

Timeline 2 – Major Theoretical Approaches and Movements in Relation to Wider Social Issues – BM 1 Kirchhofer / Simons

| 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 |

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