

Postmodern Cinema

Main objective of the class: Students will be familiar with postmodern features and techniques in films and will be able to discuss the representation of postmodern concerns in some major movies.

Date	Topic	Concern	Texts
18.10.07	Opinions, Questions, Interests		
25.10.	Sitzung fällt aus	•	•
01.11.	Postmodernism	• A skeptical briefing on postmodernism	• Christopher Butler, Excerpts from: <i>Postmodernism. A Very Short Introduction</i> (13-61)
08.11.	<i>The Truman Show</i>	• The role of media/ Foucault/ Religion/ Epistemology	
15.11.	<i>The Truman Show</i>	• Strategies of the movie	• Jennifer Hammett on the Postmodern Sublime
22.11.	Film Narratology/ Techniques	• Repetition	• Bordwell, <i>Narration in the Fiction Film</i> (3-47); Monaco, <i>How to read a film</i> (68-149)
29.11.	<i>American Beauty</i>	• The family and postmodern satire	
06.12.	<i>American Beauty</i>	• Machismo//Violence// Masculinity	• Tilman Höss on Machismo
13.12.	Film Noir // <i>Memento</i>	• Film Noir • Narrative Strategies in <i>Memento</i>	• Some excerpts from the internet • Karen Renner on Emotions, Memory and <i>Memento</i>
20.12.	<i>Memento</i>	• Trauma and <i>Memento</i>	• William G. Little and Peter Thomas on Trauma and <i>Memento</i>
10.01.08	<i>Fight Club</i>	• Consumerism/ Conspiracy Theory	• Stacy Thompson on Anti-Commercialism in <i>Fight Club</i>
17.01.	<i>Fight Club</i>	• Masculinity	• Lynn M. Ta on Violence and Capitalism in <i>Fight Club</i>
24.01.	<i>Fight Club</i>	• Filmic Techniques	• Jens Eder on Empathy/ Identification
31.01.	<i>Mulholland Drive</i>	• Story and Plot	• Todd McGowan on Fantasy and Desire
07.02.	<i>Mulholland Drive</i>	• Desire	• Franklin Ridgway, Jay R. Lentzner and Donald R. Ross on Freud and Lacan in <i>Mulholland Drive</i>
14.02.	<i>Mulholland Drive</i> and Conclusion	• The Lesbian in <i>Mulholland Drive</i>	• Heather K. Love on The Figure of the Lesbian

Course Requirements:

- Active Participation (No more than two unexcused missed sessions (or three in total))
- Organization of one session together with the instructor (in a group)
- Term paper or 30 min oral exam

The texts are collected in a reader available at Copyhaus (Georgenstraße/S-Bahn Bogen 190)