Social Criticism

Social Criticism deals with social structure, power, politics and agency. It deals with literature as a reflection on culture.

Marxism (Oppression)
- Deals with the struggles of the poor and oppressed against the rich and enfranchised.
- Focus is on labor practices, class, economics, and social cohesion.
- Questions to ask: How are class struggle and labor attitudes defined and dealt with?
  - How does the worker emerge victorious, and why should he or she do so?
  - What gives the rich and enfranchised their power, and what results from it?

Feminism (Repression)
- Deals with fair representation and treatment of femininity, sexuality, and personal dignity.
- Focus is on how women are portrayed.
- Questions to ask: What is being repressed in a person and why?
  - What struggles and opportunities do people face in defining themselves?
  - What is triumphant or defeated when it is expressed? What is learned?

Racism (Suppression)
- Deals with racial minorities and their struggle for equality, fairness and inclusion.
- Focus is on dynamics of prejudice, social positioning, and character.
- Questions to ask: What gives rise to racial oppression?
  - What qualities are seen in individuals in the text that defy stereotypes?
  - What is seen in a person in position vs. a person in practice?

Legalism (Expression)
- Deals how the law is expressed: either obeyed and served or used and manipulated.
- Focus is on the nature and locus of law, who wields it, and what the impact is.
- Questions to ask: What is the law and where does it reside in the work?
  - What does relation to and treatment of law reveal about the character/society?
  - What is the effect of integrity or hypocrisy in the work?

Environmentalism (Green)
- What is the level of priority given to the nurture of the environment?
- How do people relate to, care for, or misuse the world in which they live?