



# A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory

*Raman Selden , Peter Widdowson*

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**A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory** Raman Selden , Peter Widdowson

Reflecting the continuing change and development in modern literary theory, the key features of this book includes its clarity, brevity, equal coverage of the main literary theories and useful bibliographies of further reading.

Literature students will find its clearly defined sections easy to navigate and whilst avoiding oversimplification, it makes a complex subject accessible.

## A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory Details

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Author : Raman Selden , Peter Widdowson

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# From Reader Review A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory for online ebook

## Tiffany says

New Criticism and moral formalism; Russian formalism; reader-oriented theories; Marxist theories; Structuralist theories; Poststructuralist theories; Postmodernist and postcolonialist theories; Feminist theories

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## Saeede says

I had to teach this book to a student and I should say that it can be a living nightmare to those who have a limited knowledge of literary theory. Selden has taken for granted that you are aware of all of the literary theories and he feels free to digress or refer to the names of the least known literary theorists, but this book can serve as a satisfactory summary of literary theory for those who have an acceptable knowledge of the literary criticism. For me, the second reading was rather illuminating and enjoyable. I wouldn't recommend it as an introduction to literary theory though.

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## Taha rabbani says

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<http://bahmanagha.blogspot.com/2015/0...>

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## Shanawaz Mohammed says

it's can be a good elementary book for understanding literary theory...

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## Cristina says

He tenido que leer este libro para clase y bueno, no me ha gustado mucho, quizás por la presión del tiempo.

Es un libro interesante para leerlo por tu cuenta, pero para clase con presión y teniendo que resumir mucho cada capítulo se me ha hecho pesado.

Puede que en las vacaciones de verano le de otra oportunidad, ya tranquila y con tiempo, y quizás cambie mi opinión, pero por ahora dos estrellas.

## Lenka Halášová says

First five chapters nicely explained, but the further you went it got absolutely incomprehensible. Chapters seven and eight particularly. The last two parts were again nicely explained. As this is my reading for state exams I am disappointed.

## Barbaracase says

A good survey of theories but by necessity descriptions are truncated and, therefore, sometimes cryptic. A good introduction to some difficult theories.

## Laura Walin says

The problem of this book is that it delivers exactly what the title promises. It is really a guide to further reading, which means that after having read this one you 1) don't feel that you have read an entire book but rather a list of (about chronologically ordered) bullet points from the history of literary theory b) feel that you should read about 50+ more books to understand what was said in this one. Let's see if the second time around brings more revelation.

## Seth Holler says

Giving this old textbook a try.

8 pp in and I'm already grumpy. Heaven help me.

## Quitting.

## Kourosh Ghaniyoun says

[illegible]

## **John says**

I did not finish. A little too dry and dense for casual reading, although I am sure (the latest edition) is very useful for English and other Literature undergraduate and graduate students.

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## **Jackie says**

Of course by "I really liked it" I mean, it was dead useful and very readable.

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## **Catherine Hjertholm says**

2.5 stars.

In no ways a satisfactory book about literary theory that I ended up skim-reading because it was a rather confusing read that failed to clarify the theories that it set out to define and describe.

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## **David Roberts says**

The book I read to research this post was Contemporary Literary Theory by Raman Selden et al which is a very good book which I bought at a car boot sale. Raman, one of the authors died before he was able to complete the book so someone else finished the project. It used to be people thought there was no schools of thought in literature and it was merely good or bad. One problem is good and bad writing mean different things to different cultures and races. One university made what at the time considered a serious mistake of employing a structuralist and marxist professor and the newspapers had a field day. Obviously it doesn't affect his ability to do his job. Structuralism comes from the great Russian writers and of course they focused on a technique which they thought writing could be broken down to, hence the name. Russia & France have probably influenced writing more in the 20th century than any other nations. Of course a lot of it was linked to the revolution. In France of course people like Derrida & Foucault were coming up with new styles and ways of looking at things. This book does look at a whole string of different styles of writing like feminism, poststructuralism & postmodernism. Feminism really came to the fore in the 60's when women had the chance to get jobs and education and not necessarily get married. Of course writers like Germaine Greer became like celebrities. I did quite enjoy reading this book and noticed there are a lot of book recommendations that are probably out of copyright and probably free on kindle. I would like to read some of those books. This book incidently was published in 1993 and is the 3rd edition & I think is a good read.

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## **Basila Hasnain says**

No particular reason

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