

Itineraries of Postmodernism

ENG 370 / Spring 2004 / TuTh 3:00-4:15 / King 321

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Visiting Hours: Friday 9-12 and by appointment.

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When and why did Modernism transmogrify into Postmodernism? This course examines current theories of these two amorphous "isms" and explores the forking paths between them. We will read works and hybrids of literature and theory comparatively across national, cultural, and linguistic boundaries and consider such topics as: the (de)constructions of gender; (inter)textuality and the play of the signifier; surrealism and the hyperreal, and many others. 4H.

Required Books (available in the Oberlin Bookstore):

Djuna Barnes.....*Nightwood*
James Joyce.....*Ulysses*
Flann O'Brien.....*At-Swim-Two-Birds*
Jean-François Lyotard.....*The Postmodern Condition*
Borges.....*Ficciones*
Duras.....*The Lover*
Wei Hui.....*Shanghai Baby*

Readings on ERES:

Vattimo.....*The Transparent Society (Selections.)*
Derrida.....*Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences*
Eysteinsson.....*Reading Modernism Through Postmodernism*
Baudrillard.....*Simulacra and Simulations*
Jameson.....*The Politics of Theory: Ideological Positions in the Postmodernism Debate.*

NB: Other required readings will be distributed in class.

Grading:

40%: 10% each for 4 required short papers (2-3 pages). 2 before spring break, 2 after.

35%: Research Project (10 - 15 pages).

15%: Participation: attendance & informed discussion in class and online (Blackboard).

10%: 20-minute in-class presentation.

Please note that to participate in this class, you must understand and adhere to Oberlin's Honor Code. See www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html. Note also that attendance is mandatory; unexcused absences lower your grade. If you miss class, it is your responsibility 1) to turn your work in on time anyway and 2) learn the material you've missed – including class discussion – before the next class. Late assignments are reduced one full letter grade per day.

Schedule.

2/10	Tuesday.	Introduction.
2/12	Thursday.	Eysteinnsson.
2/17	Tuesday.	Barnes.
2/19	Thursday.	Barnes.
2/24	Tuesday.	Barnes.
2/26	NO CLASS.	
3/2	Tuesday.	Joyce.
3/4	Thursday.	Joyce.
3/9	Tuesday.	Joyce.
3/11	Thursday.	Joyce.
3/16	Tuesday.	Jameson, Vattimo.
3/18	Thursday.	O'Brien.
3/23	Tuesday.	O'Brien.
3/25	Thursday.	O'Brien.
<i>Spring Break.</i>		
4/6	Tuesday.	Borges.
4/8	Thursday.	Borges.
4/13	Tuesday.	Borges.
4/15	Thursday.	Derrida.
4/20	Tuesday.	Duras.
4/22	Thursday.	Duras.
4/27	Tuesday.	Baudrillard.
4/29	Thursday.	Liotard.
5/4	Tuesday.	Liotard.
5/6	Thursday.	Wei Hui.
5/11	Tuesday.	Wei Hui.
5/13	Thursday.	Wei Hui.
5/20	Thursday.	Final paper due.