The University of Western Ontario
London   Ontario

Department of English

English 9058B

Winter, 2022.   Dr. Alison Lee
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Postmodernism(s) and the End of Everything (?)

Few cultural moments have met their deaths so frequently and as spectacularly as Postmodernism. Even a brief survey of criticism will discover that Postmodernism died with the election of Obama (2008), with the tragedy of 9/11 (2001), and with the death of JFK (1963). The 2009 Tate Triennial exhibition, "Altermodern

Week 3, January 25: Peter Ackroyd, *Hawksmoor*.
Supplementary:

exercises in which you engage the class in discussing a problem, issue or question in the text, directed by your insights.

2. 8-10 page write up of seminar: **20%**

Essentially, this will be a write-up of your seminar, due two weeks after you present it. The length is about that of a conference presentation. The seminar does not have to be all-inclusive, but should be an argument about a particular aspect of the text. Feel free to engage critical and/or theoretical works from the syllabus or from elsewhere.

3. Seminar on a supplementary text: **15%**

A 10-15 minute presentation on one of the supplementary readings for that week. If the supplementary reading is a long one, you may choose to focus on a part of it.

4. 15-20 page major paper: **35%.** Due April 20.

The topic is open as long as the paper explores some aspect of postmodernism/postmodernity. Feel free to choose a text which is not on the course, a film or a cultural phenomenon. You may choose to include the text upon which you presented your seminar, but you should also broaden the discussion to include other literary and supplementary texts.

5. Participation in class discussion: **10%**

NB: Late papers will be penalised 2% per day unless you have made prior arrangements with me. If there are medical reasons, please let me know. If you miss your seminar for reasons other than documented, medical or other tragedy you will not be able to make it up.