

The success of *Beginning theory* has shown that this is the best introduction for students encountering literary and cultural theory for the first time.

The bewildering variety of approaches, theorists and technical language is lucidly and expertly unravelled and explained, and unlike many books which assume certain positions about the theories and critics which they represent, *Beginning theory* allows readers to develop their own ideas once first principles have been grasped.

This expanded and updated edition incorporates all of the recent developments in literary theory, and includes two new chapters.

Liberal humanism

Structuralism

Post-structuralism and deconstruction

Postmodernism

Psychoanalytic criticism

Feminist criticism

Lesbian/gay criticism

Marxist criticism

New historicism and cultural materialism

Postcolonial criticism

Stylistics

Narratology

Ecocriticism