



Literary Criticisms

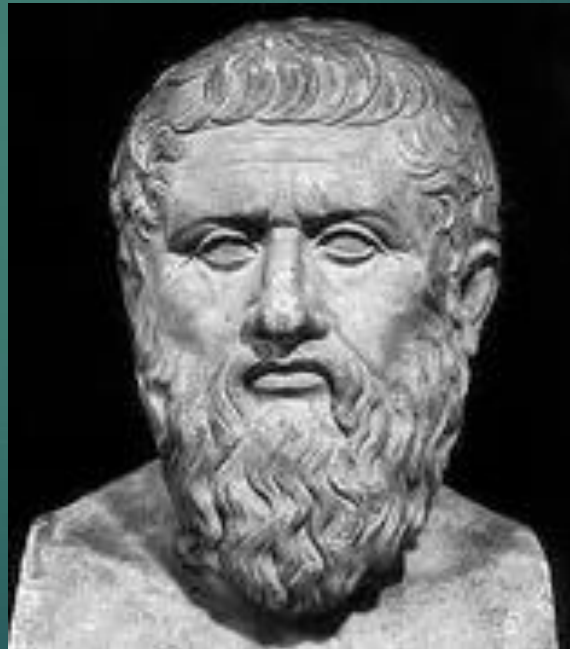
PICK YOUR POISON

Moral Criticism

- ▶ 360 B.C.E - Present

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- ▶ From Plato's *Republic*: "...poets may stay as servants of the state if they teach piety and virtue..."
- ▶ All art (including literature) is damaging to its audience unless it teaches morality and ethics.

Formalism / New Criticism

▶ 1930s-Present



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- ▶ What makes a piece of literature “good” or “bad” is solely dependent on the literary qualities of the text.

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- ▶ What makes a piece of literature “good” or “bad” is solely dependent on the literary qualities of the text.
- ▶ Treat each work completely in a bubble – free from influence concerning when it was written, the author, the environment...only look at the single piece of work.

Structuralism

- ▶ 1920s-Present



Structuralism

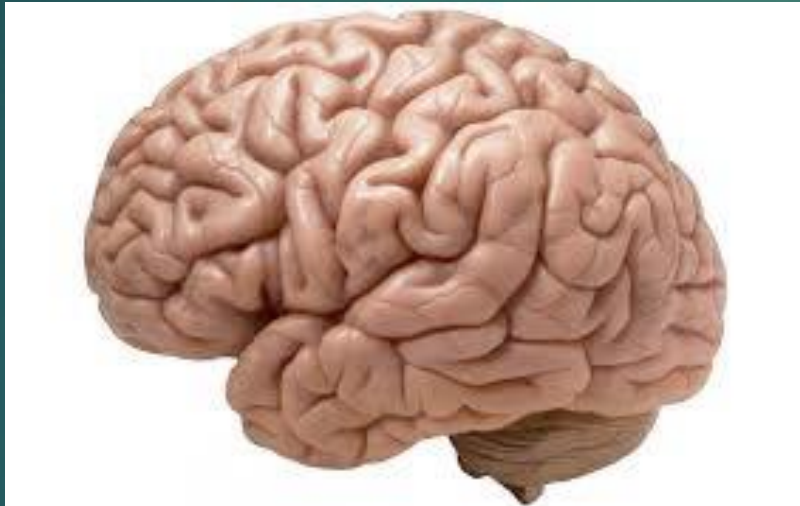
- ▶ 1920s-Present
- ▶ The Opposite of Formalism.

Structuralism

- ▶ 1920s-Present
- ▶ The Opposite of Formalism.
- ▶ This form of criticism delves into the external factors influencing the literature such as the author's life, the environment, the politics, the time period, economics of the time...anything that could have influenced the work. This involves a little research.

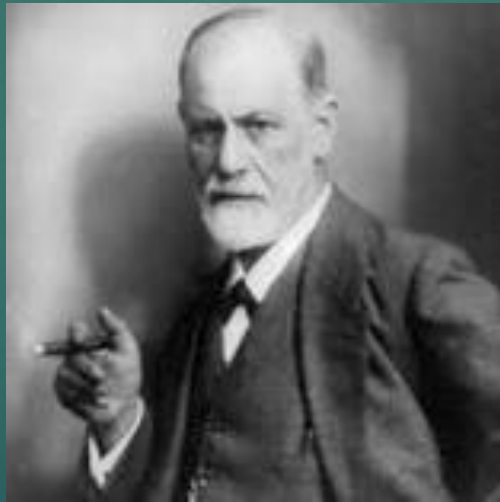
Psychoanalytic Criticism

▶ 1930s-Present



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- ▶ 1930s-Present
- ▶ Based on Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theories.



