Critical Theory Reading List

Aim for inclusive coverage from all categories.

Theory Before “Theory”
1. Plato  Republic, Book X
2. Aristotle  Poetics
3. Horace  Ars Poetica
4. Longinus  On the Sublime
5. Samuel Johnson  Preface to Shakespeare
6. David Hume  “Of the Standard of Taste”
7. Immanuel Kant  from Critique of Judgment
8. William Wordsworth  Preface to Lyrical Ballads
9. Samuel Taylor Coleridge  from Biographia Literaria
10. G. W. F. Hegel  Introduction to The Philosophy of Art
11. Matthew Arnold  “The Function of Criticism at the Present Time”
12. Friedrich Nietzsche  from The Birth of Tragedy, “On Truth and Lies in an Extramoral Sense”
14. Mikhail Bakhtin  from Discourse in the Novel
15. Virginia Woolf  Shakespeare's Sister from A Room of One's Own
16. Kenneth Burke  “Literature as Equipment for Living”
17. Jean-Paul Sartre  “Why Write?”
18. Simone de Beauvoir  “Myths: Of Women in Five Authors” (Second Sex)
20. Erich Auerbach  “Odysseus' Scar” (Mimesis)

Formalisms
22. Victor Schlovsky  “Art as Technique”
23. Cleanth Brooks  “Irony as a Principle of Structure”

Structuralism, Semiotics, and Deconstruction
24. Ferdinand de Saussure  “Nature of the Linguistic Sign”
26. Roman Jakobson  from Style in Language
27. Vladimir Propp  Morphology of the Folktale
28. Gérard Genette  “Frontiers of Narrative”
29. Jacques Derrida  Of Grammatology (including Spivak introduction)
30. Roland Barthes  S/Z
31. Kaja Silverman  from The Subject of Semiotics
32. Michel Foucault  “What is an Author?”
33. Paul de Man  “Semiology and Rhetoric”
34. Cynthia Chase  from Decomposing Figures
35. Barbara Johnson  from The Critical Difference
36. Jonathan Culler  
   On Deconstruction, 1-3
37. Geoffrey Hartman  
   Saving the Text: Literature/Derrida/Philosophy

### Intentionality and Speech Act Theory
38. Wimsatt and Beardsley  
   “The Intentional Fallacy”
39. E.D. Hirsch  
   from Validity in Interpretation
40. John Searle  
   from Speech Acts
41. J. L. Austin  
   How To Do Things With Words
42. Stanely Cavell  
   from Must We Mean What We Say?
43. Jacques Derrida  
   Limited Inc.
44. Knapp and Michaels  
   “Against Theory”
45. Stanley Fish  
   “There’s No Such Thing as Free Speech”
46. Judith Butler  
   “Sovereign Performatives”

### Reader-Response Criticism
47. Wolfgang Iser  
   “The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach”
48. Stanley Fish  
   “Is There a Text in this Class?”
49. Jane Tompkins  
   from Sensational Designs

### Psychoanalytic Theory
50. Sigmund Freud  
   Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality, Civilization and its Discontents
51. Paul Ricoeur  
   Freud and Philosophy: An Essay in Interpretation
52. Harold Bloom  
   Anxiety of Influence, introduction (“A Meditation upon Priority"
53. Jacques Lacan  
   Ecrits
54. Jane Gallop  
   from Reading Lacan
55. Deleuze and Guattari  
   from Anti-Oedipus
56. Jacqueline Rose  
   from The State of Fantasy
57. Neil Hertz  
   The End of the Line: Essays on Psychoanalysis and the Sublime

### Marxist Criticism
58. Karl Marx  
   Capital (Part I of Vol. I), The German Ideology
59. Walter Benjamin  
   “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”
60. George Lukács  
   “The Ideology of Modernism”
61. Theodor Adorno  
   “Odysseus or Myth and Enlightenment,” Minima Moralia
62. Antonio Gramsci  
   The Prison Notebooks
63. Louis Althusser  
   “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses,” excepts from Reading Capital
64. Raymond Williams  
   “Pastoral and Counter-pastoral” from The Country and the City; Culture and Society, chapter 1
65. E.P. Thompson  
   “Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism”
<table>
<thead>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Perry Anderson</td>
<td><em>In the Tracks of Historical Materialism</em>, chapter 1</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>Terry Eagleton</td>
<td><em>Criticism and Ideology</em></td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>Fredric Jameson</td>
<td><em>The Political Unconscious</em>, chapter 1</td>
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<td>Pierre Bourdieu</td>
<td>from <em>Outline of a Theory of Practice</em></td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>Jürgen Habermas</td>
<td>from <em>The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity</em></td>
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<td>71</td>
<td>Martin Jay</td>
<td>from <em>Marxism and Totality</em></td>
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<td>72</td>
<td>Laclau and Mouffe</td>
<td>from <em>Hegemony and Socialist Strategy</em></td>
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<td>73</td>
<td>Hardt and Negri</td>
<td>“The Political Constitution of the Present” (<em>Empire</em>)</td>
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**New Historicism and Cultural Studies**

