

THEORY: What is it?

PART ONE

THEORY!

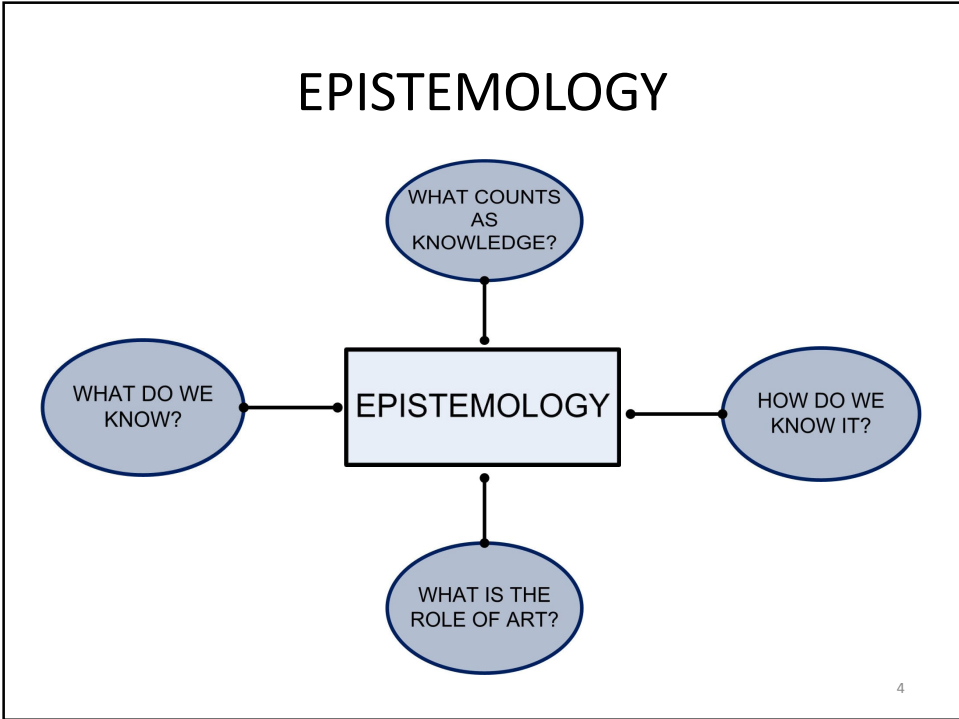
WHAT
IS IT?



TWO TRENDS IN LITERARY CRITICISM

<p>PRACTICAL CRITICISM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TEXT-CENTRED• CRITIC mediates between individual texts and their readers <p>KEY FIGURES: ARNOLD, F.R. LEAVIS, I.A. RICHARDS</p>	<p>LITERARY THEORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LITERATURE CENTRED• CRITIC seeks to explain the function and nature of literature as a SYSTEM <p>KEY FIGURES: PLATO, ARISTOTLE, SIDNEY, WORDSWORTH</p>
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CORE QUESTIONS

- Why do we read? Write?
- What do we do when we read?
- What do we get from literature that we don't get anywhere else?
- In what ways is literature unique?
- In what ways is it like other forms of representation?
- How does literary study differ from other disciplines?
- How is it similar to other disciplines?

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Just like Life?

How is this



Or this?



different from this?

O Rose, thou art sick.
The invisible worm
That flies in the night,
In the howling storm,

Has found out they bed
Of crimson joy,
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy
--William Blake, "The Sick Rose"

Or this?

<http://kevinhutchings.ca/music/sickrose/>

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CORE QUESTIONS 2

Son of Core Questions

- What is the relationship between “the world” and its textual “representation?”
- How does a literary text work?
- What is the relationship between the writer and the text? Reader and text?
- What are the roles of the “poet,” the critic, and the reader in civic culture?
- In what ways is literature ideological?

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