

Frederic Jameson to give the fourth annual Robert C. Elliott Memorial Lecture

April 4, 1985

One of the world's foremost literary theorists and cultural critics will deliver the fourth annual Robert C. Elliott Memorial Lecture at 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 17, in room 110, Peterson Hall, Third College, at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Frederic Jameson's topic will be, "World Literature in the Era of Late Capitalism." The lecture will be a return visit for Jameson, who was a professor of French and comparative literature at UCSD from 1967 to 1976. A reception will follow.

Jameson is currently a professor of literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a leading proponent of a movement in Anglo-American literary criticism that grounds itself in the dialectical tradition of Hegel, Marx and Sartre. He is widely recognized as the leading sociologist of literature and an authority on the relation between literature and ideology currently working in this country.

In 1971, Jameson was awarded the William Riley Parker Prize for his essay, "Metacommentary," which helped to bring to light often hidden ideological implications in literary works. Two books, published in 1971, also garnered high praise. "Marxism and Form," and "The Prison House of Language," traced more fully the forms, including linguistic forms, of literature.

Jameson's book on Jean-Paul Sartre, "Sarte: The Origins of a Style," remains one of the leading works on the great French writer. Jameson has written two other books (five in all), called "Fables of Aggression: Wyndham Lewis, The Modernist as Fascist," a study of Wyndham Lewis and, "The Political Unconscious: Narrative as Socially Symbolic Act."

Besides Sartre and Wyndham Lewis, Jameson has written about such diverse figures as Raymond Chandler, Alain Robbe-Grillet, P.K. Dick, Erving Goffman and Walter Benjamin.

Hayden White, a major cultural critic and intellectual historian in his own right, has described Jameson as, "the best Marxist critic writing today, possibly the best social-historically oriented critic of our time."

The Robert C. Elliott Memorial Lecture series is made possible by gifts from colleagues and friends of Elliott, a professor of English literature who died in 1981 while hiking in the Anza-Borrego Desert. Elliott, one of the founders of the UCSD Department of Literature, joined the university faculty in 1964 and served as chairman of the Department of Literature from 1968 through 1971.

(April 4, 1985) For more information contact: Alixandra Williams, 452-3120