

---

# Contents

To the Instructor *xi*

Acknowledgments *xv*

## **1 Criticism, Theory, and Literature 1**

What Is Literary Criticism? 3

What Is Literary Theory? 4

What Is Literature? 7

Further Reading 9

## **2 A Historical Survey of Literary Criticism 11**

Plato (*ca.* 427–347 B.C.) 11

Aristotle (384–322 B.C.) 13

Horace (65–8 B.C.) 16

Longinus (First Century A.D.) 17

Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) 17

Sir Philip Sidney (1554–1586) 18

John Dryden (1631–1700) 19

Alexander Pope (1688–1744) 20

William Wordsworth (1770–1850) 21

Hippolyte Adolphe Taine (1828–1893) 23

Matthew Arnold (1822–1888) 25

Henry James (1843–1916) 27

Modern Literary Criticism 29

Further Reading 30

- 3 New Criticism 31**  
Introduction 31  
Historical Development 32  
Assumptions 34  
Methodology 37  
Further Reading 40  
STUDENT ESSAY: Browning's Self-Revealing Duke 40
- 4 Reader-Response Criticism 45**  
Introduction 45  
Historical Development 47  
Assumptions 50  
Methodology 51  
Further Reading 54  
STUDENT ESSAY: "Young Goodman Brown" and Me 54
- 5 Structuralism 58**  
Introduction 58  
Historical Development 59  
Assumptions 62  
Methodology 64  
Further Reading 67  
STUDENT ESSAY: A Structuralist Look at Glaspell's  
*Trifles* 67
- 6 Deconstruction 71**  
Introduction 71  
Historical Development 72  
Assumptions 75  
Methodology 77  
Further Reading 82  
STUDENT ESSAY: A Deconstructor's View of "Young  
Goodman Brown" 83
- 7 Psychoanalytic Criticism 87**  
Introduction 87  
Historical Development 89

Assumptions	94
Methodology	95
Further Reading	96
STUDENT ESSAY: A Psychoanalytic View of Glaspell's <i>Trifles</i>	97

## 8 Feminism 102

Introduction	102
Historical Development	104
Assumptions	106
Methodology	108
Further Reading	110
STUDENT ESSAY: Feminist Criticism and Susan Glaspell's <i>Trifles</i>	110

## 9 Marxism 114

Introduction	114
Historical Development	115
Assumptions	118
Methodology	121
Further Reading	122
STUDENT ESSAY: A Marxist Interpretation of "My Last Duchess"	123

## 10 New Historicism 127

Introduction	127
Historical Development	129
Assumptions	130
Methodology	133
Further Reading	135
STUDENT ESSAY: Hawthorne's Ambiguity: A New Historical Point of View	136

## Literary Selections 143

Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"	144
Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess"	153
Susan Glaspell, <i>Trifles</i>	155

**Glossary    166**

**Bibliography    185**

**References    188**

**Index    201**