

Narrative Theory

Kent Puckett's *Narrative Theory: A Critical Introduction* provides an account of a methodology increasingly central to literary studies, film studies, history, psychology, and beyond. In addition to introducing readers to some of the field's major figures and their ideas, Puckett situates critical and philosophical approaches toward narrative within a longer intellectual history. The book reveals one of narrative theory's founding claims – that narratives need to be understood in terms of a formal relation between story and discourse, between what they narrate and how they narrate it – both as a necessary methodological distinction and as a problem characteristic of modern thought. Puckett thus shows that narrative theory is not only a powerful descriptive system but also a complex and sometimes ironic form of critique. *Narrative Theory* offers readers an introduction to the field's key figures, methods, and ideas and reveals that field as unexpectedly central to the history of ideas.

Kent Puckett is an associate professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley. He is author of *Bad Form: Social Mistakes and the Nineteenth-Century Novel* (2008) and *War Pictures: Cinema, Violence, and Style in Britain, 1939–1945* (forthcoming).

Narrative Theory A Critical Introduction

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