

Theory / Dates	Representatives	Key Concepts and Questions	Wider Social Issues
Positivism 1860s – 1890s	Hippolyte Taine	Race, Environment, Epoch [<i>Race, Milieu, Moment</i>] – Focus on ‘external facts’	Reorganisation of Knowledge and Society
Marxism Late 19 th century – present	Georg Lukacs – Raymond Williams – Louis Althusser – Fredric Jameson	Reflection of social conditions in literature; Ideology; Economic Basis; Class Consciousness; Class Struggle	Control over Means of Production, Type of Political System
Psychoanalysis c. 1900 – present	Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, Julia Kristeva	Desire, The Unconscious, Repression, Wish-Fulfilment	Human psyche and identity, and its social dimensions
(Russian) Formalism 1910s – 1930s	Yurii Tynyanov, Viktor Shklovsky, Roman Jakobson	Analysis of literary ‘devices’. Literary evolution as a dialectic of defamiliarization vs. conventionalization	Relation of art to history and society in general (conservative?)
New Criticism 1920s – 1960s	T.S. Eliot, F. R. Leavis – René Wellek, W. K. Wimsatt, et al.	Unity, Coherence, Close Reading, Ambiguity, Impersonality, "Intentional Fallacy" (Focus on Work instead of Authors or Characters)	Pure art vs. political function of art
Structuralism from 1920s, strong in 1960s and 70s	F. de Saussure, Roman Jakobson, Gérard Genette ...	Sign / Signifier vs. Signified. Binary Oppositions. Difference. Narratology.	Reorganisation of Knowledge, Scientific Anti-Humanism
Post-Structuralism 1970s / 1980s	... Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida	Deconstruction of Binary Oppositions, Discourse Analysis, ‘Death of the Author	Condition of Knowledge in our Societies, Status of the Subject / the Self
New Historicism 1980s and 1990s	Stephen Greenblatt	“Embeddedness” of canonical literature, subversion vs. affirmation, “the historicity of texts and the textuality of history”	[Pure art vs. political function of art]
Cultural Studies 1980s to present	(Raymond Williams, Michel Foucault) Clifford Geertz	Power, Resistance, Local Culture. Thick Description	Identity Politics, Affirmative Action
Gender Theory 1980s to present	(Luce Irigaray, Elaine Showalter.) Judith Butler	Sex vs. Gender. Patriarchal Society. Construction of Sexual Identity and Sexual Difference. Heterosexual matrix (compulsory heterosexuality)	Emancipation. Gender roles and patterns in society
Postcolonial Theory 1980s to present	Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak, Homi Bhabha	Orientalism. Centre vs. Margins. The Subaltern. Hybridity. Diaspora.	Colonialism, Globalisation