

Deconstructing Disney

Literary Schools Overview

Marxist Criticism

*For a full explanation, [click here](#)

Marxism examines the power created by Capital, or resources used for the buying and selling of goods. Karl Marx, for whom the name comes, believed history is a battle of resources between those who own (*Bourgeoisies*) and those who work to own (*Proletariat*), and the only solution is a Revolution between the workers and the owners

At it's most simple level, Marxism boils down to a few basic ideas:

Base Structure - Capital

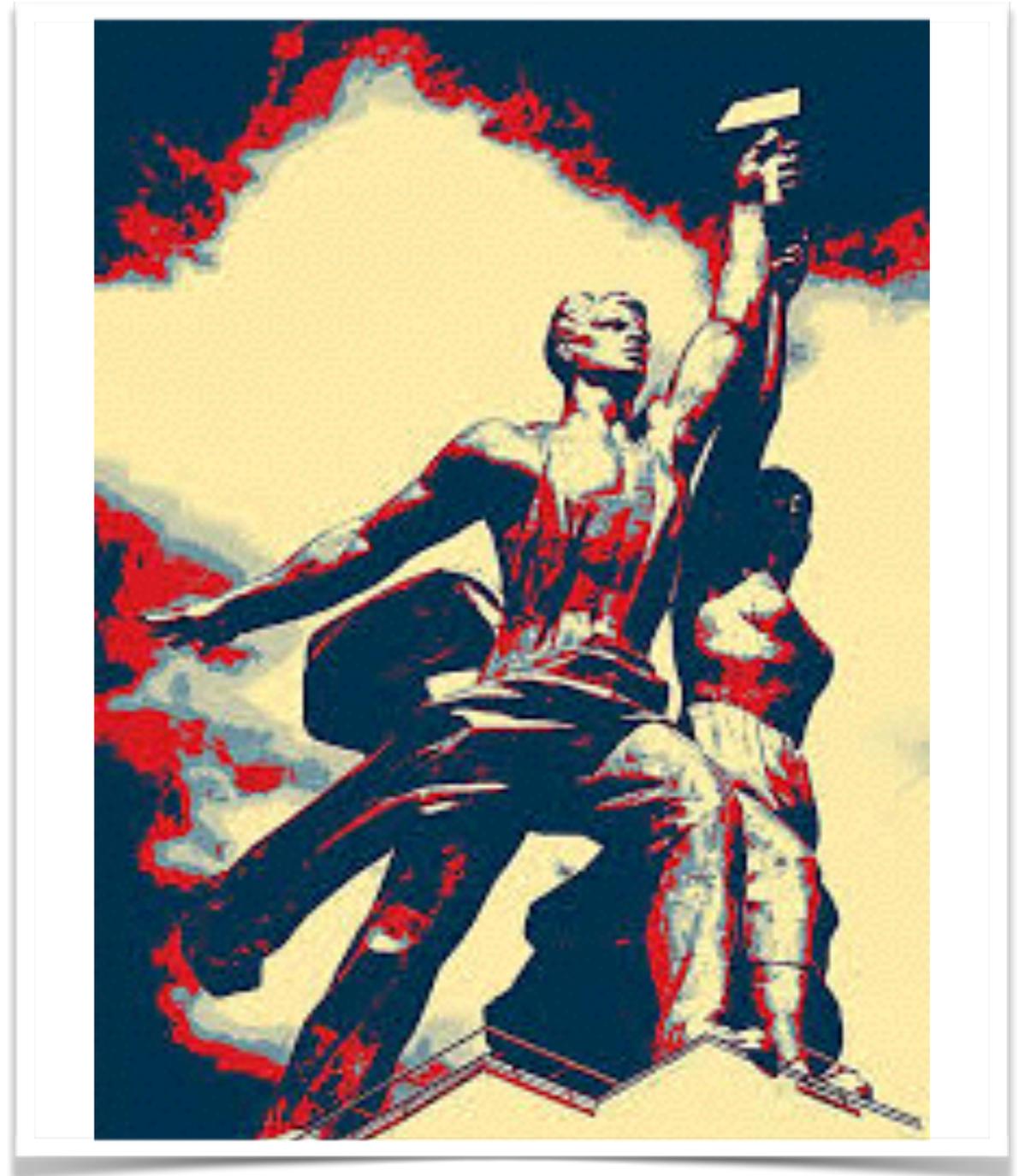
The forces of production (industry, labor, land, resources)

Power Structure - Politics

The tools used to carry out the will of the owners

Super Structure - Culture

The tools used to tell the story (culture, norms, expectations)



Historical Criticism

*For a full explanation, [click here](#)

Historical Criticism, also known as New Historicism, teaches that every text is written to a context. Historical events, culture, and social influences contribute to an author's thinking, so New Historicists try to place the story within its original place to understand the author's perspectives and the story's implications.

