Literary Criticism from Plato to Postmodernism

The Humanistic Alternative

This book offers a history of literary criticism from Plato to the present, arguing that this history can usefully be seen as a dialogue among three traditions – the Platonist, Neoplatonic, and the humanistic, whose first practitioner was Aristotle. There are many histories of literary criticism, but this is the first to clarify our understanding of the many seemingly incommensurable approaches employed over the centuries by reference to the three traditions. Making its case by careful analyses of individual critics, the book argues for the relevance of the humanistic tradition in the twenty-first century and beyond.

Literary Criticism from Plato to Postmodernism

*The Humanistic Alternative*

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This Book Is Dedicated to the Memory
of Roger Hornsby (1926–2009)
Professor of Classics at the University of Iowa
Exemplar of the Humanistic Tradition
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