

CRITICAL THEORY: A GUIDE TO FINDING MATERIALS IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SYSTEM

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1. Dictionaries, handbooks and survey sources

The following **dictionaries and handbooks** provide definitions of critical terms and occasionally lengthy entries describing particular critical schools or approaches, or the ideas and work of particular theorists. Many entries are followed by useful bibliographies for further reading.

Cashmore, Ellis, and Chris Rojek, eds. *Dictionary of Cultural Theorists*. New York: Oxford UP, 1999
(REF CB430 D52 1999)

Childers, Joseph, and Gary Hentzi, eds. *The Columbia Dictionary of Modern Literary and Cultural Criticism*. New York: Columbia UP, 1995
(REF BH39 C62 1995)

Cuddon, J.A. *A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. 4th ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 1998
(REF PN41 C83 1998)

Harmon, William. *A Handbook to Literature*. 11th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2009
(REF PN41 H355 2009)

Harris, Wendell V. *Dictionary of Concepts in Literary Criticism and Theory*. New York: Greenwood, 1992
(REF PN41 H36 1992)

Hawthorn, Jeremy. *A Glossary of Contemporary Literary Theory*. 4th ed. London: Arnold, 2000
(REF PN44.5 H37 2000)

Henderson, Helene, and Jay P. Pederson, eds. *Twentieth-century Literary Movements Dictionary*. Detroit: Omnigraphics, 2000
(REF PN597 T94 2000)

Penguin, Macey, David. *The Penguin Dictionary of Critical Theory*. New York: 2000
(REF PN98 S6 M33 2000)

Murfin, Ross, and Supryia M. Ray. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*. 2nd ed. Boston: Bedford Books, 2003
(REF PN44.5 M87 2003; kept at the information desk)

Orr, Leonard. *A Dictionary of Critical Theory*. New York: Greenwood, 1991
(REF PN98 S6077 1991)

Payne, Michael et al., eds. *A Dictionary of Cultural and Critical Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1996
(REF HM101 D527 1996)

Wolfreys, Julian. *Critical Keywords in Literary and Cultural Theory*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004
(REF PN44.5 W64 2004)

_____, ed. *Glossalalia: An Alphabet of Critical Keywords*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2003
(REF B809.3 G56 2003)

Critical Survey of Literary Theory (Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, 1987; PN45 C74 1987; in storage) is a four-volume reference set that provides rudimentary articles on particular theorists with suggested reading. The second half of the fourth volume contains survey articles on the history of literary theory over the centuries as well as a useful subject index for the entire set.

The *Encyclopedia of Literary Critics and Criticism* (Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1999; REF PN81 E53 1999) is a two-volume reference set that updates and expands upon the contents of *Critical Survey of Literary Theory*, above. The set includes 292 entries on Western and selected non-Western critics, 15 chronological surveys of literary theory during particular periods and in particular literatures, and 28 entries on specific movements, approaches, and critical schools. Entries for a limited number of key concepts in literary criticism are also provided. Title and subject indexes are supplied at the back of the second volume.

The *Encyclopedia of Literature and Criticism* (Detroit: Gale Research, 1991; REF PN81 E6 1990; also available online) consists of 90 essays on various aspects of literary studies, past and present. The essays are grouped into nine sections ranging from "Literature and History" to "Production and Reception." The section "Criticism" contains 11 essays on various critical schools. A section entitled "Perspectives" contains essays on African American literature and literatures in English outside the U.S. and the U.K.. To gain access to the online version, enter the title in PittCat and click on the link in the record for the online version.

The *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Literary Theory: Approaches, Scholars, Terms* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993; REF PN81 E59 1993) is divided into three parts: (1) 48 essays on critical schools and approaches, concluding with a bibliographical essay on theory and its impact on pedagogy; (2) entries on individual theorists, and (3) entries describing terms used in literary theory. Extensive cross-referencing and bibliographies following its entries enhance the usefulness of this source.

The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism (2nd ed. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005; REF PN81 J554 2005) contains over 200 entries on critical schools, movements and individual critics and theorists arranged alphabetically. The guide also aims to examine developments in other disciplines that have influenced literary theory and criticism. Each entry includes a selected bibliography of primary and secondary sources. **Note that this edition of the encyclopedia is also available online;** links to it can be found in PittCat and on the "Databases A-Z" list on the library's Web site (www.library.pitt.edu).

