
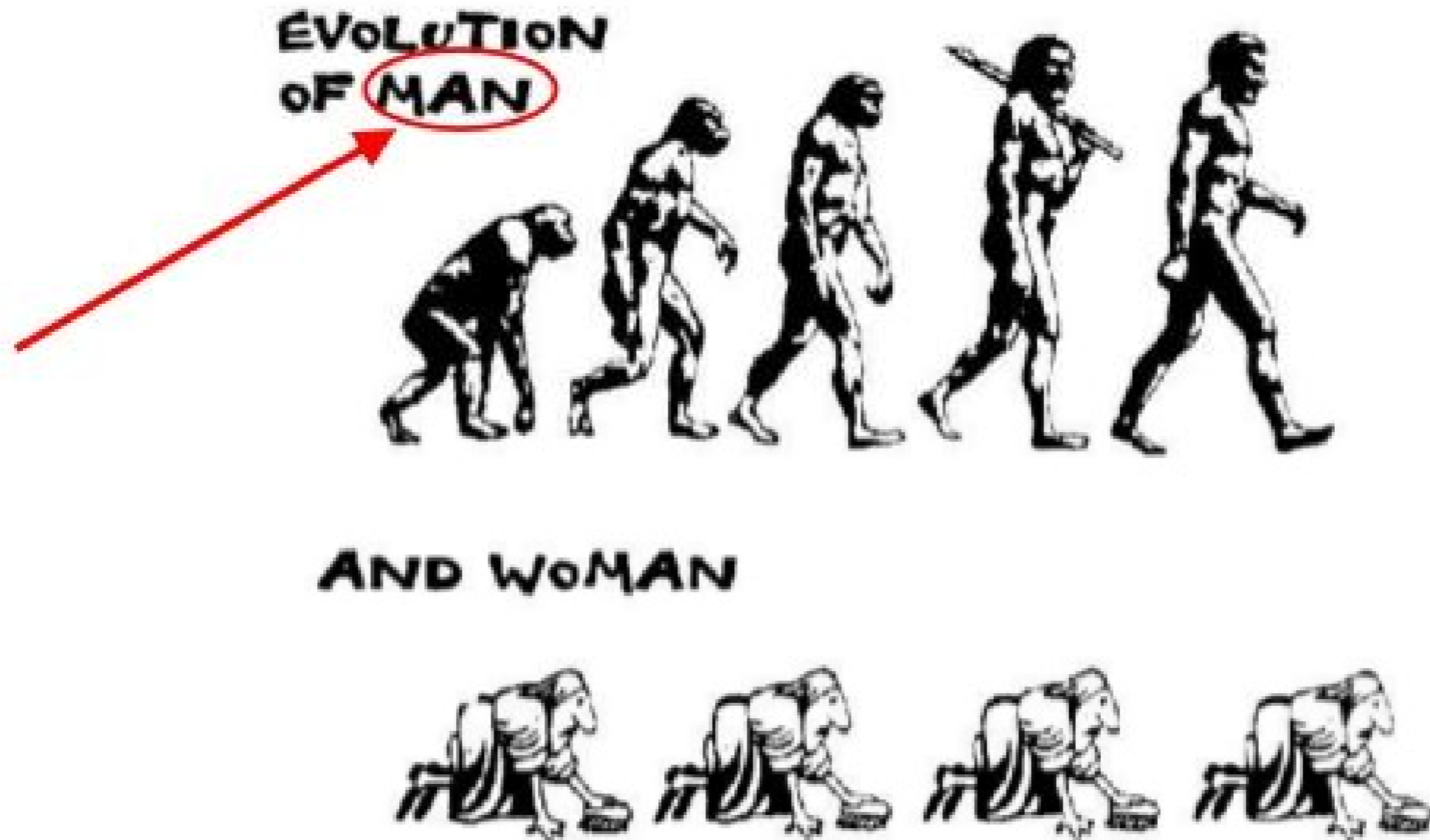


Feminist Literary Criticism



Feminist literary criticism



Origin

- *Grew out of the women's movements following WWII and in 1960s*

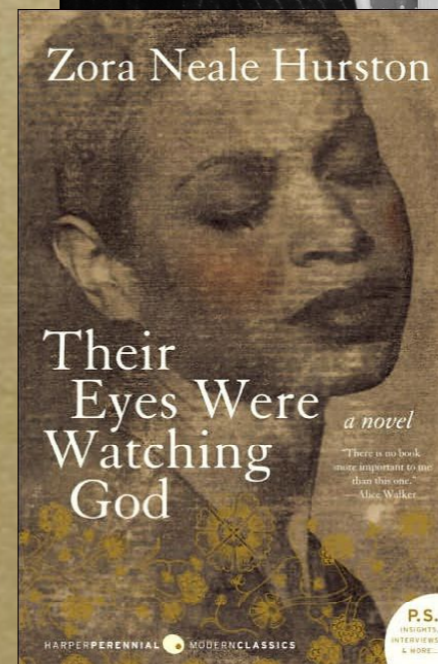
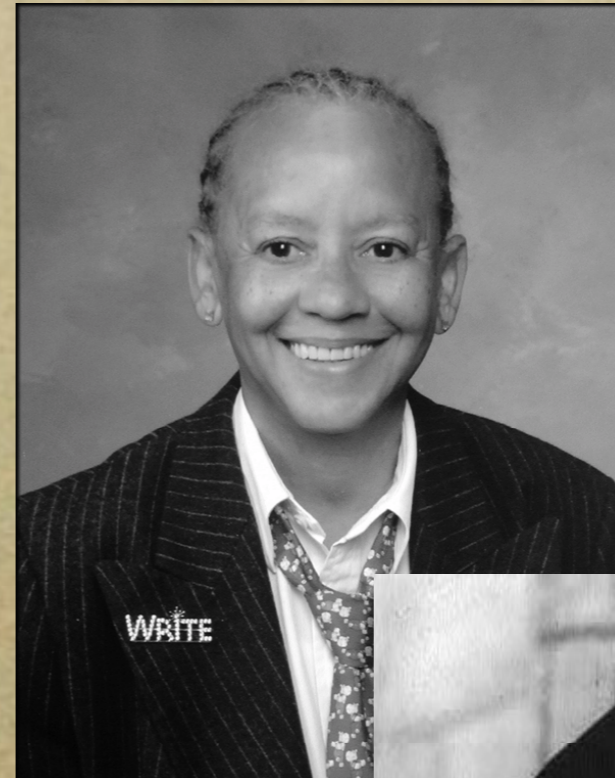


Two basic forms...

- *Feminist Criticism* – analysis of the depiction of women and their relation to the woman reader by male authors.
- *Gynocriticism* – the study of women's writing.
- **Queer theory**, which Ms. Sedgwick developed along with Judith Butler,

What does Feminist Criticism do?

- *Concerned with recovering neglected works by women authors*
- *i.e. Nikki Giovanni & Zora Neale Hurston*
- *Creating a canon of women's writing.*



Female Role

- *Consider the roles and situations of female characters.*
- *Make lists of different aspects of the female character's place in the overall story.*



