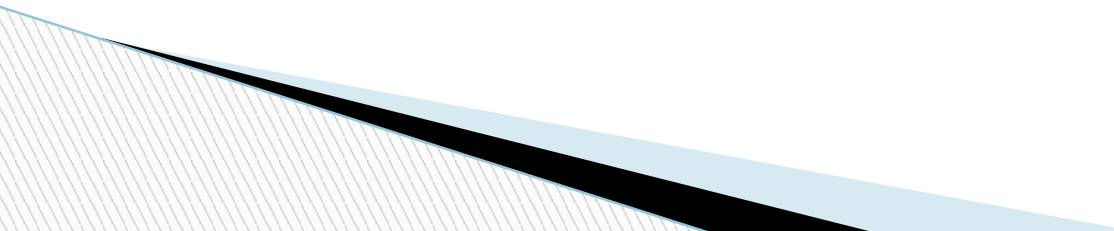


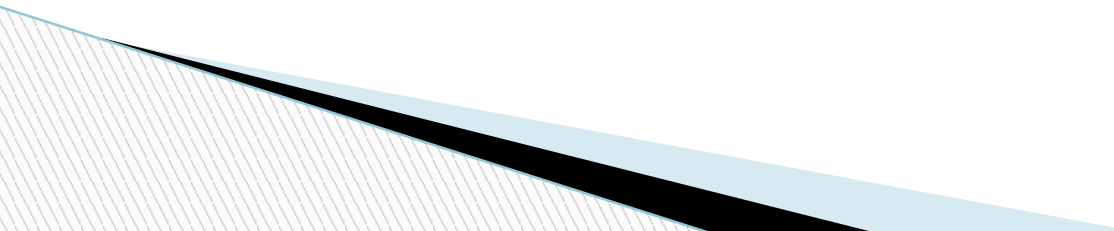
**Culture and Nature: Thomas
Hardy's *The Return of the
Native* (1878)**



Thomas Hardy 1840-1928

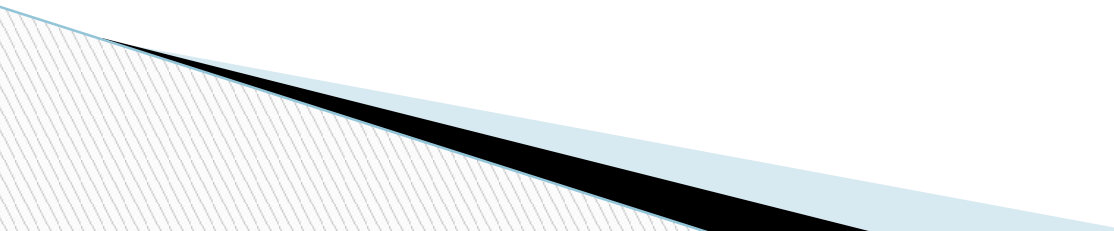
- ▶ Dorset, south western England
 - ▶ Victorian Industrialization
 - ▶ Regionalism and Universalism
 - ▶ Wessex
- 

Thomas Hardy

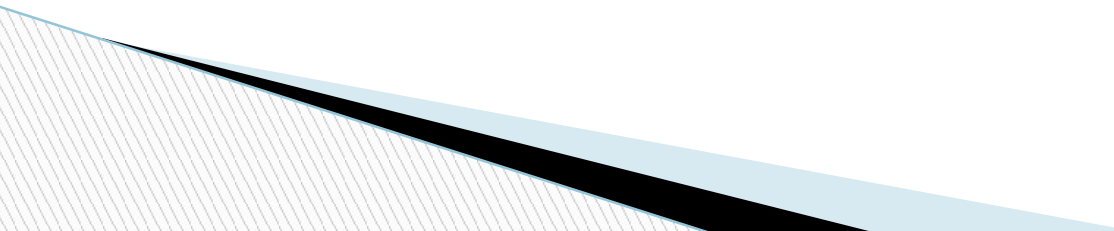
- ▶ Individuals wants to explore and make sense of the world around
 - ▶ Individualism or **alienation**
 - ▶ He has focused on his own life.
 - ▶ Hardy and the conventional belief and self
 - ▶ Hardy and the Questioner for truth.
 - ▶ Man, a vast hostile world and a search for truth.
 - ▶ The relationship between man and nature
- 

Eco-Criticisms

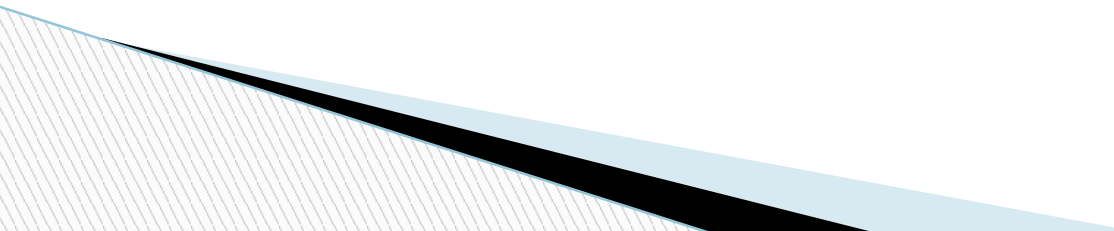
The term eco-criticism was first coined by William Rueckert in 1978 in his essay “Literature and Ecology an Experiment in Eco-criticism” by which he meant “the application of ecology and ecological concept to the study of literature” (Glotfelty xx). Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm in their *The Eco-criticism Reader* (1996), define eco-criticism as “the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment” (xviii).



The Return of the Native

- ▶ human–nature conflicts, coexistence, and the fate of man as major themes
 - ▶ Art: timeless and unique medium.
 - ▶ Hardy: proto–eco–critical author because of his concern and analysis of the land–man relationship or culture and nature.
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The Return of the Native: Characters and Setting

- ▶ The Egdon Heath: Major setting
 - ▶ The Rain Barrow: a Historical Landmark
 - ▶ Characters
 - a. Eustacia
 - b. Damon Wildeve (a local innkeeper)
 - c. Mrs. Yeobright ()
 - d. Clym Yeobright
 - e. Diggory a character saturated with red color
- 

Culture and Nature: Conclusion

- ▶ Death as the only source of escape
 - ▶ Human nature in an environment indifferent to human actions
 - ▶ Man's inherent relationship with nature
 - ▶ Man's responsibility to comprehend it and live by it
 - ▶ Nature a motherly womb carrying human values, existential opposite forces.
 - ▶ Culture and Nature: Living and Coexistence. rivalry and indifference
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