Gale's ongoing *Dictionary of Literary Biography* (Detroit: Gale Research, 1978- ; REF Z5051 D5) includes a number of individual volumes surveying the career and works of key critics and cultural theorists. Entries typically begin with a list of works by the critic or theorist followed by a lengthy essay of several pages on his or her work. A list of biographies, any existing bibliographies, and criticism on the critic or theorist appears at the end of the entries. The following volumes on twentieth century critics and theorists have been published to date:

Twentieth-century European Cultural Theorists, First Series (v. 242; 2001)
Twentieth-century European Cultural Theorists, Second Series (v. 296, 2004)
Twentieth-century American Cultural Theorists (v.246; 2001)
Modern American Critics Since 1955 (v. 67; 1988)
Modern American Critics, 1920-1955 (v. 63; 1988)

Note that the entries in these volumes are also available online via the *Literature Resource Center (LRC)*; see Section 5, below.

Stuart Sim's *The A-Z Guide to Modern Literary & Cultural Theorists* (New York: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1995; REF PN74 A2 1995) provides 100 concise essays by British scholars on leading 20th century theorists, including a sizable number of feminist, black and Third World theorists. Also included are essays on Marx, Nietzsche, Freud and Saussure as forefathers of contemporary critical theory. Each essay discusses the theorist's academic and cultural background, presents his or her main ideas, and assesses their cultural impact. Brief bibliographies of main works and titles for further reading, plus a glossary of terms, where appropriate, are provided at the end of each essay.

The Continuum Encyclopedia of Modern Criticism and Theory (New York: Continuum, 2002; REF PN94 C695 2002) contains over 100 relatively short, signed essays on key philosophers and literary figures who have contributed to the development of theory, critical theorists and schools from the Enlightenment to date that have been grouped into three clusters: (1) Critical Discourse in Europe, (2) Theories and Practices of Criticism in North America, and (3) Criticism, Literary and Cultural Studies in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Topics range from Kant and Coleridge to Said and Greenblatt; from Russian formalism and the Cambridge School to film studies, cultural materialism, and lesbian and gay studies, including queer theory. The volume also provides essays that examine seminal journals in the development of critical theory (for example, *Cahiers du Cinema*, *Screen*, and *Tel Quel*). A bibliography of works cited and further reading follows each essay. A useful glossary of critical terms, a list of contributors, and an index appear at the back of the volume.

A more specialized reference work, *The Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory* (New York: Garland, 1997; REF PN98 W64 E53 1997) provides more than 350 entries on topics related to feminist literary criticism and theory written by individual scholars. These include definitions of terms such as "essentialism" and "homosociality" as well as longer articles on general topics ("eroticism," "reproduction," "violence") and on literary periods and critical schools ("Romanticism," "New Historicism," "queer theory") as they relate to feminist literary criticism and theory. Also included are entries on selected critics and theorists who have influenced or contributed to feminist theory, both inside and outside the field. Bibliographies of varying lengths follow most entries. A general index appears at the back of the volume.

Note that a number of books in the circulating collection **surveys** recent schools of theory and critical approaches to literature and other cultural products. Among these are titles by authors such as Robert Dale Parker, Hans Bertens, M.A.R. Habib, Gregory Castle, Mary Klages, Lois Tyson, Jon Simon, Julian Wolfreys, Keith Green, Vincent Leitch, Peter Barry, Terry Eagleton, and Raman Selden. As attempting to summarize the ideas and work of particular critical schools or theorists is always problematic, you may want to ask your instructor to recommend survey

titles that he or she considers to be the most responsible or accurate in their treatment.

Also of interest are **readers in critical theory** edited by Julie Rivkin, Vincent Leitch, Julian Wolfreys, Robert Con Davis, David Lodge, David Richter, Antony Easthope, Philip Rice, Peter Collier, and Douglas Tallack, among others. These usually contain representative articles or excerpts from seminal works by major theorists or practitioners of various critical approaches.

See the section below for more information on how to locate titles on critical theory generally and on individual schools of theory.

