

Recommended Reading in Theory and Criticism

Where available, refer to selections in the *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*

History of Literary Criticism

- Plato (ca. 427-ca. 347 B.C.E.) excerpts from *Republic*
Aristotle (384-322 B.C.E.) *Poetics*
Horace (65-8 B.C.E.) *Ars Poetica*
Longinus (first century C.E.) from *On Sublimity*
Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586) *The Defense of Poesy* (or *An Apology for Poetry*)
John Dryden (1631-1700) excerpt from "An Essay of Dramatic Poesy"
Joseph Addison (1672-1719) *Spectator* Papers on Milton and on Taste
Alexander Pope (1688-1744) "An Essay on Criticism"
Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) "On Fiction" in *The Rambler* No. 4 and Chapter X of *Rasselas*
Edmund Burke (1729-1797) *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*
Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) excerpts from *Biographia Literaria*
Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) excerpts from *A Defence of Poetry*
Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) "The American Scholar," "The Poet"
Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) "The Philosophy of Composition"
Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels (1818-1883) "The Communist Manifesto"
Matthew Arnold (1822-1888) "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time," excerpt from *Culture and Anarchy*
Henry James (1843-1916) "The Art of Fiction"
Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) excerpts from *The Birth of Tragedy*
T. S. Eliot (1888-1965) "Tradition and the Individual Talent"
Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) excerpts from *A Room of One's Own*
T. S. Eliot (1888-1965) "Tradition and the Individual Talent"
Cleanth Brooks *The Well-Wrought Urn*

Contemporary Theory and Criticism

- Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) excerpts from *The Interpretation of Dreams*, "The 'Uncanny'" and "Fetishism"
Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913) "Course in General Linguistics"
W. E. B. Du Bois (1868-1963) preface to *The Souls of Black Folk*
Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937) "The Formation of the Intellectuals"
Walter Benjamin (1892-1940) "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"
Mikhail Bakhtin (1895-1975) excerpts from *Discourse in the Novel*
Jacques Lacan (1901-1981) "The Mirror Stage," "Seminar on 'The Purloined Letter'"
J. L. Austin (1911-1960) "Performative Utterances"
Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) "What is Literature?"
Roland Barthes (1915-1980) "The Death of the Author" and "From Work to Text"
Louis Althusser (1918-1990) from *Ideology and the Ideological State Apparatuses*
Raymond Williams (1921-1988) *Marxism and Literature*
Franz Fanon (1925-1961) *The Wretched of the Earth* or *Black Skin, White Masks*
Jean-François Lyotard (1925-1998) "Defining the Postmodern"
Michel Foucault (1926-1984) "What Is an Author?" and excerpts from *The History of Sexuality*

Adrienne Rich (1929-) excerpt from *Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence*
 Chinua Achebe (1930-) “An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*”
 Jane P. Tompkins *Sensational Designs* (chapter on Stowe)
 Jacques Derrida (1930-2004) excerpts from *Of Grammatology* and *Dissemination*
 Stuart Hall (1932-) “Cultural Studies and Its Theoretical Legacies”
 Frederic Jameson (1934-) excerpts from *The Political Unconscious: Narrative as a Socially Symbolic Act*
 Edward Said (1935-2003) Introduction to *Orientalism*
 Sandra Gilbert & Susan Gubar (1936-) & (1944-) excerpt from *The Madwoman in the Attic*
 Stanley Fish (1938-) “Interpreting the Variorum,” *Is There a Text in This Class*
 Julia Kristeva (1941-) Essay on Abjection from *Powers of Horror*
 Gayatri Spivak (1942-) excerpt from *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason*
 Gloria Anzaldúa (1942-) excerpt from *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*
 Stephen Greenblatt (1943-) Introduction to *The Power of Forms in the English Renaissance*
 Barbara Smith (1946-) “Toward a Black Feminist Criticism”
 Homi K. Bhabha (1949-) “The Commitment to Theory”
 Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick (1950-) Introduction to *Between Men*
 Judith Butler (1956-) excerpts from *Gender Trouble*, introduction to *Bodies that Matter*

Modern and Contemporary Critical Schools and Movements

Either read the brief summary at the back of the Norton (2532-2552) or read about all of the following in any good glossary or handbook of literary terms:

Formalism	Historical Criticism
New Criticism	Postcolonial Criticism
Structuralism and Semiotics	Cultural Studies
Reader-Response Criticism	Race and Ethnicity Studies
Deconstructive Criticism	Psychological Criticism
Marxism	Feminist Criticism
New Historicism	Queer Theory