

Course Name: Postmodern Fictions

Time: Thu 14:20~5:20

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*

Requirement: Each participant is asked to do ONE oral presentation individually on a specific topic related to postmodernism and a Written Paper of 3000 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 20%

First draft paper 20%

Second draft paper 20%

Schedule:

2/25: Introduction

What is Postmodernism?

What is Reality? What is Truth?

Simulation and Simulacra

3/4: "The Garden of Forking Paths"

Intertextuality

3/11 *Slaughterhouse 5*

What is Real

What makes "Real"

- 3/18 *Slaughterhouse 5*
Fact, Memory, Fantasy, Post-Truth
- 3/25 Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
Scientific Rhetoric
Entropy
- 4/1 Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
Simulacra and Simulation
Paranoia
- 4/8 Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
Late Capitalism
Communication
- 4/15 John Barth, "Night-Sea Journey"
Linear versus discursive versus cyclical versus Möbius
- 4/22 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
Identity, Culture, Self
- 4/29 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
Language and Subject, Text and Subject
- 5/6 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
- 5/13 Italo Calvino, *Six Memos for the Next Millennium* First Draft **DUE**
- 5/20 Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*
Narrator, Narrating, Narrative, Writer
- 5/27 Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*
Discourse, Fictive Reality
- 6/3 Italo Calvino, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*
- 6/10 Oral Presentation
- 6/17 Final Submission Due**