



# Class

*Gary Day*

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## Class Gary Day

This book traces the phenomenon of class from the medieval to the postmodern period, uniquely examining its relevance to literary and cultural analysis. Drawing on historical, sociological and literary writings, Gary Day:

- \* gives an account of class at different historical moments
- \* shows the role of class in literary constructions of the social
- \* examines the complex relations between 'class' and 'culture'
- \* focuses attention on the role of class in constructions of 'the literary' and 'the canon'
- \* employs a revived and revised notion of class to critique recent theoretical movements.

## Class Details

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**DeMisty D. says**

A very comprehensive look at class, historical from Medieval times through the twentieth century. Day bases his definitions of class on Karl Marx's work and although the literature he explores is British (English specifically), his ideas can be universal—as Day says himself: “I trace the rise of exchange [trade; the system of money] and its connection with English literature because it was in England that the development of capitalism first took place and because Marx based his analysis of class on English society. This does not mean, however, that my observations cannot be applied to other literatures since we now live in a world of global capitalism” (2). While Marx can only be applied to British literature, but British literature can be applied to the whole world is not made clear in the text. Further, most of his observations is in British (especially), or European politics, so there can be some stretch of trying to apply these thoughts to what was happening in America and other parts of the world during the nineteenth Century and the challenge against monarchism.

Throughout, he questions the term class itself, as it is a relatively new word. Status, he shows and explains, is more apt. Class as a term does not come about the nineteenth century, as a “consequence of the attempt to understand some of the major upheavals of the period 1780-1848” with the French Revolution, population explosion, and the Industrial Revolution (113).

Regardless of its British and European exclusivity, *Class (The New Critical Idiom)* is an exhaustive text on class studies. And because of the literature is based in England, it offers a great introduction to British working-class literature.

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