

Graduate Course

Course Name: Postmodern Fictions

Instructor: Yi-Chuang E. Lin (林宜莊)

Credit: 3

Required Texts:

Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse 5*
Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
John Barth, *Lost in the Funhouse*
Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*
Samuel Beckett, *The Unnameable*

Additional Readings:

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

Connor, Steven. (1989). *Postmodernist Culture: An Introduction to Theories of the Contemporary*. Blackwell.
Docherty, Thomas. Ed. (1993). *Postmodernism: A Reader*. Columbia UP.
Eagleton, Terry. *Trouble with Strangers: A Study of Ethics*.
Hutcheon, Linda (1988). *A Poetics of Postmodernism: History, Theory, Fiction*.
Routledge.
Kermode, Frank. (1966). *The Sense of An Ending*. OUP.
Waugh, Patricia. (1992). *Practising Postmodernism/ Reading Modernism*.

Schedule

- 9/26 Introduction
What is Postmodernism? Reality?
“The Garden of Forking Paths”
Intertextuality
- 10/3 Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse 5*
What is “Real” What makes “Real”?
- 10/17 Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse 5*
Fact, memory, Fantasy
- 10/24 Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
Scientific Rhetoric

Quantum Mechanics
Entropy and Information Theory

- 10/31 Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
Simulacra and Simulation
Postmodern Paranoia
- 11/7 John Barth, *Lost in the Funhouse*
linear versus discursive versus round versus multidimensional
- 11/14 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
Language and Subject, Text and Subject
Midterm Paper Due (3000 words)
- 11/21 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
Narrative Teleology and Identity
- 11/28 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
And Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*
National Epic
- 12/5 guest speaker
- 12/12 Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveler*
narrator, narrating, narrative
- 12/19 Italo Calvino *If on a winter's night a traveler*
fictive reality?
- 12/29 Beckett, *The Unnameable*
singularity, unintelligibility
- 01/02 Beckett, *The Unnameable*
self-erasure
- 01/09 Final Paper Due (3500 words)

1. No Late Papers
2. In addition to the two term papers, each participant is asked to do a two in class presentation individually on a specific topic related to the appointed text.
3. no plagiarism

Grading:

In-class participation and contribution 15%

Midterm 30%

Final 30%

In-Class presentation 25%