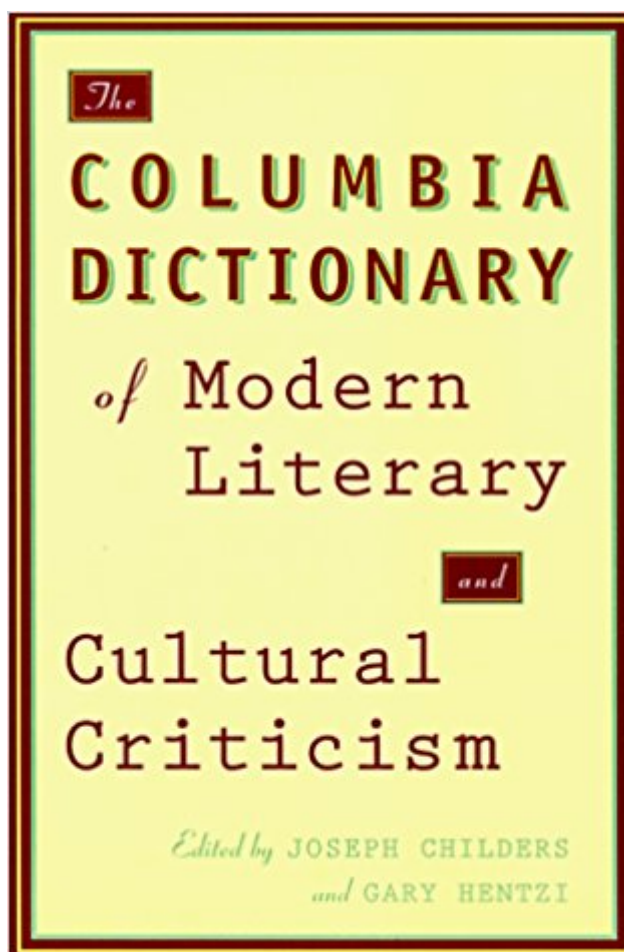


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The Columbia Dictionary Of Modern Literary And Cultural Criticism



Synopsis

What does Jacques Derrida mean by "Differance?" Who coined the important term "Ideology" that we use so widely today? How can "Object Relations" theory be used in the study of literature? Can someone explain what "Deconstruction" really means? For the uninitiated, reading literary and cultural criticism can be a daunting task, simply because of its admittedly complex, arcane language that tends to elude the understanding of all but specialists. With literary and cultural studies arguably the fastest growing areas of study in the humanities, many readers both within and outside the academy find it imperative to keep abreast of developments in these fields. "The Columbia Dictionary of Modern Literary and Cultural Criticism" helps to initiate the curious generalist into the often exclusionary world of these theoretical vocabularies, and to authoritatively refresh the memories of specialists themselves on certain necessary terms and their roots.

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Customer Reviews

Modern literary and cultural criticism has tended to express itself in terms unfamiliar to the nonspecialist (e.g., gynesis, metalanguage, semiotics). This dictionary provides succinct definitions of more than 450 terms relating to criticism and theory in literature, film, linguistics, psychoanalysis, philosophy, feminist studies, media studies, and related areas. Major concepts and schools of thought receive somewhat longer treatment (e.g., two pages for deconstruction). Pronunciation is provided for terms when necessary. While the needs of the nonspecialist receive special consideration, the dictionary also aims to serve as a useful reference for users with some

background in modern criticism and theory. The compilers omitted terms too narrowly associated with a single discipline or adequately treated in sources covering specific fields. The bibliographies that follow most entries direct the user to fuller treatments of the topics. A comprehensive bibliography of 25 pages lists all the works cited in the entry bibliographies. Cross-references within entries direct users to related entries. An index of names includes critics and theoreticians, ranging from Freud to Foucault, cited or discussed in the entries. Recommended, as appropriate, for academic and large public libraries.

"The organization of the Dictionary is genuinely helpful, including as it does short bibliographies for some of the heavyweight entries, pronunciation guides for others and careful cross-references throughout. The entries themselves are lucid, reliable, and often scrupulous in distinguishing various senses of the same term used in different intellectual traditions." -- "Times Literary Supplement"

A help in coping with the vocabulary of book reviews, etc., of today.

Childers and Hentzi offers lucid and succinct descriptions of the most common ideas and terms you are likely to encounter in literary theory. Typically, each is covered in only a page. Enough for a quick refresher for students facing an exam. Plus, the explanations often involve pointers to related ideas elsewhere in the book. The book is probably more suited for the undergrad. A grad student in the field should already be well familiar with the terminology.

This book was assigned to me as a textbook in an undergraduate lit theory course. I'm in grad school now and still use it quite often. Although it has fewer entries than most literary reference books, the definitions are sharp and contain plenty of cross-referencing and important names. This guide is an excellent starting point for term-paper research, and I will probably use it in my own classroom someday.

This is a great resource for those considering doing qual research. It is very basic & to the point which is a plus for busy grad students.

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