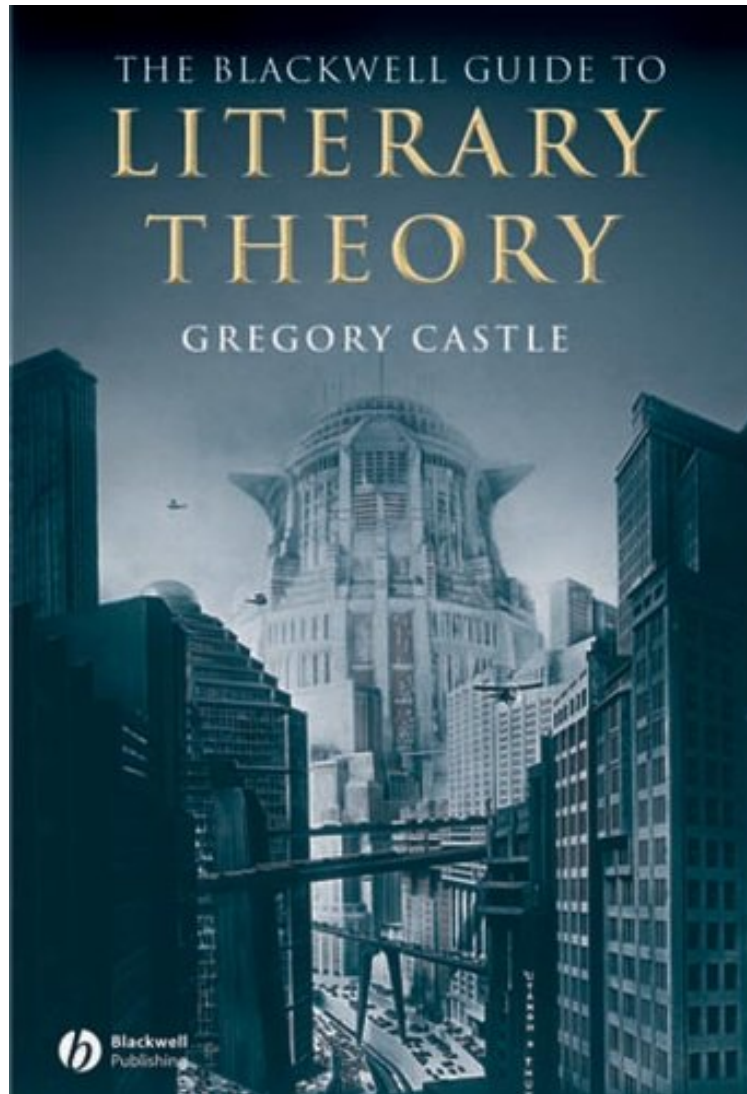


[Ebook pdf] The Blackwell Guide to Literary Theory (Wiley Blackwell Literature Handbooks)

The Blackwell Guide to Literary Theory (Wiley Blackwell Literature Handbooks)

Gregory Castle

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Gregory Castle : The Blackwell Guide to Literary Theory (Wiley Blackwell Literature Handbooks) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Blackwell Guide to Literary Theory (Wiley Blackwell Literature Handbooks):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A good historical overview By S. Dean There are three ways in which this text will help you in your literary journey. 1) It will give you the historical arc as to how one literary theory has evolved from another. This is particularly helpful when you are examining contemporary theory that references say a structuralist theorist. By knowing historically how structuralism and post-structuralism are linked, it can most certainly

help in the overall literary discourse. 2) It will give you an overview of the main tenets of current literary theory. By introducing the reader to the authors and vocabulary of the various critical movements, the Blackwell guide helps parse out the main crux of each theoretical movement. 3) It gives possible application of the various movements to familiar texts. This is crucial, in that even in graduate school courses it tends to be a massive and rapid survey of key theorists without the connection of how we read texts using theory. I believe that had the prior reviewer simply read this section the build up of the prior two sections of the guide might have been more beneficial. As well, this is not intended to replace critical theory and cultural studies anthologies, but rather accompany them. Through such a work, students are able to see the connection between theoretical lenses and the texts they are examining. I have found it an invaluable tool through my graduate studies in literature and often return to it, to remind myself of authors within certain movements to help grow certain arguments or directions of thought within my critical essays. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Not Useful for Me By Mail Ph.D. I purchased this book as a companion for a graduate seminar in Literary Theory at the University of Chicago. I hoped that the book would help me clarify the often confusing and dense thoughts of thinkers such as Adorno, Derrida, Butler, etc. While the book is comprehensive in scope, it provides little in the way of clarifying difficult thought. For example, the list of authors, while comprehensive, focuses on biographical details instead of explaining the contours of thought. The information on the schools of thought are superficial overviews and spend more time reconstructing the history of the school (say, how Žižek relates to Lacan) instead of explaining the salient features of the schools. I have not engaged the section on application of theory to literary texts, and if this is your interest, this book may be worth your time. However, this book did little to help me understand literary theory and I would not recommend it. 0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. not worth your money. By Anarchy Janesuperficial and, in some instances, erroneous. bought this book for a class and was amazed at how inaccurate some of the entries were. even the professor who assigned the book was chagrined after perusing the text.

This student-friendly text introduces students to the history and scope of literary theory, as well as showing them how to perform literary analysis. Designed to be used alongside primary theoretical texts as an introduction to theory or alongside literary texts as a model for performing literary analysis. Presents a series of exemplary readings of particular literary texts such as *Jane Eyre*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Ulysses*, *To the Lighthouse* and *Midnight's Children*. Provides a brief history of the rise of literary theory in the twentieth century, in order that students understand the historical contexts for different theories. Presents an alphabetically organized series of entries on key figures and publications, from Adorno to Žižek. Features descriptions of the major movements in literary theory, from critical theory through to postcolonial theory.

"Castle (Arizona State Univ.) provides cogent summaries of a wide range of literary theories." -CHOICE
From the Back Cover
More than eighty years ago, the English literary critic, I. A. Richards, spoke of a "chaos of critical theories," an assessment that would not be wide of the mark in the early years of the twenty-first century. This innovative guidebook introduces readers to the sometimes forbiddingly arcane world of literary theory, focusing on its fundamental concepts, and the most prominent and influential theoretical figures and movements. The Blackwell Guide to Literary Theory: Explores the rise of literary theory from the late nineteenth century to the dawning of the twenty-first
Outlines the major movements of literary theory, among them Deconstruction, Marxist theory, New Historicism, and Reader-Response theory
Includes alphabetically organized biographies of key figures, from Adorno to Žižek
Offers a number of exemplary theoretical readings of literary texts, including *Jane Eyre*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Ulysses*, *To the Lighthouse*, and *Midnight's Children*
Features an in-depth glossary of complex theoretical terms, and useful suggestions for further reading.
About the Author
Gregory Castle is Professor of English Literature at Arizona State University. His previous books include *Modernism and the Celtic Revival* (2001), *Postcolonial Discourses: An Anthology* (Blackwell, 2001), and *Reading the Modernist Bildungsroman* (2006).