**30.478 Postmodernism and Beyond**

Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Dr. Reinhold Kramer

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**Course Description:** We will examine late 20th-century and early 21st-century literature and film, focusing on how artistic works and human Rune Guneriussen, “A multiverse explanation,” 2010

emotions respond to new media environments,

to scientific advances, and to a culture of simulation. Films could include Joel & Ethan Coen, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and Kaufman & Jonze, *Adaptation*. Fiction could include Stoppard, *The Real Inspector Hound*; Lem, *A Perfect Vacuum*; Wallace, “The Suffering Channel;” Shteyngart, *Super Sad True Love Story*; Powers, *Generosity*; and Egan, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*. Titles may change with little notice.

**\*All students, please go to** [**https://www.brandonu.ca/helpdesk/students/im-a-new-student/ms-teams-at-brandon-university/**](https://www.brandonu.ca/helpdesk/students/im-a-new-student/ms-teams-at-brandon-university/) **to get onboard with MS Teams. Contact the HelpDesk (**[**helpdesk@brandonu.ca**](mailto:helpdesk@brandonu.ca)**) if you have questions.**

**Assignments:** 1. Class Participation 10%

2. Reading Tests **25 Sept., 14 Oct., 28 Oct., 25 Nov.** 10%

3. Test **9 Oct.**  20%

4. Seminar presentation & response questions (various dates) 10%

5. Essay (10-12 pages)  **16 Nov. (later for Anderson or Powers)** 20%

6. Final Exam **15 December, 9-11 a.m.**  30%

There may be penalties for lateness, depending upon circumstances. Reading tests cannot be postponed, and missed tests cannot be rewritten without a doctor’s note or other documentation. Cite all sources for ideas and quotations. Assignments containing plagiarism will be graded “0” and will result in disciplinary action. Please read BU UndergraduateCalendar 3.14 “Academic Dishonesty.”

Students who require disability accommodations should register with the Accessibility Services Coordinator, 204-727-9759, [magnussonm@brandonu.ca](mailto:magnussonm@brandonu.ca). Student Services also offers personal counselling (contact 204-727-9737). If students find controversial readings and/or discussions troubling, please contact the instructor immediately about alternatives.

**Grading: Letter/Number/Grade Point**

Outstanding Good Satisfactory Weak Inadequate

A+ 90 & up 4.3 B+ 77-79 3.3 C+ 67-69 2.3 D 50-59 1.0 F 0-49 0

A 85-89 4.0 B 73-76 3.0 C 63-66 2.0

A- 80-84 3.7 B- 70-72 2.7 C- 60-62 1.7

**Texts:** Egan, Jennifer. *A Visit from the Goon Squad.*

Powers, Richard. *Generosity.*

Saunders, George. *Pastoralia.*

Shteyngart, Gary. *Super Sad True Love Story.*

Stoppard, Tom. *The Real Inspector Hound.*

**Tentative Schedule:**

To stream films, go to [brandonu.ca/](https://www.brandonu.ca/) 🡪 [John E. Robbins Library](https://www.brandonu.ca/library/) 🡪 [Databases](https://www.brandonu.ca/library/databases/)

🡪 [**ACF Streaming Video**](http://ezproxy.brandonu.ca/login?url=https://streaming.acf-film.com/audiocine) (*Adaptation*, *Royal Tenenbaums*)

Sept. 9 - 11 approaches to postmodernity

Sept. 14 - 16 Tom Stoppard, *The Real Inspector Hound* (1968)

Sept. 14 choose seminar topics & response

**Self-reflexive irony or post-irony?**

Sept. 18 - 23 Charlie Kaufman, *Adaptation* (2002) (1:50)

*Note:* ***18 Sept.*** *class will run from 1:40 - 3:30 in order to watch the whole film*

**Postmodern Culture and the Self**

Sept. 25 - Oct. 7 Gary Shteyngart, *Super Sad True Love Story* (2010)

Oct. 9 **Test**

Oct. 12 Thanksgiving (no class)

**Media Simulacra**

Oct. 14 - 26 Jennifer Egan, *A Visit from the Goon Squad* (2010)

critiques of postmodernity

**Postmodern Social Orders**

Oct. 28 - Nov. 6 George Saunders, "Pastoralia," "Winky," & "Sea Oak" in *Pastoralia* (2000)

Nov. 9 - 13 Study break

**Parody vs. Character**

Nov. 16 - 23 **Essay Due**

Wes Anderson, *The* *Royal Tenenbaums* (2001) (1:50)

*Note:* ***16 Nov.*** *class will run from 1:40 - 3:30 in order to watch the whole film*

**After Postmodernism?**

Nov. 25 - Dec. 7 Richard Powers, *Generosity* (2009)

Dec. 9 Review

**Dec. 15**  **Final Exam Tues., 9-11 a.m.**