Lucille Clifton's "There Is a Girl Inside" \* Objective Criticism and the "Single Best Reading" \* A New Critical Reading of *The Great Gatsby*\*

Reader-Response Criticism

Transactional, Subjective, Psychological, and Social Theories \* Affective Stylistics \* Defining Readers \* A Reader-Response Analysis of *The Great Gatsby*\*

Structuralist Criticism

Structural Linguistics and Anthropology \* Semiotic Theory \* Structuralist Approaches to Literature \*A Structuralist Reading of *The Great Gatsby*\*

Deconstructive Criticism

Deconstructing Language and Human Identity \* Deconstructing Literature \* Deconstructing Frost's "Mending Wall" \* A Deconstructive Reading of *The Great Gatsby*\*

New Historical and Cultural Criticism

New Historicism: History, Subjectivity, and Discourse \* Cultural Criticism: Politics, Power, and Popular Culture \* New Historicism \* Cultural Criticism, and Literature \* A New Historical Reading of *The Great Gatsby*\*

Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Criticism

The Marginalization of Lesbians and Gay Men \* Lesbian Criticism/Gay Criticism/Queer Criticism \* Shared Features of Lesbian Gay, and Queer Criticism \* A Queer Reading of *The Great Gatsby*\*

Postcolonial and African American Criticism

Postcolonial Identity, Debates, and Approaches to Literature \* African American Literary History, Tradition, and Current Trends \* Shared Features of Postcolonial and African American Criticism \* A Postcolonial Reading of *The Great Gatsby*\*

Courses for Adoption

Critical Theory \* Literary Criticism/Theory, Literature and Philosophy

10. An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory 4th ed.

The fourth edition has been revised to incorporate two timely new chapters on animals and the environment.

1. The beginning 2. Readers and reading 3. The author 4. The text and the world 5. The uncanny 6. Monuments 7. Narrative 8. Character 9. Voice 10. Figures and tropes 11. Creative writing 12. Laughter 13. The tragic 14. History 15. Me 16. Eco 17. Animals 18. Ghosts 19. Moving pictures 20. Sexual difference 21. God 22. Ideology 23. Desire 24. Queer 25. Suspense 26. Racial difference 27. The colony 28. Mutant 29. The performative 30. Secrets 31. The postmodern 32. Pleasure 33. War 34. The end Glossary. Select bibliography of other introductory texts and reference works Literary works discussed Bibliography of critical and theoretical works

11. Critical Theory: The Key Concepts

KEY CONCEPTS A-Z

***Introducing Critical Theory: A Graphic Guide***