2. Circulating books in the University Library System

To find books in the ULS on **critical theory generally**, consult PittCat using the following Library of Congress subject headings:

CRITICISM
CRITICISM 20th CENTURY
CRITICISM HISTORY 20th CENTURY
CRITICISM HISTORY 21st CENTURY
CRITICAL THEORY

To find books in the ULS on **a particular critical school, approach, category or application**, try consulting PittCat using its Library of Congress subject heading:

Examples: FRANKFURT SCHOOL OF SOCIOLOGY
MARXIAN SCHOOL OF SOCIOLOGY
MYTH IN LITERATURE (includes archetypal criticism)
PSYCHOANALYSIS AND LITERATURE
READER-RESPONSE CRITICISM
FEMINIST LITERARY CRITICISM
HERMENEUTICS
SEMIOTICS AND LITERATURE
STRUCTURALISM
DECONSTRUCTION
POSTMODERNISM
HISTORICISM (includes the New Historicism)
NEW CRITICISM
FORMALISM

HOMOSEXUALITY PHILOSOPHY (includes queer theory)
GAYS IDENTITY (includes queer theory)
LESBIANISM PHILOSOPHY (includes queer theory)
LESBIANS IDENTITY (includes queer theory)
QUEER THEORY (new subject heading for recent titles)
GAY MEN IN LITERATURE
LESBIANS IN LITERATURE
DECOLONIZATION IN LITERATURE (postcolonial theory)
IMPERIALISM IN LITERATURE (postcolonial theory)
COLONIES IN LITERATURE (postcolonial theory)
POSTCOLONIALISM (postcolonial theory)
POSTCOLONIALISM IN LITERATURE (postcolonial theory)
CRITICAL PEDAGOGY
VISUAL COMMUNICATION (visual culture, visual studies)

If you would like to find books **by** a particular theorist in the ULS, consult PittCat, entering his or her name **as an author**.

Examples: MOI, TORIL
ISER, WOLFGANG
IRIGARAY, LUCE
BAUDRILLARD, JEAN

If you want to locate books **about** a particular theorist in the ULS, consult PittCat, entering his or her name **as a subject heading**.

Examples: DERRIDA, JACQUES
KRISTEVA, JULIA
FOUCAULT, MICHEL
DELEUZE, GILLES

3. Bibliographies on critical theory and its schools

The following sources cite books, articles, or both on critical theory and its schools:

Baker, William, and Kenneth Womack, comps. *Recent Work in Critical Theory, 1989-1995: An Annotated Bibliography*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1996
(REF Z6514 C97 R36 1996)

Marshall, Donald G. *Contemporary Critical Theory: A Selective Bibliography*.
New York: MLA, 1993
(REF Z6514 C97 M37 1993)

Orr, Leonard. *Research in Critical Theory Since 1965: A Classified Bibliography*. New York: Greenwood, 1989
(REF Z6514 C97 O77 1989)

The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory.
Oxford: Blackwell, 1991 to date; also available online.
(REF PN80 Y43)

MLA International Bibliography, Classified Listing, Volume 4: General Literature and Related Topics.
(Index carrel 1, reference area, and online)

Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature.
(Index carrel 1, reference area, and online via *LION*)

The **Orr** bibliography arranges citations in separate sections devoted to a particular critical approach, school, or discipline, for example, "Psychological Criticism," "Hermeneutics," "Post-structuralism," "Narratology," and "Semiotics". Use the classified index at the back of the volume to locate citations to materials on the work of a particular theorist.

Similarly, **Marshall's** bibliography classifies listings by critical school or approach, but also includes sections on cultural criticism, poststructuralist cultural criticism, literacy, orality and printing, and ethnic and postcolonial studies. Works by and about prominent individual theorists are listed separately within each section. Unlike Orr, Marshall provides headnotes for the sections and brief annotations for many of the works cited. As its title indicates, the bibliography is selective, and works in foreign languages (supplied in Orr) are excluded here.

The most recent of the single volume bibliographies, **Baker and Womack's** book provides annotated entries for 1,876 monographs in critical theory and literary criticism published between 1989 and 1995. Entries for anthologies list the individual essays or articles included in the volume. The entries are organized alphabetically by author in seven broad categories: "General Criticism," "Semiotics, Narratology, Rhetoric and Language Systems," "Postmodernism and Deconstruction," "Reader-Response and Phenomenological Criticism," "Feminist Criticism and Gender Studies," "Psychoanalytic Criticism," and "Historical Criticism."

Author and subject indexes appear at the back.

