

	Theory / Dates	Representatives	Questions and Key Concepts	Wider Social Issues
Production-/Author-centred approaches	Positivism 1860s – 1890s	Hippolyte Taine	environment; epoch [<i>race, milieu, moment</i>] – focus on ‘external facts’	reorganisation of knowledge and society
	(Neo) 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
Text-centred approaches	(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/ society in general, (conservative?)
	New Criticism 1920s – 1960s	T.S. Eliot, F. R. Leavis, René Wellek, W. K. Wimsatt	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
Context-related approaches	New Historicism 1980s and 1990s	Stephen Greenblatt	“the historicity of texts and the textuality of history”; cultural “embeddedness” of canonical literature; subversion vs. affirmation; anecdotal approach	pure art vs. political function of art
	Cultural Studies 1980s to present	R. Williams, M. Foucault, C. Geertz, Stuart Hall, R. Hoggart	power; resistance; local culture; thick description	identity politics, affirmative action
	Gender and Queer Theory 1980s to present	Luce Irigaray, Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, Eve K. Sedgwick, Judith “Jack” Halberstam	sex vs. gender; patriarchal society; construction of sexual identity and sexual difference; compulsory heterosexuality; gender performativity	emancipation; gender roles and patterns in society
	Postcolonial Theory 1980s to present	Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak, Homi Bhabha,	orientalism; centre vs. margins; the subaltern; racialisation/ ethnicity; hybridity; diaspora	colonialism; decolonisation; globalisation
	Ecocriticism (1990s ff.) / Environmental Humanities (2010s ff.)	L. Buell, Karen J Warren, Greg Garrard, Ursula K. Heise, Rosi Braidotti, Dipesh Chakrabarty	‘(new) nature writing’, sense of place, environmental justice, ecofeminism, posthumanism, animal studies; new materialism, Anthropocene	environmental movements; debates about global warming and climate change