Contents

	Preface to the third edition Preface for instructors Acknowledgments	xii xiv xvi
1	Everything you wanted to know about critical theory but were afraid to ask	1
2	Psychoanalytic criticism The origins of the unconscious 12 The defenses, anxiety, and core issues 15 Dreams and dream symbols 18 The meaning of death 21 The meaning of sexuality 23 Lacanian psychoanalysis 25 Classical psychoanalysis and literature 33 Some questions psychoanalytic critics ask about literary texts 36 "What's Love Got to Do with It?": a psychoanalytic reading of	11
	The Great Gatsby 38 Questions for further practice: psychoanalytic approaches to other literary works 48 For further reading 48 For advanced readers 49	
3	Marxist criticism The fundamental premises of Marxism 51 The class system in America 52 The role of ideology 54 Human behavior, the commodity, and the family 59 Marxism and literature 62	51

5

6

Affective stylistics 166

Subjective reader-response theory

You are what you own: a Marxist reading of The Great Gatshy 66	
Questions for further practice: Marxist approaches to other literary works 70	5
For further reading 76	
For advanced readers 76	
Feminist criticism	79
Traditional gender roles 81	
A summary of feminist premises 87	
Getting beyond patriarchy 88	
French feminism 91	
Multicultural feminism 100	
Gender studies and feminism 103	
Feminism and literature 112	
Some questions feminist critics ask about literary texts 114	
" next they'll throw everything overboard ": a feminist reading of The Great Gatsby 115	
Questions for further practice: feminist approaches	
to other literary works 125	
For further reading 126	
For advanced readers 126	
New Criticism	129
"The text itself" 129	
Literary language and organic unity 131	
A New Critical reading of "There Is a Girl Inside" 137	
New Criticism as intrinsic, objective criticism 141	
The single best interpretation 142	
The question New Critics asked about literary texts 143	
The "deathless song" of longing: a New Critical reading of The Great Gatsby 144	
Questions for further practice: New Critical approaches	
to other literary works 157	
For further reading 158	
For advanced readers 159	
Reader-response criticism	161
The house passage 162	15050
Transactional reader-response theory 165	

169

Some questions Marxist critics ask about literary texts 65

Psychological reader-response theory 1/3	
Social reader-response theory 176	
Defining readers 178	
Some questions reader-response critics	
ask about literary texts 180	
Projecting the reader: a reader-response analysis of The Great Gatsby 181	
Questions for further practice: reader-response approaches	
to other literary works 193	
For further reading 194	
For advanced readers 195	
Structuralist criticism	198
Structural linguistics 201	.,0
Structural anthropology 203	
Semiotics 205	
Structuralism and literature 207	
The structure of literary genres 209	
The structure of narrative (structuralist narratology) 212	
The structure of literary interpretation 217	
Some questions structuralist critics ask about literary texts 220	
"Seek and ye shall find" and then lose: a structuralist reading of	
The Great Gatsby 221	
Questions for further practice: structuralist approaches to other literary works 231	
For further reading 232	
For advanced readers 232	
Deconstructive criticism	235
Deconstructing language 235	-
Deconstructing our world 241	
Deconstructing human identity 243	
Deconstructing literature 244	
A deconstructive reading of Robert Frost's "Mending Wall" 246	
Some questions deconstructive critics ask about literary texts 251	
" the thrilling, returning trains of my youth ":	
a deconstructive reading of The Great Gatsby 252	
Questions for further practice: deconstructive approaches	
to other literary works 264	
For further reading 265	
For advanced readers 266	
THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE	

9	New historical and cultural criticism	267
	New historicism 267	
	New historicism and literature 276	
	Cultural criticism 280	
	Cultural criticism and literature 282	
	Some questions new historical and cultural critics	
	ask about literary texts 285	
	The discourse of the self-made man: a new historical reading of The Great Gatsby 287	
	Questions for further practice: new historical and cultural criticism of other literary works 297	
	For further reading 298	
	For advanced readers 298	
10	Lesbian, gay, and queer criticism	302
	The marginalization of LGBTQ people 303	
	Lesbian criticism 308	
	Gay criticism 314	
	Queer criticism 319	
	Some shared features of leshian, gay, and queer criticism 324	
	Some questions lesbian, gay, and queer critics	
	ask about literary texts 326	
	Will the real Nick Carraway please come out? A queer reading of The Great Gatsby 327	
	Questions for further practice: leshian, gay, and queer approaches to other literary works 338	
	For further reading 340	
	For advanced readers 340	
11	African American criticism	343
	Racial issues and African American literary history 343	
	Recent developments: critical race theory 350	
	Basic tenets 352	
	African American criticism and literature 368	
	Some questions African American critics ask about literary texts 377	
	But where's Harlem? An African American reading of The Great Gatsby 379	
	Questions for further practice: African American approaches to other literary works 392	
	For further reading 393	
	For advanced readers 394	

	4	5	0	á
		۹	~,	2

12 Postcolonial criticism

Foundational postcolonial debates 406
Globalization and the "end" of postcolonial theory 409
Postcolonial theory and global tourism 412
Postcolonial theory and global conservation 416
Postcolonial criticism and literature 421
Some questions postcolonial critics ask about literary texts 425
The colony within: a postcolonial reading of The Great Gatsby 428
Questions for further practice: postcolonial approaches to other literary works 440
For further reading 441
For advanced readers 442

13 Gaining an overview

448

Index

454