At its most simple level, historical criticism can be understood through the Rhetorical Triangle:

Text - Message

Text, Picture, Book, Story, Article, Show, Commercial

Author - Messenger

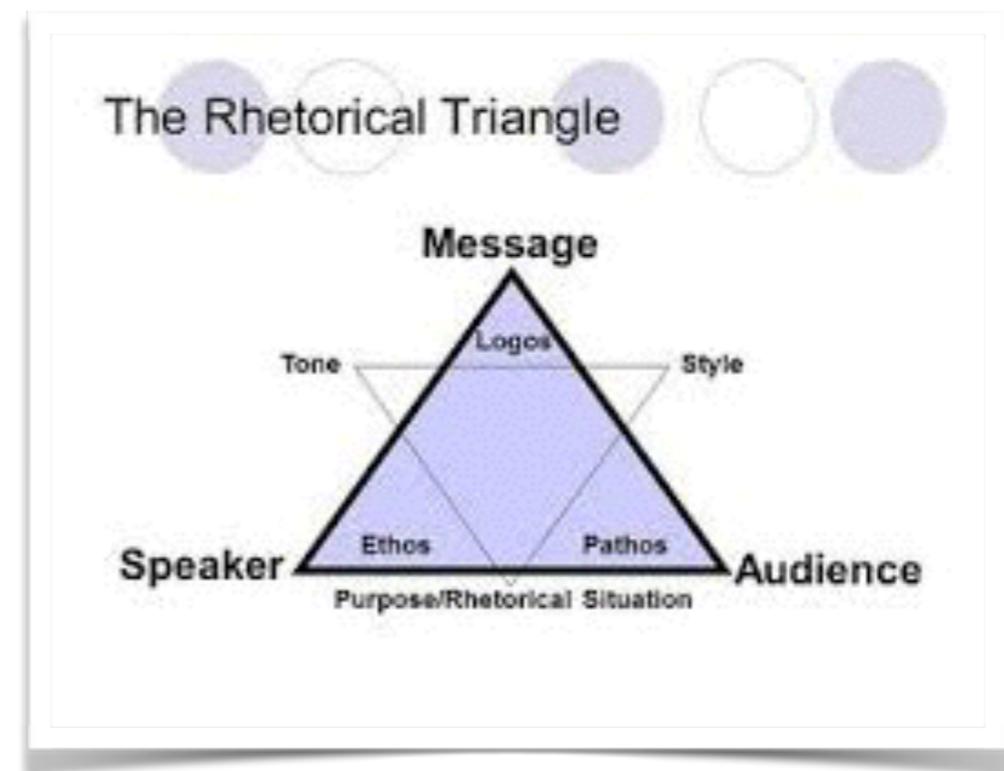
The tools used to carry out the will of the owners

Audience - Receiver

Primary Readers - those for whom it was written

Secondary Readers — those who read beyond time and place

Teachers will often ask “what does this mean?” We think of it as a golden thread — the message hidden beneath the surface. More likely, writer write in response to the world around them, and knowing that world may help us to understand why that author felt their message was so important. A better question just might be: “What is their Call to Action?” What does this author think the reader should do with this information?



Freudian Criticism

*For a full explanation, [click here](#)

Feminism leans a lot on Marxism for its foundations because it examines the nature of power. From a feminist perspective, women have been **OBJECTIFIED** by men, or made second class citizens by a **PATRIARCHAL POWER STRUCTURE**, or a society where rules were made and enforced by men.

At it's most simple level, Feminism boils down to a few basic ideas:

Objectification - Gender

Recognized for their worth and their utility (sex, child birth, beauty)

Marginalization - Social

Made to be peripheral (second-class) citizens, less than

Patriarchy - Culture

Morals, ethics, and traditions constructed by men's needs



Freudian Criticism

*For a full explanation, [click here](#)

Sigmund Freud also saw the need for revolution, but his concern was more psychological than political. He believed man, and culture, are at war with their mind and spirit. We are at war because our existence has been choked to death by rules and regulations that **SUBLIMATE** (hide) our feelings

Id - Animal Drive

Our basic instincts for fight or flight

Ego - Conscience

Our internal governor that keeps us from being animals

Super Ego - Social Behaviors

The cultural beliefs instilled in us through Mythos, the stories we are told through laws and beliefs that teach us what society expects

As part of our Mythos, we learn what is known as **Mythological Criticism**: the signs and symbols that represent a community's beliefs (Garden, Wilderness, Sea, etc)

