
ANG-7121 (LIT-7112): Postmodern American Literature

Course Description

This graduate seminar will examine the various manifestations of the “Postmodern condition” in the novels of some of the most important authors of American fiction after 1950. In particular, this seminar will study novels that question, challenge, revise and even parodies traditional notions of fiction, grand narratives, and accepted narratology. The novelists studied partake in a variety of literary dialogues with notions of hyperreality, entropy, time travel, historiographic reassessment, technology, trauma theory, and parody. To this end, Postmodern critics like Baudrillard, Foucault, Jameson, Barth, and many others will be studied to form the theoretical framework of the seminar.

Novels studied:

Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*
Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughter-House Five*
Octavia Butler, *Kindred*
Kathy Acker, *Don Quixote*
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony*
Don DeLillo, *White Noise*
Chuck Palahniuk, *Fight Club*