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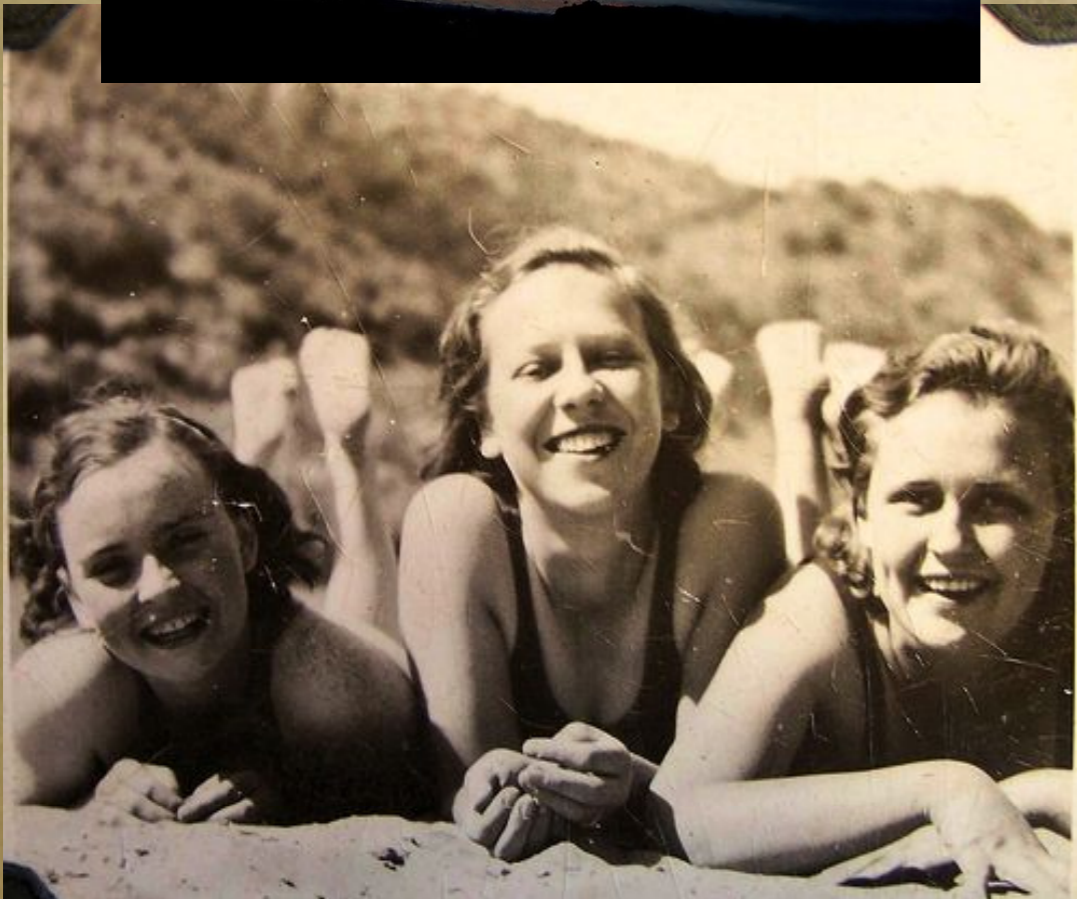
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Female Relationship



- *Look at the relationship of female characters to each other.*
- *Examine any discrepancies that might shed light on the overall role of females in the story.*

Woman vs. Man

- *Review the role of female characters in relation to their male counterparts.*
- *Literary criticism has its famous set of contrasts (i.e. man vs. nature, man vs. society) that set up points of inquiry.*
- *In this case, your fundamental contrast would be women vs.*



The Working Woman



- *Look at the vocational roles of women in literature. Much of literary criticism can be applied to the workplace.*
- *Studying the work that each character does provides a great starting point for analyzing the whole of the work.*

The Female Worldview

- *their world-views contribute to the eventual outcomes in the story.*
- *The goals of characters may not cause outcomes.*
- *Evaluate how “powerful” each character becomes.*



Some questions to consider...

- *How are the lives of men and women portrayed in the work? Do the men and women in the work accept or reject these roles?*
- *Is the form and content of the work influenced by the author's gender?*

Questions cont...

- *How are attitudes explicit or implicit concerning heterosexual or homosexual relationships? Are these relationships sources of conflict? Do they provide resolutions to conflicts?*
- *Does the work challenge or affirm traditional ideas about men and women and same-sex relationships?*