

Undergraduate course

Course Name: Postmodern Fiction

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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*
Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*

Additional Readings (References)

E. L. Doctorow, *The Book of Daniel*
John Fowles, *French Lieutenant's Woman*
Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*
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

2/21 Introduction

What is Postmodernism?
multiplicity vs. singularity
Postmodern Plot

3/6 Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse 5*
What is “Real”? What makes “Real”?

Simulacra and Simulation

3/13 Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse 5*
Fact, memory, fantasy

3/20 Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse 5*
Postmodern Return Narrative

3/27 *The Crying of Lot 49*
Scientific Rhetoric
Entropy and Information Theory

4/10 *The Crying of Lot 49*
Simulacra and Simulation

4/17 *The Crying of Lot 49*
Fictional Reality
Interweaving

4/24 *The Crying of Lot 49* **Midterm Paper due (2000 words)**
Postmodern Paranoia

5/1 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
Language and Subject, Text and Subject

5/8 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
Narrative teleology and Identity

5/15 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
And Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*
National epic and the myth of nationhood

6/5 Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*

6/12 Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*
Anticipation

6/19 **Final Paper Due (2000 Words)**

1. No Late Papers

2. In addition to the two term papers, each participant is asked to do a in class presentation individually on a specific topic related to the discussed text but different from the chosen topic of either mid-term or final paper.

Grading:

In-Class participation and contribution 30%

Mid-term Paper 25%

Final Paper 25%

In-Class presentation 20%