



WHAT IS LITERARY CRITICISM?

Literary criticism is the informed analysis and evaluation of literature. It is a written evaluation (critical essays) of a work of literature (poem, short story, novel, or play). It may also examine an author's body of work. Please note that book reviews are not literary criticism. Book reviews are written around the time the work was originally published; literary criticism appear in later years and are most often found in scholarly publications. Literary criticisms (critical essays) are available in print and online, however, lesser known authors and works may only be available in print format.

ONLINE RESOURCES

The Mission College Library subscribes to several online collections (databases) of articles that include critical essays and author biographies. Two of the most useful are listed below. These databases provide indexes to newspapers, magazines and journals, as well as articles from reference books. Many of the articles are full text, which means that you can read them online. The databases can be accessed by clicking on the *Find articles and more* link from the Library's homepage (<http://www.missioncollege.org/lib/>). If you are off campus, or using the Mission College wireless access, use the "Off-Campus" link. You will be prompted for your last name and student I.D. number.

Literature Resource Center

This database provides full text access to biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of authors and their works from every age and literary discipline. It covers more than 130,000 novelists, poets, essayists, journalists, and other writers, with in-depth coverage of 2,500 of the most-studied authors. The database includes the full text of the following collected reference sources: *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, *Contemporary Authors*, and the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, as well as selected essays from over 20 additional resources including *Poetry Criticism* and *Short Story Criticism*. The library has these titles in print editions (see reverse side of this handout).

Expanded Academic ASAP

Includes magazine, journal and newspaper articles covering a broad range of topics; many articles are available in full-text. Search for critical essays by using the Advanced Search option. Type the title of the work and limit your search to *peer-reviewed publications*. This option is listed below the search box.

PRINT RESOURCES

Individual Books

The Library has many individual critical and biographical books on writers and their works. Search the West Valley-Mission College Online Library Catalog to find these books. To locate books *about* an author, search the SUBJECT section of the Library Catalog using the author's name as a *subject* (last name first). If the Library has a biography or criticism for an author, these sub-categories will be listed. Click on the sub-category to see the list of available books. Many books include collections of critical essays so you may have to physically look at a book's table of contents and/or index to determine if your work is included. To locate books with criticism about a particular literary work, search the SUBJECT section of the Library Catalog using the title of the work.

Collected References

The Mission College Library has many collected reference sources on writers and their works. These are multi-part sets that include either a separate index or a back-of-the-book index to help you locate the title of your work.

Contemporary Authors

Provides author biographies and general discussions of the authors' works. Full-text included in *Literature Resource Center*.

Ref PN451.C63

Contemporary Literary Criticism

Contains excerpts of criticism of the works of many writers living as of January 1960. Use the paperbound **Cumulative Title** index to find criticisms of a specific title. Full-text included in *Literature Resource Center*.

Ref PN771.C59

Critical Survey of Short Fiction

Ref PN3321.C7

The Greenwood Companion to Shakespeare: A Comprehensive Guide for Students

Presents analysis, context and criticism of each of Shakespeare's works.

Ref PR2976.G739

Magill: Critical Survey of Long Fiction

Ref PN 3451.C7

Magill: Critical Survey of Poetry

Ref PR 502.C85

Magill: Survey of Science Fiction Literature

Ref PN 3448.S45 S88

Masterplots: 1,300 Critical Evaluations of Selected Novels and Plays

Ref PN44.M344

Masterplots: 1,801 Plot Stories and Critical Evaluations of the World's Finest Literature

Includes novels, plays, short stories, poetry and works of non-fiction. Coverage works published through the 1990s.

Ref PN44.M33

Masterplots II: Nonfiction Series

Critical surveys of nonfiction, such as autobiographies, memoirs, and other nonfiction categories such as philosophy, literary theory, cultural criticism, etc.

Ref PN44.M35

Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism

Contains excerpts of criticism of the works of many writers who died between 1800-1899.

Ref PN761.N5

Novels for Students

Presents analysis, context and criticism on commonly studied novels.

Ref PN3365.N68

Poetry Criticism

Each volume profiles 3-5 authors and provides excerpts of critical essays. Every volume includes a cumulative index to all previous volumes.

Ref PN1033.P635

Shakespeare for Students

Presents analysis, context and criticism of each of Shakespeare's works.

Ref PR2987.S47

Short Story Criticism

Each volume profiles 8-10 authors and provides excerpts of critical essays. Every volume includes a cumulative index to all previous volumes.

Ref PN 3373.S56

Twentieth Century Literary Criticism

Contains excerpts of criticism of the works of many writers who died between 1900-1959.

Ref PN771.T9

World Poets

Alphabetically arranged articles on 107 poets from around the world, accompanied by fifteen essays on various genres and schools of poetry

Ref PN1021.W67