

MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Introduction to Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
Week 8: Philosophy: The Modern World
Optional Reading
Nick Campion

The optional reading this week is extensive and one can investigate both commentaries on Modernism and Postmodernism (Best and Kellner, and Childs are the most straightforward introductions). I have not distinguished primary from secondary sources, because the distinction becomes a difficult one to establish in this area. Best and Kellner, and Childs, are clearly secondary sources, but some of the most important work is by academics who are actively promoting an ideological position, suspending their critical, academic faculties. The key theorists to watch out for are Jean François Lyotard, Zygmunt Bauman and Jurgen Habermas. Almost none of the suggested reading is related directly to our subject area. However, it can all be applied to our subject area.

Best, Steven and Douglas Kellner, *Postmodern Theory: Critical Interrogations*, London: MacMillan 1991, Chapter 1.
An excellent basic introduction

Caplan, Jane, 'Postmodernism, Poststructuralism, and Deconstruction: Notes for Historians'. *Central European History*, Vol. 22, No. 3/4, German Histories: Challenges in Theory, Practice, Technique (Sep. - Dec., 1989), pp. 260-278
JSTOR

The text is a little dense, but the issues raised are important ones.

Eco, Umberto, chap 1, 'Travels in Hypereality', in *Faith in Fakes: Travels in Hypereality*, London: Minerva 1995, pp. 1-58 (Chap 1).
The notion of the hypereal is one which may be applied to our subject area. Eco's writing is dense and obscure.

Ferlat, Anne, 'Pagan Movements in Russia: Postmodern Invention or Return to Tradition? A Comparison with Western Pagan Movements', PhD Thesis, University of the West of England, 2008, chap. 2

Hooper, Giles, 'A Popular Postmodern or a Postmodern Popular?', *International Review of the Aesthetics and Sociology of Music*, Vol. 43, No. 1 (JUNE 2012), pp. 187-207
JSTOR

The subject is popular music. There may be applications to popular astrology.

Pickett, Brent, 'Foucaultian Masks and Contested Interpretations', *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 50, No. 4 (Dec., 1997), pp. 919-937
JSTOR

Aesthetics, Play, and Cultural Memory: Giddens and Habermas on the Postmodern Challenge
Kenneth H. Tucker
Sociological Theory, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Jul., 1993), pp. 194-211
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Postmodernism and the Deconstruction of Modernism
Maurizio Ferraris and Anna Taraboletti Segre
Design Issues, Vol. 4, No. 1/2, Designing the Immaterial Society (1988), pp. 12-24

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Brügger, Niels 'What about the Postmodern? The Concept of the Postmodern in the Work of Lyotard', *Yale French Studies*, No. 99, Jean-Francois Lyotard: Time and Judgment (2001), pp. 77-92

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A very useful introduction to Lyotard.

Raymond Head, 'Holst – 'Astrology and Modernism in "The Planets"', *Tempo*, New Series, No. 187 (Dec., 1993), pp. 15-22

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The modernist composer Gustav Holst was a theosophist and astrologer. This combination of affiliations implicitly challenges to notion of astrology as postmodern.

Lechner, Norbert, 'A Disenchantment Called Postmodernism', *boundary 2*, Vol. 20, No. 3, The Postmodernism Debate in Latin America (Autumn, 1993), pp. 122-139.

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Lyotard, Jean François (2006), *Jean Francois Lyotard: Critical Evaluations in Cultural Theory*, Gregg Victor E. Taylor, Gregg Lambert (eds.).

GOOGLE BOOKS – SECTIONS AVAILABLE

Zagorin, Perez, (1999), "History, The Referent, and Narrative: Reflections on Postmodernism Now", *History and Theory*, Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 1-24.

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Other suggested Reading

Bauman, Zygmunt, *Intimations of Postmodernity*, London: Routledge, 1992, Introduction ('The re-enchantment of the world, or, how can one narrate Postmodernity?').

Belsey, Catherine, *Poststructuralism: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2002.

Budd, Martin, "Astrology and Linguistics", *Astrology*, 1981, vol. 55, no. 2, pp. 50-64.

Chandler, Daniel, Semiotics, *Introduction*, London: Routledge 2002.

Eagleton, Terry, *The Illusions of Postmodernism*, Oxford: Blackwell, Chap 1.

Ferguson, Harvey, *Modernity and Subjectivity: Body, Soul, Spirit*, London and Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press 2000, Introduction (pp. 1-19).

Gablik, Suzi, *Has Modernism Failed?*, London: Thames and Hudson, 2004, chap 8 (pp. 125-138)

Giddens, Anthony, *The Consequences of Modernity*, Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, 1990, chap 1 (pp. 1-54).

Harris, Marvin. "Anthropology and Postmodernism." *Science, Materialism, and the Study of Culture*. Gainesville, FL: University P of Florida, 1995. 62-77.

Jencks, Charles, 'The Post-Modern Agenda' in Charles Jencks (ed.), *The Post-Modern Reader*, London: Academy, 1992, pp. 10-39.

Latour, Bruno, *We Have Never Been Modern*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 2006 [1991], Chap 1.

Lyotard, Jean-François, *The Postmodern Condition*, Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1984.

Pippin, Robert B., *Modernism as a Philosophical Problem*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1991, chap 2.

Williams, Raymond, *The Politics of Modernism: Against the New Conformists*, London: Verso, 1989, chap 3 (49-63).

Rabinow, Paul, *The Foucault Reader*, London, Penguin, 1984.

Rabinow, Paul and Hubert L. Dreyfuss, *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*, Brighton, The Harvester Press, 1982.

Van Reijlin, Willem and Dick Veerman, "An Interview with Jean-François Lyotard", in *Theory, Culture and Society*, 1988, vol. 5, no. 2-3, pp. 277-309.

Said, Edward, *Orientalism*, rev. edn, London, Penguin, 2003.

Smith, Barbara Herrnstein, *Contingencies of Value: Alternative Perspectives for Critical Theory*, Cambridge MA, Harvard University Press, 1988.

Smith, Barbara Herrnstein, *Belief and Resistance: Dynamics of Contemporary Intellectual Controversy*, Cambridge MA, Harvard University Press, 1997.

Links

Postmodern Culture journal
<http://www3.iath.virginia.edu/pmc/>