Produced by the UK's English Association, *The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory* is an annual survey of work published in the field. Individual scholars provide bibliographic review essays in such areas as general critical theory, semiotics, intertextuality, psychoanalysis, feminism, historicism, colonial discourse/postcolonial theory, queer theories/cultures, media studies, art histories and visual cultural studies, popular music and film studies. A general index is provided at the back of each volume. **To gain access to the online version, enter the title in PittCat and click on the links provided.**

When consulting Volume 4 of the **classified listing** of the *MLA International Bibliography* for recent years, look under the section entitled "Literary Theory and Criticism." This section is further subdivided into sections on particular critical approaches such as "Deconstructionism," "Feminist Literary Theory and Criticism," "Marxist Literary Theory and Criticism," and "Reception Theory." You may find it easier to look in the **subject indexes** for recent years under a particular topic or theorist in order to find relevant citations quickly.

Note that you can search the **EBSCOHost electronic version** of the entire bibliography back to 1926 via the library's Web site. To gain access to this site, get onto the Web via Pitt's network. Call up the library's home page at www.library.pitt.edu; then click on the "Find Articles" tab on the left. Next, click on "Databases A-Z" in the gray box on the upper right. Then scroll down to *MLA International Bibliography* and click on it. Conduct searches for citations to articles, reviews and books by entering the last name of a theorist as a subject, author or keyword. **Note that the EBSCOHost version of the bibliography online has begun to provide the full texts of some of the articles and reviews it indexes.** As permissions are obtained, more full texts will be made available.

Published by the UK's Modern Humanities Research Association and international in scope, the *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature* (also known as *ABELL*) provides citations to materials on the English language and literatures in English around the world (British, American, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, African and Asian). Consult the section entitled "Literary Theory" under "Twentieth Century" (which falls under "English Literature") in volumes for recent years for citations to materials on critical theory listed alphabetically by author-- unfortunately a cumbersome arrangement that requires scanning in order to find pertinent materials.

However, *ABELL*, like the *MLA International Bibliography*, is also available online; the database version extends coverage back to 1920. Pitt faculty and students can gain access to *ABELL* online via Chadwyck-Healey's *Literature Online (LION)* database--click on the link

for databases under “Find Articles” on the library’s home page, and then on “Databases A-Z” in the gray box on the upper right. Next, scroll down to *Literature Online (LION)* and click on it. When you get to the *LION* home page, click on “Criticism & Reference” on the left, which will give you a search screen with keyword and author/subject boxes. **Note that the database now provides the full texts of articles and reviews in 228 of the journals it currently indexes.**

4. Bibliographies devoted to specific critical schools or theorists

To find any bibliographies of materials about a particular critical school or approach available in the ULS, try searching PittCat by entering its Library of Congress subject heading followed by the subdivision BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Examples: FEMINIST LITERARY CRITICISM BIBLIOGRAPHY
STRUCTURALISM BIBLIOGRAPHY

To find any available bibliographies of materials by and/or about a particular theorist, try searching PittCat by entering his or her name as a subject heading. Then scroll down for the subdivision BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Examples: LACAN, JACQUES BIBLIOGRAPHY
BENJAMIN, WALTER BIBLIOGRAPHY

5. Selected indexes and databases

See Section 3 above for information about the *MLA International Bibliography* and the *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (ABELL)*, both in print and online.

Literature Resource Center (a Gale Cengage database; online)

The *LRC* is a general literature database that supplies full-text entries from a number of Gale reference sources, including *Contemporary Authors* and the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. In addition, the database provides full-text articles from 74 prominent journals. Use the **author search** box to locate entries and journal articles on individual critical theorists. Entries and journal articles that reference particular critical concepts or schools can be found by conducting **title, keyword** or **advanced searches**. The database also contains Merriam Webster’s *Encyclopedia of Literature* online, which supplies brief entries for selected theorists, critical schools, literary and critical terms, and the most well known literary works.

Citations for articles about various critical approaches or schools and individual theorists can also be found by consulting the following indexes and databases:

Humanities Index, 1974 to date.
(Index carrel 10, reference area)

Social Sciences Index, 1974 to date.
(Index carrel 10, reference area)

The *Humanities Index* covers a number of journals in literature, criticism and philosophy, among others. As you might guess, the *Social Sciences Index* covers many journals in psychology, sociology, anthropology and political science.

Humanities International Index, 1925 to date.
(an EBSCOHost database; online)

Humanities International Index provides citations to articles, reviews, fiction, poetry and drama appearing in over 1,900 scholarly journals and little magazines published from as far back as 1925 to date. A surprising number of citations to articles on contemporary critical and social theorists appears here. Updated monthly, **the database version has begun to provide the full texts of some of the articles, reviews and creative work it indexes**; as permissions are obtained, more full texts will become available online.

