

Elegy for Literature

By Jeffrey T. Nealon

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Provides an overview of the current crisis within the academic study of literature and suggests a way forward for rethinking literary studies less as a set of literary objects and more as a way of life.

Elegy for Literature is an overview of the current crisis within the academic study of literature. It suggests a way forward for rethinking the work that literary studies can do – less as a set of literary objects, and more as a way of life.

Readership

It is an academic book aimed at scholars (faculty and graduate students) in literary study – mostly in English, but the arguments are applicable to other language traditions, and to some other disciplines within the humanities as well (history or philosophy) whose problems in the present shadow those of literary study.

Key selling points

- Discusses literary theory not as the problem (what drove students away from the literature major), but the solution
- Rethinks the discipline of literary studies within a biopolitical frame.

Contents

1 Endgames; 2 The Novel and New Materialism; or, Learning from Lukács; Epilogue: Where I Predictably Assert That the Kind of Thing I Do Is the Key; Notes; Index of Names.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Jeffrey T. Nealon is Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of English and Philosophy at Penn State University. He is author of numerous books in literary and social theory.

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