

Postgraduate course

Course Name: Postmodern Fiction

Time: Tuesday 15:20-18:10

Credit: 3

Instructor: Yi-Chuang E. Lin

Course Description The course will be devoted to reading and discussing works that are either generally considered as a postmodernist fiction or perhaps simply written after the great Modernist era. The term “Postmodern” and “Postmodernism” will be examined and explored along with the reading and discussion. Students are advised to finish reading the required texts in advance.

Required Texts

Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse 5*
Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
E. L. Doctorow, *The Book of Daniel*
John Fowles, *French Lieutenant's Woman*
Samuel Beckett, *The Unnameable*
Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*

Additional Readings (References)

Ian McEwan, *The Child in Time*, *Saturday*
John Barth, *Lost in the Funhouse*, *Floating Opera*

Connor, Steven. (1989). *Postmodernist Culture: An Introduction to Theories of the Contemporary* (2nd edition). Blackwell.

Docherty, Thomas. Ed. (1993). *Postmodernism: A Reader*. Columbia UP.

Hutcheon, Linda. (1988). *A Poetics of Postmodernism: History, Theory, Fiction*. Routledge.

Kermode, Frank. (1966). *The Sense of An Ending*. Oxford UP.

Waugh, Patricia. (1992). *Practising Postmodernism/Reading Modernism*.

Time Schedule

Session One	Introduction What is Postmodernism? multiplicity vs. singularity
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	Postmodern Plot
	Kurt Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse 5</i>
Session Two	Kurt Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse 5</i>
	What is “Real”? What makes “Real”?
	Fact, memory, fantasy
	Simulacra and Simulation
Session Three	<i>The Crying of Lot 49</i>
	Scientific Rhetoric
	Entropy and Information Theory
Session Four	<i>French Lieutenant’s Woman</i>
Session Five	<i>French Lieutenant’s Woman</i>
Session Six	<i>French Lieutenant’s Woman</i>
Session Seven	<i>The Book of Daniel</i>
Session Eight	<i>The Book of Daniel</i>
	Fictional Reality
	Biblical Reference
Session Nine	<i>The Book of Daniel</i> Midterm Paper (3000 words term paper)
Session Ten	Atwood, McEwan, John Barth
Session Eleven	Samuel Beckett, <i>The Unnameable</i>
	Language and Subject, Text and Subject
Session Twelve	Samuel Beckett, <i>The Unnameable</i>
Session Thirteen	Salman Rushdie, <i>Midnight’s Children</i>
Session Fourteen	Salman Rushdie, <i>Midnight’s Children</i>
Session Fifteen	Salman Rushdie, <i>Midnight’s Children</i>
	Laurence Sterne, <i>Tristram Shandy</i>
	Narrative teleology
Session Sixteen	Laurence Sterne, <i>Tristram Shandy</i>
Session Seventeen	Laurence Sterne, <i>Tristram Shandy</i>
Session eighteen	Final term paper (3500 words)

Grading:

Attendance and Participation 20%

Presentation: 20%

Midterm Paper 30%

Final 30%