

Contemporary Literary Criticism - Select Navigation Guide

ABOUT CONTEMPORARY LITERARY CRITICISM

Contemporary Literary Criticism – Select (CLC-S) presents significant published criticism on the works of novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers, and other creative writers now living or who died after December 31, 1959. A strong emphasis is placed on including criticism of works by established authors who frequently appear on syllabi of high school and college literature courses. Each entry contains the following: a biographical essay that discusses the author's life, works, and critical importance; critical essays or excerpts taken from books, magazines, literary reviews, newspapers, and scholarly journals; and, where available, interviews with featured authors. A complete bibliographical citation prefaces each critical essay and most essays are introduced by a brief annotation that establishes a context and purpose for the criticism. Entries also provide suggestions for further reading.

SEARCH OPTIONS

There are several ways to search in CLC-S. You can use the author's name, title of work, birth year, death year, nationality and several other options. You may enter terms in a single field, in several fields, or in all of the fields. If you enter terms in more than one field, the search engine automatically uses the AND search operator, looking for entries that contain each of the terms in the specified fields.

Enter your search criteria below:

Author Name

Title of Work Return results

Birth Year Include index entries

Death Year

Nationality

Subject/Genre

Full Text

Ethnicity

Gender

Critic Name

Essay/Book

Source Publication

Year of Publication

Author Name Search

Within the Author Name field, enter a complete name or any word or combination of words known to be part of the author's name. Variant names and pseudonyms used by the author are also searchable as part of the Author Name index. For example, Gore Vidal or Vidal, Gore could be used; Mark Twain or Samuel Clemens could also be used.

Title of Work Search

Within the Title of Work field, enter a complete title of any word or combination of words known to be in the title. For Example: Breathing Lessons, Confederate, hot and cold

Birth and Death Year Search

Within the Birth Year and Death Year fields, you may enter a specific year or a range of years. For example: 1936, 1950-1959 (for any year 1950-1959).

Nationality Search

Within the Nationality field, select a nationality from the pull-down list.

Subject/Genre Search

The Subject and Genre descriptors are assigned terms that indicate the type and broad subject of the author's writings. Within the Subject/Genre field, select a subject or genre from the pull-down list.

Full Text Search

The Full Text field searches for the presence of any word or words within the entry's main essay text and additional text fields, as well as all forms of the author's name, the author's works, genres, and subjects. For those instances in which a search in a particular field results in zero records, you may want to use the Full Text search function.

Ethnicity Search

You can choose an author's ethnicity from the pull-down box.

Gender Search

You can select the author's gender from the pull-down box.

Critic Name

The option can be used to search by the critic's name. Like the author name field you can use any part of the critic's name.

Essay/Book

You can search the database for a particular critic by the title of the essay or book he or she wrote. For example, if you know the title of the essay, you can search for the specific essay by entering it in quotation marks: "Eva Luna: Writing as History"; or enter the title of the book an excerpt was taken from: Seamus Heaney: Poet of Contrary Progressions.

Source Publication

Source publication refers to the name of the periodical or book in which the essay appeared.

Year of Publication

This option allows you to select criticism from a particular year or group of years. To enter a range of years follow this example: 1980 – 1989.

SEARCH RESULTS

Once you have filled in your search criteria and selected Search, you will be presented with a list of the documents that fulfill your query. Your search criteria is repeated at the top of the screen for your reference. The number of documents found and the first set of documents are also displayed. From here you can scroll the first page or choose another page of results to view.

By default, results lists are sorted by relevance; each document's relevancy score is indicated in the Score column (to view the score click on the column heading.) Please note that the "most relevant" document will be listed first.

The column heading by which the documents in a result list are sorted is indicated by highlighting the column heading (Score, Document Type, Source, or Type.)

To reorder the documents using another column as the sort criteria, simply click on the column's heading. This will change your default sort order for all future searches until you reset it.

Tip: For searches based on relevancy, only the first 200 documents will be retrieved. However, if your search is intended to determine the number of documents that meet your criteria and this number exceeds 200, simply select another column to serve as the basis of the sorting order. The total number of hits will be displayed whenever the order is not based on relevancy.

If your search has resulted in more documents than you specified to be returned to you on the search page (that is, if you requested 10 results per page and there are more than 10 documents that fulfill your query), you can navigate to the other pages of the results list using the First Page, Previous Page, Next Page, and Last Page buttons that will be displayed, when appropriate, in the navigation bar at the left of the screen. These buttons may also be available at the bottom of the result list to save you from having to scroll back to the top of the list.

Gale *Literary* Databases

Contemporary Literary Criticism

Revise Search

Main Menu

Help

Your search: (title mice and men) AND (uz CLC) AND (DT Criticism or Biography or Topic)

Found 8 Documents

Document(s) 1-8 of 8

Tip: To reorder these documents, click on the appropriate heading below.

Score	Document Title	Source	Type
	Bradbury, Ray (douglas) "Ray (douglas) Bradbury," in Contemporary Literary Criticism-Select. (A brief review of the author's life, works, and critical reception)	Contemporary Literary Criticism	Biography
	Bradbury, Ray Aggelis, Steven L., Introduction to Conversations with Ray Bradbury, edited by Steven L. Aggelis, pp. xi-xxv. Jackson, Miss.: University Press of Mississippi, 2004. Reproduced in Contemporary Literary Criticism-Select.	Contemporary Literary Criticism	Criticism
	Steinbeck, John (ernst) "John (ernst) Steinbeck," in Contemporary Literary Criticism-	Contemporary Literary Criticism	Biography

VIEWING AND RETRIEVING DOCUMENTS

Once you have selected a document from a results list, it will be retrieved and displayed. Many documents have internal Table of Contents sections that will make it easy for you to jump directly to the component of information you want.

