

HL 3013 Postmodernism

(AY 2018/2019, Semester 2)

Assistant Professor Michelle Wang
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Class meets	Tuesday	11.30am – 2.30pm	HSS Seminar Room 7
<i>Office hours</i>	Tuesday	2.30pm – 3.30pm	HSS 03-57
	Thursday	2.30pm – 3.30pm	HSS 03-57

Course Description and Objectives

HL 3013 examines the development of twentieth-century literary postmodernism by examining the work of postmodern writers and filmmakers from diverse backgrounds and nationalities, including Ireland, United Kingdom, Colombia, Italy, United States, Argentina, and Germany. Drawing on the work of key postmodern theorists like Patricia Waugh (*Metafiction: The Theory and Practice of Self-Conscious Fiction* [1984]), Brian McHale (*Postmodernist Fiction* [1987]), Linda Hutcheon (*A Poetics of Postmodernism* [1988]), Fredric Jameson (*Postmodernism; or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* [1991]), and others, we explore constructions of temporality and spatiality in postmodern literature, attending to issues such as representations of reality, form and fragmentation, metafictionality, narrative, and aesthetics.

Assessment

<i>Essay</i>	30%
<i>Quizzes</i>	15%
<i>Participation</i>	5%
<i>Final Exam</i>	50%

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of scholarship. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and will result in automatic failure of the course. For NTU's policy on academic integrity, please consult: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ai/Pages/academic-integrity-policy.aspx>

Late Policy

All graded assignments are due in hard *and* soft copy by the start of class on the due dates. Late work will be accepted within twenty-four hours for a reduced grade, but will receive no instructor comments.

Attendance Policy

Your prepared and active participation is crucial to your success in the course. Three or more unexcused absences are subject to an overall grade reduction at the instructor's discretion.

Technology Policy

I welcome students to actively use technology to facilitate learning in the classroom, so long as it is being used on task. All quizzes and exams are closed-book, unless otherwise stated; please ensure all electronic devices including cellphones, tablets, computers, etc. are put away into your bags at that point.

Note: This preliminary syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

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Texts

Amis, Martin. *Time's Arrow*. Vintage International, 1991.

Calvino, Italo. *Invisible Cities*. 1972/1974. Vintage, 1997.

García Márquez, Gabriel. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. 1967/1970. Trans. Gregory Rabassa. Penguin, 1972.

Kushner, Tony. *Angels in America*. 1991. Nick Hern Books, 2017.

O'Brien, Flann. *The Third Policeman*. Dalkey Archive Press, 1967.

Films

Fight Club (1999). Dir. David Fincher.

Inception (2010). Dir. Christopher Nolan.

Lola Rennt, also known as *Run Lola Run* (1998). Dir. Tom Tykwer.

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Schedule

Week 01 – 15 Jan	Introduction to Postmodernism
Week 02 – 22 Jan	Circularity and the Assault on Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flann O'Brien, <i>The Third Policeman</i> (up to chapter VII, p.114)
Week 03 – 29 Jan	From the Epistemological to the Ontological <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flann O'Brien, <i>The Third Policeman</i>
Week 04 – 05 Feb	—Public holiday: Lunar New Year—

- Week 05 – 12 Feb Temporality and Fragmentation
- Martin Amis, *Time's Arrow* (1991)
- Week 06 – 19 Feb Postmodern Aesthetics
- Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967/1970)
(up to chapter that ends with Aureliano Segundo's marriage)
- Week 07 – 26 Feb Historiographic Metafiction
- Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967/1970)
- 05 Mar—RECESS—
- Week 09 – 12 Mar Spatiality and Intangible Realities
- Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities* (1972/1974)
- Week 10 – 19 Mar Postmodern Poetry
- Bernadette Meyer, Frank O'Hara, and John Ashbery (NTU Learn)
 - Andrew Epstein, "Found poetry, 'uncreative writing,' and the art of appropriation," *The Routledge Companion to Experimental Literature*, 310-322 (NTU Learn)
- Week 11 – 26 Mar Postmodern Short Fiction
- Extracts from Angela Carter, Robert Coover, Jorge Luis Borges, and others (NTU Learn)
- Week 12 – 02 Apr Postmodern Drama
- Tony Kushner, *Angels in America* (1991)
- Week 13 – 09 Apr Postmodern Film
- *Lola Rennt*, also known as *Run Lola Run* (1998)
 - *Fight Club* (1999)
 - *Inception* (2010)
 - Final essays due
- Week 14 – 16 Apr Beyond Postmodernism