

Course Description				
Course Title	Critical theory: postmodernity and postmodernisms			
Course Type	Elective	Recommended Year/Semester of Study		
Course Length	1 semest.	Per week	0/2	ECTS 2
Length (Further Specifications)				
Method of Assessment	Final Test	Form of Delivery		Seminar
Course Requirements	Requirements for the course are a minimum of 75% attendance and clear evidence in class discussion that students have read and reflected on the set texts. This course requires a high level of English (C1 minimum) because of the texts involved and, obviously, an interest in theory and theoretical thought.			
Lecturer	Gregor Kalinowski, M.A., Ph.D.			
Course Overview	<p><u>Aims:</u> This course proposes to introduce a number of features of and positions within the cultural phenomenon known as postmodernity. We touch upon aspects of the postmodern in fields as far apart as architecture, music, politics and television, but the course especially focuses on postmodern trends within literature. As the course title suggests, many of the set texts are of a critical orientation (sociological, philosophical etc), and lesson time will be spent clarifying and discussing and comparing the ideas expressed in them.</p> <p><u>Topics: possible course outline</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Modernity, modernism: historical contexts 2) Postmodernity, postmodernism: an introduction to principle themes and players (Hutcheon) 3) Postmodernity & popular culture I: from <i>Public Access</i> (Bérubé) 4) Postmodernity & popular culture II: 'Contamination, Coincidence and Collusion: Pop Music, Urban Culture and the Avant-garde' (Chambers) 5) Postmodernity & literature I: from 'Postmodernism, Irony, the Enjoyable' (Eco) 6) Postmodernity & literature II: 'Telling Stories: Fiction and History' (Hutcheon) 7) Postmodern literature I - playing with genre (Auster, Barth) 8) Postmodern literature II - playing with history (Heller, Eco) 9) Postmodern literature III - science fiction (Gibson, Vonnegut) 10) Postmodern literature IV - formal experiment (Burroughs, Barthelme) 11) Review of positions: 'Toward a Concept of Postmodernism' (Hassan) 12) Postmodernist feminism: from 'Feminism: the Political Conscience of Postmodernism' (Kipnis) 13) Critiquing postmodernity: from 'Postmodernism and Consumer Society' (Jameson) 			
Course Reading List	<p><u>Compulsory:</u> BARRY, P. <i>Beginning Theory – An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory</i>. Manchester, 2009. BROOKER, P. (ed.) <i>Modernism / Postmodernism</i>. London, 1994. CULLER, J. <i>Literary Theory – A Very Short Introduction</i>. Oxford, 1997. GEYH, P.; LEEBRON, F.G.; LEVY, A. (eds.) <i>Postmodern American Fiction - A Norton Anthology</i>. New York, 1998. MALPASS, S.; WAKE, P. (eds.) <i>The Routledge Companion to Critical Theory</i>. New York, 2006. WALDER, D. (ed.) <i>Literature in the Modern World – Critical Essays and Documents</i>. Oxford, 2004.</p>			