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| Livello bibliografico   | Monografia  |
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| Nota di bibliografia    | Includes bibliographical references and index.  |
| Nota di contenuto       | Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- 1. Introduction: The Prehistory And Rise Of "Theory" -- 2. Introduction Continued: Theory And Functionalization -- 3. Ways In And Out Of The Hermeneutic Circle -- 4. Configurative Reading -- 5. The Idea Of The Autonomous Artwork -- 6. The New Criticism And Other Western Formalisms -- 7. Russian Formalism -- 8. Semiotics And Structuralism -- 9. Linguistics And Literature -- 10. Deconstruction I: Jacques Derrida -- 11. Deconstruction II: Paul de Man -- 12. Freud And Fiction -- 13. Jacques Lacan In Theory -- 14. Influence -- 15. The Postmodern Psyche -- 16. The Social Permeability Of Reader And Text -- 17. The Frankfurt School Of Critical Theory -- 18. The Political Unconscious -- 19. The New Historicism -- 20. The Classical Feminist Tradition -- 21. African American Criticism -- 22. Postcolonial Criticism -- 23. Queer Theory And Gender Performativity -- 24. The Institutional Construction Of Literary Study -- 25. The End Of Theory? Neo-Pragmatism -- 26. Conclusion: Who Doesn't Hate Theory Now? -- Appendix: Passages Referenced In Lectures -- Notes -- The Varieties Of Interpretation: A Guide To Further Reading In Literary Theory -- Index |
| Sommario/riassunto      | Bringing his perennially popular course to the page, Yale University  |

Professor Paul H. Fry offers in this welcome book a guided tour of the main trends in twentieth-century literary theory. At the core of the book's discussion is a series of underlying questions: What is literature, how is it produced, how can it be understood, and what is its purpose? Fry engages with the major themes and strands in twentieth-century literary theory, among them the hermeneutic circle, New Criticism, structuralism, linguistics and literature, Freud and fiction, Jacques Lacan's theories, the postmodern psyche, the political unconscious, New Historicism, the classical feminist tradition, African American criticism, queer theory, and gender performativity. By incorporating philosophical and social perspectives to connect these many trends, the author offers readers a coherent overall context for a deeper and richer reading of literature.

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