

Course Name: Postmodern Fictions

Time: Tues 15:30~18:20

Credit: 3

Instructor: Yi-Chuang E. Lin

Required Texts:

Jorge Luis Borges, "The Garden of Forking Paths"

Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse 5*

Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*

John Barth, "Night-Sea Journey," *Lost in the Funhouse*

Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*

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

Samuel Beckett, *The Unnameable*

Requirement: Each participant is asked to do ONE oral presentation individually on a specific topic related to postmodernism and a Written Paper of 4000 words, which will be revised once. **No late papers. No Plagiarism.**

In addition, all participants are asked to participate in class discussion

Grading: Participation and Contribution 30%

One Oral Presentation 30%

First draft paper 20%

Second draft paper 20%

Schedule:

9/10: Introduction

What is Postmodernism?

What is Reality? What is Truth?

9/17 "The Garden of Forking Paths"

Intertextuality

9/24 *Slaughterhouse 5*

What is Real

What makes "Real"

- 10/1 *Slaughterhouse 5*  
Fact, Memory, Fantasy, Post-Truth
- 10/8 Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*  
Scientific Rhetoric  
Entropy
- 10/15 Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*  
Simulacra and Simulation  
Paranoia
- 10/22 Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*  
Late Capitalism  
Communication
- 10/29 John Barth, "Night-Sea Journey"  
Linear versus discursive versus cyclical versus Möbius
- 11/5 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*  
Identity, Culture, Self
- 11/12 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*  
Language and Subject, Text and Subject
- 11/19 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
- 11/26 Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*      First Draft **DUE**  
Narrator, Narrating, Narrative, Writer
- 12/3 Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*  
Discourse, Fictive Reality
- 12/10 Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*
- 12/17 Beckett, *The Unnameable*
- 12/24 Beckett, *The Unnameable*
- 12/31 Beckett, *The Unnameable*
- 1/7 **Final Submission**

Additional Reading:

Don DeLillo, *White Noise*

Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*

Jean Baudrillard, *Simulacra and Simulation*

Fredric Jameson, *Postmodernism or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*

M. M. Bakhtin, *The Dialogic Imagination*