

Comprehensive Reading List, Literary Theory and Criticism  
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### 1. The Classics

Plato, *The Republic*, Book 10.  
Aristotle, *Poetics*.  
Horace, *Ars Poetica*.  
Longinus, *On the Sublime*.  
Sidney, *The Defence of Poesie*.  
Dryden, *An Essay of Dramatic Poesie*.  
Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*.  
Wordsworth, Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*.  
Shelley, *A Defence of Poetry*.  
Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*.  
Poe, *Philosophy of Composition*.  
Arnold, *The Function of Criticism at the Present Time*.  
E. Auerbach, *Mimesis*. (recommended edition: Princeton UP, 2003)  
N. Frye, *Anatomy of Criticism*.  
H. Bloom, *The Anxiety of Influence*.  
W. Booth, *The Rhetoric of Fiction*. (recommend 2<sup>nd</sup>. edition, 1983)

### 2. Formalism, New Criticism

C. Brooks, "The Language of Paradox" from *The Well-Wrought Urn*  
T.S. Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent" from *Selected Essays*  
F.R. Leavis, *The Great Tradition*.  
I.A. Richards, *Principles of Literary Criticism*.  
V. Shklovsky, "Art as Technique."

### 3. Structuralism/Semiotics

R. Barthes, "Myth Today" from *Mythologies; Elements of Semiology; S/Z*.  
R. Jakobson, "Two Aspects of Language and Two Types of Aphasic Disturbances" from  
*Fundamentals of Language*.  
C. Levi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth" from *Structural Anthropology*.  
F. de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*. (recommended edition: Roy Harris, ed.  
and trans. London: Duckworth Press, 1983)  
M. Blonsky, ed., *On Signs*.

#### 4. Deconstruction, Post-structuralism, Postmodernism

J. Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences," from *Writing and Difference*; "The Double Session" from *Dissemination*; "Différance," from *Margins of Philosophy*; "Restitutions" from *The Truth in Painting*.

Paul De Man, "Rhetoric," *Allegories of Reading*

J.F. Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition*.

J. Baudrillard, *Symbolic Exchange and Death*

J. Kristeva, "The Semiotic and the Symbolic" from *Revolution in Poetic Language*

L. Hutcheon, *The Poetics of Postmodernism*.

F. Jameson, *Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*.

B. Christian. "The Race for Theory." *Cultural Critique* (Spring 1987)

hooks, b. "Postmodern Blackness" in *Yearning*

H. Bhaba. "The Commitment to Theory" in *The Location of Culture*;

D. Haraway. "A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the 1980s"

#### 5. Historicism, Materialism, Cultural Studies

M. Bakhtin, "Discourse in the Novel" from *The Dialogic Imagination*.

M. Foucault, *The Archaeology of Knowledge; Language, Counter-Memory, Practice.; Discipline and Punish*

S. Greenblatt, *Renaissance Self-Fashioning*.

L. Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" from *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*

R. Williams, *Marxism and Literature*.

D. Hebdige. "From Culture to Hegemony" in *Subculture: the Meaning of Style*

F. Jameson, *The Political Unconscious*.

P. Bourdieu, "The Field of Cultural Production" (in *The Field of Cultural Production*, ed. Randal Johnson).

#### 6. Psychoanalytic Theory

S. Freud, "The Dream-Work" in *The Interpretation of Dreams*, and *From the Prehistory of an Infantile Neurosis* (in *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*)

J. Lacan, "The Function and Field of Speech and Language in Psychoanalysis" "The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious, or Reason Since Freud," and "The Subversion of the Subject and the Dialectic of Desire in the Freudian Unconscious," all from *Ecrits; The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psycho-Analysis*

E. Grosz, *Jacques Lacan: A Feminist Introduction*

S. Zizek, *The Sublime Object of Ideology*

L. Mulvey, *Visual and Other Pleasures*

H. Bhaba. "The Other Question: Stereotype, Discrimination and the Discourse of Colonialism" in *The Location of Culture*.

#### 7. Reception Theory, Audience Studies

S. Fish, *Is there a Text in this Class? The Authority of Interpretive Communities*.

W. Iser, *The Implied Reader*.

J. Tompkins, *Reader-Response Criticism: From Formalism to Post-Structuralism*.

B. Herrnstein-Smith. *Contingencies of Value*

J. Radway, *Reading the Romance*

P. Bourdieu, "A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste," from *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*

#### 8. Feminist, Gender, and Queer Theory

V. Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*.

S. De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*.

S. M. Gilbert & S. Gubar, *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Imagination*.

K. Oliver, ed. *French Feminism Reader* (selections from Cixous, Irigaray, Kristeva)

M. Foucault, *History of Sexuality vol I*

R. Felski, *Beyond Feminist Aesthetics*

J. Butler, *Gender Trouble*

#### 9. Post Colonial and Race Theory

E. Said, *Orientalism*

H.L. Gates, "The Blackness of Blackness" from *Figures in Black: Words, Signs, and the "Racial" Self*

H. Bhaba, "Introduction: Locations of Culture;" "Interrogating Identity: Franz Fanon and the Postcolonial Prerogative;" and "Signs Taken for Wonders: Questions of Ambivalence and Authority Under a Tree Outside Delhi, May 1817;" all from *The Location of Culture*;  
Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*

G. Spivak, *A Critique of Post-Colonial Reason*, Ch. 3 [Can the Subaltern Speak?]

A. McClintock, *Imperial Leather*