Gale *Literary* Databases

Contemporary Literary Criticism

Current Results

Revise Search

Main Menu

Help

John Steinbeck

1902-1968

Name: John Steinbeck

American novelist, short story writer, playwright, non-fiction writer, journalist, and screenplay writer.

Genre(s): novels; fiction; short stories; plays; novellas; travel book; screenplays; nonfiction

Table of Contents:

[Introduction](#)

[Biographical Information](#)

[Major Works](#)

[Critical Reception](#)

[Principal Writings by the Author](#)

[Further Readings about the Author](#)

[Critical Essays about the Author's Works](#)

In addition, there is a series of buttons that will be displayed at the bottom of the page to enable you to quickly retrieve other documents in your results list. First Document retrieves the first document in the list, Previous Document recalls the document immediately preceding the document you are currently viewing, Next Document accesses the document immediately following the document you are viewing, and Last Document jumps directly to the last document in the results list. Finally, you may also select Current Results from the navigation bar at the left of the screen to return to your result list and navigate it without the aid of these buttons.

SEARCH TIPS

Ampersand

An ampersand (&) is NOT recognized by the search engine and should not be included in your search.

Apostrophe

Apostrophes (') are NOT recognized by the search engine and should not be used in a search

Capitalization

The search engine is not case sensitive. That is, use of capitalization does not affect the results of a search. For example, the following keyword searches are considered the same:

- astronaut and spaceship or "outer space"
- astronaut AND spaceship OR "outer space"
- Astronaut and Spaceship or "Outer Space"
- astroNAUT and spACEship or "oUteR sPaCe"

Double Quotes

Use double quotes when you want to find your search term as an exact phrase

Hyphen

If a hyphen (-) is considered to be part of the search terms and used between them, the search engine will recognize it in your search.

Parentheses

Complex searches can be constructed with parentheses. For really powerful searches, parentheses can be combined with Boolean operators. e.g. "Ang Lee" and ((writer or author) or director)

Wildcards (*, !, ?)

Sometimes you might want to find more than just exact matches to a search term.

Wildcards let you substitute symbols for one or more letters. With wildcards, you can match

- both the singular and plural forms of a word
- words that begin with the same root
- words that can be spelled in different ways

You can even match words that you're not sure how to spell!

There are three wildcard operators:

*	An asterisk (*) stands for any number of characters , including none, and is especially useful when you want to find all words that share the same root. For example, pigment* matches <i>pigment</i> , <i>pigments</i> , <i>pigmentation</i> , etc. An asterisk can also be used within a word, but the other wildcards are more precise for this kind of use.
?	A question mark (?) stands for exactly one character and is especially useful when you're uncertain of a spelling. For example, a search like relev?nce means you can match the word <i>relevance</i> even if, like many of us, you can't remember whether it's spelled with <i>ance</i> or <i>ence</i> . A question mark is also useful for finding certain words with variant spellings. For example, defen?e finds both <i>defense</i> (American) and <i>defence</i> (British and Canadian). Multiple question marks in a row stand for the same number of characters as there are question marks. For example, psych????y matches either <i>psychology</i> or <i>psychiatry</i> but not <i>psychotherapy</i> .
!	An exclamation point (!) stands for one or no characters and is especially useful when you want to match the singular and plural of a word but not other forms. For example, product! matches <i>product</i> and <i>products</i> but not <i>productive</i> or <i>productivity</i> . The exclamation point can also be used inside a word to match certain variant spellings. For example, colo!r matches both <i>color</i> (American) and <i>colour</i> (British).

Date Ranges:

- 1980-1989 (This will search for any year in the 1980s.)

- 1939-1945 (This will search for any year from 1939 to 1945.)

Logical Operators

Logical operators create relationships between search terms, between a term and a result set and between two result sets. They allow you to find the result of the intersection of two search terms or result sets, the combination of two terms or result sets, or the exclusion of a term or result set from a search.

There are three logical operators:

And	The and operator specifies that <i>both</i> words on either side of the operator must occur in the part of a record you're searching for that record to match. For example, alcohol and health finds only those records in which both the word <i>alcohol</i> and the word <i>health</i> occur.
Or	The or operator specifies that <i>one or the other or both</i> of the words on either side of the operator must occur in the part of a record you're searching for that record to match. For example, dreams or daydreams finds records in which either the word <i>dreams</i> or the word <i>daydreams</i> or both occur.
Not	The not operator specifies that the word before the operator must occur but the word after the operator must <i>not</i> occur for a record to match. For example, crime not murder finds all records in which the word <i>crime</i> occurs <i>except</i> the ones in which the word <i>murder</i> also occurs.

Logical operators in a search expression are evaluated in a particular order:

1. **not** and **and**
2. **or**

If you want to change the order of evaluation, use the nesting operators.

Proximity Operators

Proximity operators are used between two search terms to indicate that the terms must occur in a record within a specified distance of each other for that record to match. Words that are close to each other are more likely to be related than words that are far apart.

A proximity operator has two components:

A **letter** that indicates the *direction*

A **number** that indicates the *distance* in words

There are two proximity operators:

Wn	The W (within) operator specifies that the word that follows the operator must occur within <i>n</i> words <i>after</i> the word that precedes the operator for a record to match. For example, the search expression shared w3 values matches any records in which the word <i>values</i> occurs three or fewer words after the word <i>shared</i> .
Nn	The N (near) operator specifies that the words on either side of the operator must occur within <i>n</i> words of each other <i>in either direction</i> for a record to match. For example, the search expression memory n5 repressed matches any records in which the words <i>memory</i> and <i>repressed</i> occur within five or fewer words of each other in either direction.