Academic OneFile (a Gale Cengage database; online)

Academic Search Premier (an EBSCOHost database; online)

Both *Academic OneFile* and *Academic Search Premier* databases index recent years of selected journals in the humanities and social sciences as well as a number of popular magazines and review sources. Over 8,000 publications are indexed in *Academic Search Premier*, **and full texts of articles published in over 4,700 of the journals are provided**. These databases are useful for quickly locating scholarly articles in critical theory published across the disciplines as well as the journalism of theorists such as Edward Said, Henry Louis Gates, and bell hooks, for example. Conduct searches for citations to articles and reviews by entering the theorist's last name as a subject, author or keyword.

Biography Reference Bank (a WilsonWeb database; online)

This database provides the **full texts** of essays and obituaries from the print series *Current Biography*, the **full texts** of articles from over 100 journals, and mostly citations to books on prominent individuals, as well as thumbnail **photographs** of them that can be enlarged. It is an especially rich source for information on 20th and 21st century figures.

Among the specialized subject indexes and databases offering citations to (and, in some cases, text of) potentially useful articles, books and papers on some topics, theorists and particular schools are the following:

The Philosopher's Index, 1940 to date (an EBSCOHost database; online)

PsycINFO (an Ovid SP database; online)

Sociological Abstracts (SocioFile) (a CSA database; online)

Social Theory (an Alexander Street Press database; online)

ERIC (EBSCOHost and CSA versions; online)

Women's Resources International (a Biblioline database; online)

The Philosopher's Index is the standard English language print index in philosophy. An EBSCOHost online version of the index covering 1940 to date can be accessed via the library's Web site. The *PsycINFO* database provides citations to, and some abstracts for, materials in psychology and related social sciences. The *SocioFile* database provides citations to, and some abstracts for, materials in sociology and related areas, including cultural and gender studies. The current release of *Social Theory*, a relatively new database, contains over 68,000 pages of text by 89 theorists, including Baudrillard, Bauman, Chodorow, Durkheim, Foucault, Gramsci, Habermas, Marx, Engels, Weber and Wollstonecraft. Future releases will include text from more theorists as permissions are obtained. *ERIC* indexes, and provides abstracts for, articles in journals of education as well as unpublished papers and reports relating to education. The *Women's Resources International* database provides citations, and some abstracts for, materials on topics in Women's Studies, including feminist theory and gender studies. As in other electronic databases, subject, author or keyword searches using the last names of individual theorists in these databases may produce many citations to articles, reviews and other materials.

6. Dissertations

Digital Dissertations (a ProQuest database; online)

If you are researching a topic in depth--in preparation for writing a dissertation prospectus, for example, you'll want to consult the *Digital Dissertations* database, now listed among the other index databases on the library's Web site under "Indexes to Articles & Publications." It provides: (1) entries for all of the dissertations and master's theses indexed in *Dissertations Abstracts*, (2) abstracts for dissertations and theses published from 1980 to date, and (3) full texts of dissertations in digital format that were submitted to University Microfilms International, either in print or digitally, from 1997 to date.

Center for Research Libraries (CRL) online catalog
(catalog.crl.edu/search/d)

Based in Chicago, CLR is a clearing house that acquires and lends research materials, including **a large number of foreign dissertations**, to its member research libraries. To locate any on a particular theorist in CRL's collections, enter his or her last name as a subject in the catalog's search box. As a result, you may find other useful books and materials on the theorist in CRL's collections as well. Requests for CRL materials are handled by the library's Interlibrary Loan office, and can be made using the online request form on the library's Web site (www.library.pitt.edu).

NOTE: Be sure to scan the database offerings listed on the library's Web site regularly, as more databases will continue to be added to it over time.

7. Web resources in critical theory

The following Web sites are particularly rich in links to Web resources in critical theory, cultural studies, and literature generally:

The Voice of the Shuttle (Alan Liu, UC-Santa Barbara)
vos.ucsb.edu

Literary Resources on the Net (Jack Lynch, Rutgers)
andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit

CULTSTUD-L (Minnesota)
www.comm.umn.edu/~grodman/cultstud/

The Postcolonial Web (Brown)
www.postcolonialweb.org

eserver.org: Cultural Studies and Critical Theory (Iowa State)
theory.eserver.org

For other useful Web sites in English, Film Studies, and Theatre Arts, consult **Ann Ronchetti's library home page** at:

www.pitt.edu/~ronchett

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