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<td>Pierre Bourdieu</td>
<td>“The Market of Symbolic Goods,”</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>Clifford Geertz</td>
<td>“Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight”</td>
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<td>Edward W. Said</td>
<td>Introduction to <em>Orientalism</em></td>
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<td>Stephen Greenblatt</td>
<td>“Invisible Bullets”</td>
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<td>78</td>
<td>D.A. Miller</td>
<td><em>The Novel and the Police</em>, Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Jean-François Lyotard</td>
<td><em>Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Fredric Jameson</td>
<td>“Postmodernism; Or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism” <em>New Left Review</em> 146 (1984)</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>Constance Penley</td>
<td>&quot;Feminism, Psychoanalysis, and the Study of Popular Culture&quot;</td>
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<td>82</td>
<td>Stuart Hall</td>
<td>“Encoding, Decoding”</td>
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<td>Michel de Certeau</td>
<td>“Walking in the City”</td>
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<td>Stallybrass and White</td>
<td>from <em>The Politics and Poetics of Transgression</em></td>
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<td>85</td>
<td>Dick Hebdige</td>
<td>“From Culture to Hegemony”</td>
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<td>86</td>
<td>Andrew Ross</td>
<td>Introduction and Chapter One of <em>No Respect</em></td>
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**Feminist Literary Criticism / Gender Studies and Queer Theory**

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<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Gilbert and Gubar</td>
<td>“Infection in the Sentence: The Woman Writer and the Anxiety of Authorship”</td>
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<td>88</td>
<td>Laura Mulvey</td>
<td>&quot;Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema&quot;</td>
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<td>89</td>
<td>Hélène Cixous</td>
<td>&quot;The Laugh of the Medusa&quot;</td>
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<td>90</td>
<td>Michel Foucault</td>
<td><em>The History of Sexuality</em>, Vol. I</td>
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<td>91</td>
<td>Julia Kristeva</td>
<td>from <em>Powers of Horror</em></td>
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<td>Luce Irigaray</td>
<td>&quot;This Sex Which Is Not One&quot;</td>
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<td>93</td>
<td>Teresa de Lauretis</td>
<td><em>Technologies of Gender</em></td>
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<td>Gayle Rubin</td>
<td>“Thinking Sex”</td>
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<td>David Halperin</td>
<td>“One Hundred Years of Homosexuality”</td>
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<td>96</td>
<td>Judith Butler</td>
<td><em>Gender Trouble</em></td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>Ann Laura Stoler</td>
<td>from <em>The Education of Desire</em></td>
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<td>Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick</td>
<td><em>Epistemology of the Closet</em>, “Introduction: Axiomatic”</td>
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<td>99</td>
<td>Leo Bersani</td>
<td>“Is the Rectum a Grave?” <em>Homos</em></td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>Michael Warner</td>
<td>from <em>The Trouble with Normal</em></td>
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### Multiculturalism and the Canon Wars


102. John Guillory *Cultural Capital*, chapter 1

103. Barbara Christian “The Race for Theory”

104. Homi K. Bhabha “The Location of Culture”


106. Chandra Mohanty *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*

### Postcolonial Theory

107. Ngugi wa Thion’o *Decolonizing the Mind*

108. George Lamming “The Occasion for Speaking” from *The Pleasures of Exile*


110. Gayatri Spivak “Three Women’s Texts and a Critique of Imperialism,” “Can the Subaltern Speak?”

111. Paul Gilroy *The Black Atlantic*, Introduction

112. Homi Bhabha “Signs Taken for Wonders,” in *Location of Culture*

113. Arjun Appuradai “Playing with Modernity The Decolonization of Indian Cricket,” from *Modernity at Large*

114. Mary Louise Pratt from *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*

115. Simon Gikandi *Maps of Englishness*, Introduction

116. Anne McClintock from *Imperial Leather*