

FILM AND POSTMODERNISM - SEMINAR

Dr. Robin Shochat Bagon
Fall Semester
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Office Hours: by appointment

Short description:

Postmodernism is a much theorized and widely discussed cultural expression which is notoriously difficult to pin down yet has a host of vociferous advocates and detractors. Postmodern tendencies have been identified in almost all areas of cultural production, including literature, architecture, television, music videos and music. This seminar examines the way in which films from the late 1960s to the present day can be read through the theories of postmodernism. We explore formal features such as fragmented narratives, non-linear chronology and pastiche alongside philosophical concerns such as a general suspicion of unified subjectivity, authorship and metanarratives. Our ultimate aim is to evaluate postmodern film in terms of its political, social and ethical effects. Does postmodernism open our eyes to the “real” conditions of late capitalism, or does it encourage them to glaze over under a barrage of meaningless images?

Assessment:

Minor assignments:

Students will be required to submit a three sentence response to each reading. (10%)

Midterm:

Short paper (1500 words) (30%)

Final requirement:

Seminar paper (5000-6000 words) or *referat* paper (2000-3000 words) (60%)

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

While use of laptops is permitted, phones must be kept in bags and use of email, social media etc. is deemed extremely disrespectful to the professor and students and is strictly forbidden.