Contents

I Irregular Metaphysics and the Criticism of Culture

- 1. Introduction, 3
- 2. The Moral Imagination in Modern American Criticism, 19
- 3. The Challenge of the "New New Criticism", 41
- 4. Pragmatism as Critical Antidote:
 The Allopathic Medicine of Kenneth Burke, 63

II The Culture of Criticism and the Moral Imagination

- 5. The Semiotics of Culture and the Diagnostics of Criticism: Clifford Geertz and the Moral Imagination, 93
- 6. The Humanities and Their Discontents: Mikhail Bakhtin and the Recovery of Alterity, 116
- 7. American Studies as Cultural Criticism, 147
- Recent Criticism and the Sediments of the Sacred, 173
 Notes, 197
 Index, 209