

Introductory Lecture

Textbook: Charles E. Bressler (2003) *Literary Criticism: an Introduction to theory and Practice*. New Jersey: Pearson Education Inc.

This introductory lecture is meant to acquaint the students who get access to the topic for the first time in their life. This aim could potentially be realized comprehensive answers to the following questions.

1. Is there a single meaning to a literary text? Do you usually interpret the same text in the same way? What differences are there between explanation, explication, exegesis and interpretation?
2. What is meant by validity of interpretation? How far is it possible to apply the criterion of "correctness" to the process of interpretation?
3. Are there some guiding principles for interpreting a text? Where does "anything goes criticism" fit into this framework?
4. How would you understand the term "value"? Have you ever been asked to pass a value judgement on a literary work you studied?
5. Would you expect that the study of literary criticism is going to be a daunting task? If you get lost, what would you do?
6. Concluding remarks as regards the categories of criticism?

