

Essential Reading:

Sartre, Jean Paul (2021) *Being and Nothingness*, Washington Square Press, p.121-162.

Suggested Readings:

Gusman, Simon (2018). To the Nothingnesses Themselves: Husserl's Influence on Sartre's Notion of Nothingness. *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology* 49 (1):55-70.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00071773.2017.1387687>

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

CCourse title & Code	CCredits	Credit distribution of the course			EEligibility cCriteria	PPerequisite of tof course (iif any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
PPostmodernism	4	3	1	Nil	None	None
DSE 7C						

Course Objectives:

1. The course aims to give students a thorough understanding of the primary philosophical concepts and arguments of postmodernism.
2. The course will introduce students to an intellectual position, or mode of discourse, characterized by scepticism toward what it sees as the grand narratives of modernity, scepticism toward the effectiveness of ideology in transforming social systems, opposition to epistemic certainty, and the stability of meaning.
3. The course will train students to understand and frame philosophical questions about the literary, artistic, and philosophical movement that arose in the 20th century and

emphasized on the distinction between objective, scientific, and lived or experienced worlds.

4. The course will introduce students to the central tenets of postmodernism through the texts of scholars like Lyotard, Derrida, Deleuze and Guattari, Rorty, and Foucault.

Course Learning Outcome

After successful completion of this course, students would be able to:

1. Identify the philosophical underpinnings of postmodernism.
2. Define postmodernism in its various contexts, including as a school of philosophy, a time period, and an aesthetic movement.
3. Enable the students to critically examine, and have a comprehensive understanding of the importance of postmodern ideas for understanding knowledge, representation, progress, the political, the nature of language, and the claims of science

Unit 1: Introduction

4 Weeks, 12 Hrs

1. Critique of the Enlightenment Project
2. Postmodernism and its conditions
3. Entry into the postmodern age

Essential/Recommended reading:

Foucault, M. (1997). "What is Enlightenment?" in Paul Rabinow ed. *Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth*. New York: The New Press. pp. 303-319.

Lyotard, J. F. (1993). Answering the question: What is postmodernism? *Postmodernism: A Reader*, 38-46.

Jameson, F. (1991). Postmodernism, or the cultural logic of late capitalism. Chapter 1, Duke University Press.

Unit 2: 'Methods' of Postmodernism

5 weeks , 15 hrs

1. Deconstruction

2. Genealogy of Subject

3. Rhizomatic Thought

Essential/Recommended reading

Derrida, J. (1982). *Différance*. *Margins of Philosophy* (Trans. by Bass, A.), Chapter 1: *Différance*. The Harvester Press Limited, Sussex.

Foucault, M. (1982). The subject and Power. *Critical Inquiry*, 8(4), 777-795.

Felix, G., & Guattari, D. (1987). A thousand plateaus: Capitalism and schizophrenia. Trans. by Massumi, B.), Chapter 1: Introduction: Rhizome. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Unit 3: 'Truth' in Postmodernism

3 weeks, 9 hrs

1. Objectivity in Postmodernism

2. Critique of Truth in Postmodernism

Essential/ Recommended Readings

Rorty, R. (1985). Solidarity or objectivity. *Post-Analytic Philosophy*, 3, 5-6.

Dennett, D. C. (2000, February). Postmodernism and truth. In *The Proceedings of the Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy* (Vol. 8, pp. 93-103).

Unit 4: 'Reality' in Postmodernism

3 weeks, 9 hrs

1. Difference, Repetition and Reality

2. Hyper Reality

Essential/Recommended Readings

Deleuze, Gilles. 1994. *Difference and Repetition*, Trans. by Paul Patton. New York: Columbia University Press. Introduction (pp. 1-17).

Baudrillard, Jean. 1994. *Simulacra and Simulation*. Trans. by Sheila Faria Glaser. Michigan: The University of Michigan Press. *The Precision of Simulacra*, pp. 1-42.

Suggestive Readings

1. Butler, C. (2002). *Postmodernism: A Very Short Introduction* (Vol. 74). Oxford Paperbacks.
2. Derrida, J. (1982). Signature Event Context." *Glyph* 1: 172-97. 1977b. Limited Inc. abc..." *Glyph*, 2, 162-254.
3. Best, S., & Kellner, D. (1991). *Postmodern theory: Critical Interrogations*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
4. West, D. (2010). *Continental philosophy: An Introduction*. Polity.
5. Fuggle, S. (2012). Michel Foucault: Key Concepts. *French Studies: A Quarterly Review*, 66(2), 272-273.
6. Douglas-Jones, R. C., & Sariola, S. (2009). Rhizome yourself: experiencing Deleuze and Guattari from theory to practice. *Rhizomes.*, 19(Summer).
7. Sweetman, B. (1999). Postmodernism, Derrida, and Différance: A Critique. *International Philosophical Quarterly*, 39(1), 5-18.
8. Rorty, R., & Richard, R. (1989). *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity*. Cambridge University Press.
9. Nietzsche, F. (1873). "Truth and Lie in an Extra Moral Sense," *Fragment, 1873*: from the Nachlass. Compiled from translations by Walter Kaufmann and Daniel Breazeale. pp. 53-63.
10. Dumitrescu, V. M. (2001). Modernism, Postmodernism, and the Question of Identity. *Dialogos*, 2(3), 11-14.
11. Foucault, M. (1982). The subject and power. *Critical inquiry*, 8(4), 777-795.

Keywords

Difference, Deconstruction, Truth, Subject, Postmodernism, Rhizome, Objectivity, Identity