



Postmodernist Aesthetics

3 credits

1st semester, 2013-14

Dr. María Eugenia Díaz Sánchez
Universidad de Salamanca
mediaz@usal.es

Aims and Objectives

The course aims to convey these objectives:

1. the practice of literary research in art and the humanities
 2. the exploration the evolution of innovative trends in aesthetics since 1960s. Art suffers a change of the dominant perspective from a focus on outside references to a focus on itself. The constructed reality of the art work is more important than the outside references. Postmodern Visual Culture: film, digital media, and critical theory as well as traditional visual forms of expression such as painting and sculptures will be discussed: the New York school of abstract expressionist painters, Pollock, De Kooning, Pop Art, Concept Art. Students are expected to be able to trace the development of postmodern art, from ironic metafiction of the 1960s and 70s, in Nabokov and others, to later texts in which Postmodernism is more readily engaged with issues of media, history and allegory. Students will be asked to use the theoretical material studied in the course to develop critical positions to texts and works in general studied in class
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Course Program

Barthes, Roland. "The Reality Effect"
 Benjamin, Walter. "Author as Producer"
 Baudrillard, Jean. "The Precession of Simulacra"
 Borges, Jorge Luis. *Ficciones*
 Jameson, Fredric. "Reification and Utopia In Mass Culture"
 Foster, Hal. *The Return of the Real*
 Vladimir Nabokov: *Pale Fire*
 Marcuse, Herbert. "Affirmative Culture" commented in Andrew Feenberg, "Marcuse on Art and Technology"
 White, Hayden. "The Historical Text as Literary Artifact" commented in Florescano "Historia y Ficción"
 Benjamin, Walter. "The Author as Producer"
 Benjamin, Walter. "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"
 Joyce, James. Excerpts from *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*

Methodology

Class meetings will consist of lectures, group discussions, and oral presentations.

Assessment

The students will be evaluated on a combination of paper, a 6-7 page in-class exam and 15-20 minute class presentation on a specific topic from the syllabus. The short oral presentation of your exam should last no more than 15 minutes. In it you will discuss your findings on the relationship between a general topic (you choose) and modern or postmodern American art, with specific examples provided from some of the art works mentioned in class.

Written and presentation of In-Class Assignments: 50%

Final research paper: 50%

Bibliography and Resources

- (1981) Wilde, Alan. *Horizons of assent: modernism, postmodernism, and the ironic imagination.*
 - (1987) McHale, Brian. *Postmodernist fiction*
 - (1988) Hutcheon, *The Poetics of Postmodernism*
 - (1990) Perloff, Marjorie. *Poetic license: essays on modernist and postmodernist lyric.*
 - (2010) Toth, Josh. *The Passing of Postmodernism: A Spectroanalysis of the Contemporary*
 - (2010) Nemoianu, Virgil. *Postmodernism and Cultural Identities: Conflicts and Coexistence.*
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