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- ▶ Conscious – the decisions we make that we are fully aware of and have thought about.

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- ▶ Based on Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theories.
- ▶ Conscious – the decisions we make that we are fully aware of and have thought about.
- ▶ Unconscious – the decisions or motivations that are inherent in us, without even thinking. These are usually taught at a young age.

Psychoanalytic Criticism

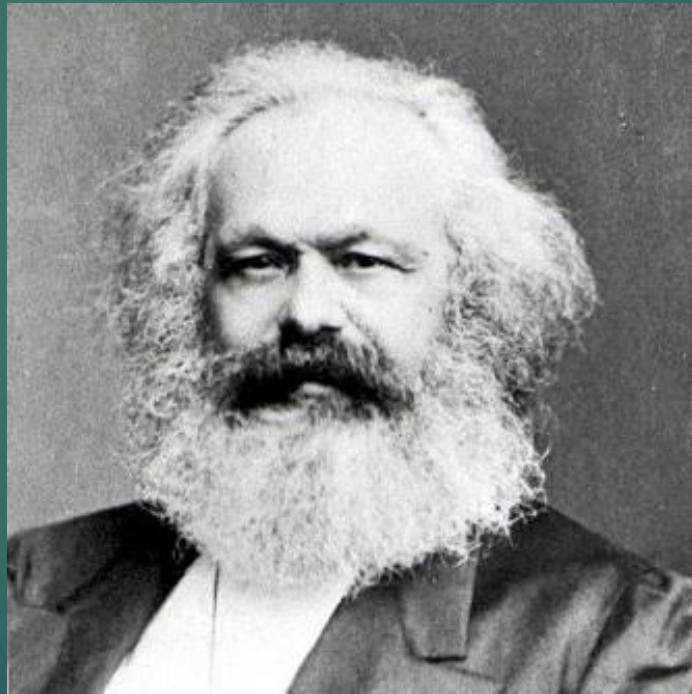
- ▶ Id – the driving force that wants everything right now. “I want that!”

Psychoanalytic Criticism

- ▶ Id – the driving force that wants everything right now. “I want that!”
- ▶ Superego – the judgement that comes from what we’ve learned from childhood. “I should not do that because it is wrong.”
- ▶ Ego – the reasoning part that tries to find a logical compromise. “Let us see if we can find a long-term solution here.”

Marxist Criticism

▶ 1930s-Present



Marxist Criticism

- ▶ 1930s-Present
- ▶ Focus on the economics – who does this benefit and why?

Marxist Criticism

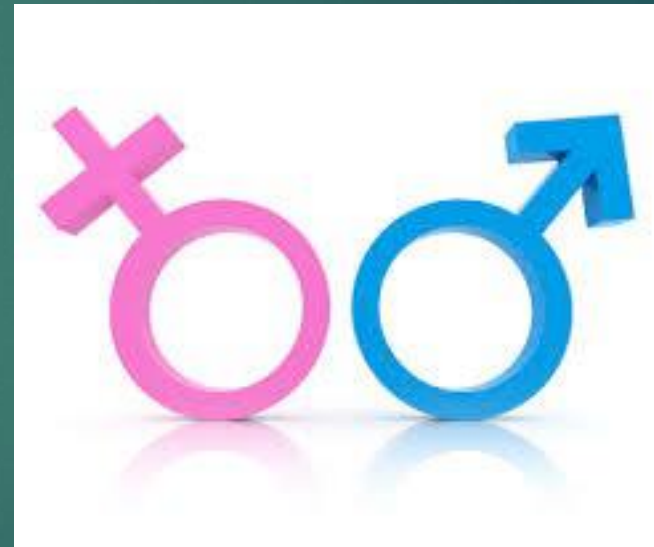
- ▶ 1930s-Present
- ▶ Focus on the economics – who does this benefit and why?
- ▶ The elite (bourgeoisie), the middle class, and the working class (proletariat).

Marxist Criticism

- ▶ 1930s-Present
- ▶ Focus on the economics – who does this benefit and why?
- ▶ The elite (bourgeoisie), the middle class, and the working class (proletariat).
- ▶ Who is oppressed? By whom? Why? How?

Gender Studies

▶ 1970s-Present



Gender Studies

- ▶ 1970s-Present
- ▶ Focuses on how gender and sexuality are represented in the literary work.



Gender Studies

- ▶ 1970s-Present
- ▶ Focuses on how gender and sexuality are represented in the literary work.
- ▶ Are the gender roles traditional? Unorthodox? Does the gender or sex have anything to do with the literary work and why?



Literary Criticisms

- ▶ Moral Criticism
- ▶ Formal / New Criticism
- ▶ Structuralism
- ▶ Psychoanalytic Criticism
- ▶ Marxist Criticism
- ▶ Gender Studies

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