

Postmodernism and Theology

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Spring 2022 Wed. 9:30-12:00pm

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Postmodernism has been exerting considerable influence upon contemporary theology. Modernism and postmodernism represent one of the most important discourses for developing a theological discourse and practice today. Some of the central assumptions of modernism are related to notions such as rationality, truth, subjectivity, and progress, whereas a central feature of postmodernism has been its critique of totality, reason, and universality. By asserting the primacy of the historical and contingent in the construction of reason, authority, truth, ethics, and identity, postmodernism provides a politics of representation and a basis for social struggle.

The questions that this course will address are:

- How one could tell the Christian story in a postmodern, pluralistic world;
- How one could theologically/philosophically address the postmodern world;
- How one could do postmodern theology.

This course is therefore for you to explore the philosophical/intellectual background of postmodernism, to articulate a critical perspective on postmodernism, and to examine the ways in which theologians and practitioners address issues of postmodernism and the theological issues in their thinking and practice.

COURSE PROCEDURES

In-class presentations, lectures and in-depth discussion of the issues

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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|-----------------------|-----------|
| Two-Minutes-Speech | 10 points |
| Reflection Paper | 20 points |
| <i>My Lexicon</i> | 10 points |
| Presentation | 20 points |
| Qualifying Exam Paper | 40 points |
- 4,000~5,000 words for M.Div/MTS/MACS;
 - 5,000~6,000 words for D.Min/Th.M/ Ph.D,
- *This requirement is subject to change depending on the size and pedagogical need of the class.*

COURSE TEXTS

- Caputo, John. What Would Jesus Deconstruct?: The Good News of Postmodernism for the Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic: 2007. ISBN 10:0801031362. \$20.00
- Griffin, David Ray, William A. Beardslee, Joe Holland, Varieties of Postmodern Theology. SUNY series in Constructive Postmodern Thought. New York: SUNY, 1989. ISBN-10: 0791400506. \$31.95
- Malpas, Simon, ed. Postmodern Debates. Readers in Cultural Criticism. New York: Palgrave, 2001. ISBN-10: 0333765362. \$46.95

COURSE TEXTS Available Online & Class Distribution

- Kang, Namsoon. "From Epistemology to Hermeneutics: Theological Implication of Postmodernism." Diasporic Feminist Theology. Fortress, 2014.
- Will Be Distributed in Class
- Kant, Immanuel. "An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?." 1784; New York: Penguin Books, 2009.
- Available Online.
- Nietzsche, Friedrich. The Anti-Christ. Trans. H. L. Mencken. Pantianos Classics, 2016.
- Available Online.