

Since its publication in 1990, *Critical Terms for Literary Study* has become a landmark introduction to the work of literary theory—giving tens of thousands of students an unparalleled encounter with what it means to *do* theory and criticism. Significantly expanded, this new edition features six new chapters that confront, in different ways, the growing understanding of literary works as cultural practices.

These new chapters are “Popular Culture,” “Diversity,” “Imperialism/Nationalism,” “Desire,” “Ethics,” and “Class,” by John Fiske, Louis Menand, Seamus Deane, Judith Butler, Geoffrey Galt Harpham, and Daniel T. O’Hara, respectively. Each new essay adopts the approach that has won this book such widespread acclaim: each provides a concise history of a literary term, critically explores the issues and questions the term raises, and then puts theory into practice by showing the reading strategies the term permits.

Exploring the concepts that shape the way we read, the essays combine to provide an extraordinary entrée to the work of literature and literary study, as the nation’s most distinguished scholars put the tools of critical practice to use. For both the reader beginning to learn about critical theory and the advanced reader, no textbook exemplifies more clearly or energetically current modes of theoretical inquiry.