

Contents

<i>Preface to the second edition</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
<i>Introduction</i>	1
I Lacan and psychoanalysis	5
Introduction	5
Overview	7
Self and language	10
Self and identity	12
Freud and Lacan	14
Hegel and Lacan	17
The sense of loss	21
The imaginary, the symbolic and the real	24
Some criticisms of Lacan	26
Further reading	29
2 Derrida and deconstruction	32
Introduction	32
The instability of language	32
Phonocentrism–logocentrism	34
Rousseau and Lévi-Strauss	38
Freud and Lacan	42
Nietzsche and metaphor	45

Understanding metaphor	47
The politics of metaphor	48
Deconstruction and Marxism	50
Further reading	56
3 Foucault and the social sciences	58
Introduction: Foucault's view of history	58
Reason and unreason	59
A struggle over meaning	65
Disciplinary power	66
Technical rationality	69
Sexuality and power	70
Power and knowledge	73
Foucault and Althusser	75
Foucault's critique of Marxism	78
Some criticisms of Foucault's work	80
Conclusion	87
Further reading	87
4 Some currents within post-structuralism	90
Nietzsche contra Hegel	90
Deleuze and Guattari: the return to the imaginary	93
Prisoners of discourse	97
The celebration of intensity	99
The 'new philosophers'	101
Conclusion	105
Further reading	107
5 Cixous, Irigaray, Kristeva: French feminist theories	109
Introduction	109
Hélène Cixous	109
Luce Irigaray	116
Julia Kristeva	122
Further reading	127
6 Lyotard and postmodernism	129
Introduction: meanings and characteristics	129
Postmodernism	131

The postmodern condition	132
Narrative knowledge and scientific knowledge	135
The mercantilization of knowledge	138
Bourgeois art and its function in society	139
The main features of the avant-garde	141
Modernism and postmodernism	143
The main features of postmodernism	144
Totality or fragmentation	147
On language games and the sublime	150
Some criticisms of Lyotard's work	152
Feminism and postmodernism	155
Further reading	159
7 Baudrillard and some cultural practices	161
Baudrillard	161
Some postmodernist cultural practices	168
Further reading	177
<i>Conclusion</i>	178
<i>Notes</i>	188
<i>Index</i>	202