Literary Theory

Field of Study Reading List

[Note: where selections are indicated ("from"), the references in square brackets are to one of the anthologies included at the end of the list. Where no reference is included, the student is free to choose which sections to read. This should be noted on the amended reading list.]

Classical Period

1. Plato, Ion, Republic, Book X (on art); Book VII (the myth of the cave) (c. 400 BCE).
2. Aristotle, Poetics (c. 350 BCE).
3. Horace, Ars Poetica (c. 20 BCE).
5. Quintillian, Institutio Oratoria, Book 8, Ch. 5 (tropes) (1st c CE).
7. Augustine, from On Christine Doctrine, Book II (signs), Book IV (tropes) (395-427).

Medieval Period

10. Christine de Pisan, from City of Women, chapter 1; chapter 36 (education), (1405).
11. Aquinas, selection from Summa Theologica, 9th and 10th articles (on metaphor), (1265-73).

Renaissance

16. Bacon, Francis, from The Advancement of Learning (1605) [Adams and Searle]; from Essays (1601).
19. Jonson, Ben, from Timber: OR, Discoveries Made upon Men and Matter (1641) [Bate].

Eighteenth Century

24. Addison & Steele, essays from Spectator [Adams and Searle].
25. Edward Young, "Conjectures on Original Composition" (1759) [Adams and Searle].
27. Giambattista Vico, from *The New Science* (1725) [Adams and Searle].
30. David Hume, "Of the Standard of Taste" (1757).
31. Von Herder, *Fragments on Recent German Literature* (1767-8).
32. Immanuel Kant, "Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and Sublime" (1764)-"What is Enlightenment?" (1784).
33. Clara Reeve, "The Progress of Romance" (1785).
34. Quobna Cugoano, Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evils of Slavery (1787).
35. Ignatius Sancho, Correspondence with Laurence Sterne (1766).
37. Friedrich Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man* (1795).
38. Anna Laetitia Barbauld, "On Romances: An Imitation".
39. Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the rights of Woman*. (1792) [Leitch].
41. Friedrich Schlegel, "Letter About the Novel" (1799).

**Nineteenth Century**

42. Hegel, G.W.F., from *Phenomenology of Spirit* (Introduction, Master-Slave Dialectic) (1807).
43. von Schlegel, A.W., "Shakespeare's Irony" (1808).
44. Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, selections from *Biographia Literaria* (1817) [Kaplan and Anderson].
46. Keats, John, *Four Letters* [Adams and Searle].
47. Hazlitt, William, selections (1819) [Bate].
48. DeQuincey, Thomas, "Literature of Knowledge and Literature of Power" (Essay on Pope 1848).
50. Carlyle, Thomas, from *Sartor Resartus* (1834) "The Hero as Man of Letters" (Heroes and Hero Worship 1841).
52. Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Philosophy of Composition" (1846).
57. Mulock Craik, Dinah. "A Woman's Thoughts About Women" (1857-8).
60. James, Henry. The Art of Fiction (1884).
61. Wilde, Oscar. "On the Decay of Lying" (1889) -"The Critic as Artist" (1890, 1891).
Early Twentieth Century

63. Freud, Sigmund. "Creative Writers and Daydreaming." "The Uncanny".
65. Leavis, F.R. from The Great Tradition.
66. Woolf, Virginia. A Room of One's Own and "Modern Fiction".
67. T.S. Flint and Ezra Pound, "Imagism".
68. de Saussure, selections from "Course in General Linguistics" [Adams and Searle].
69. Shklovsky, Victor. "Art as Technique".
70. W.K. Wimsatt and Monroe C. Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy" and "The Affective Fallacy".
71. Brooks, Cleanth. The Well-Wrought Urn, especially "The Heresy of Paraphrase".
73. Lukacs, Georg. "The Ideology of Modernism."
74. Camus, Albert. "The Myth of Sisyphus".
76. Auerbach, Erich. Mimesis, especially chapters 1 and 20.
77. Orwell, George. "Politics and the English Language".
79. Lévi-Strauss, Claude. "The Structural Study of Myth".
80. de Beauvoir, Simone. from The Second Sex [Leitch].

Later Twentieth Century

82. Althusser, Louis. "Ideaology Has No History"; "Ideaology Is a 'Representation of the Imaginary Relationship of Individuals to Their Real Conditions of Existence'; "Ideaology Interpellates Individuals as Subjects," Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays.
85. Barthes, Roland. "The Death of the Author"; The Pleasure of the Text.
86. Foucault, Michel. "What is an Author?"
88. Williams, Raymond. Marxism and Literature.
90. White, Hayden. "The Value of Narrativity in the Representation of Reality".
94. Cixous, Helene. "The Laugh of Medusa".
96. Fish, Stanley. "Is There a Text in this Class?" The Authority of Interpretive Communities".
97. Chakravorty Spivak, Gayatri. "Can the Subaltern Speak?"
103. Pratt, Louise Mary. Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation.

Suggested Anthologies

(caution: some of these publish abridged versions of essays/articles)

For Early Period and Twentieth-Century Readings


For Twentieth-Century Readings