

**Course title:** Critical Thinking / Literary Thinking: Postmodernist Aesthetics

**Code:** MSA0931

**Type:** compulsory

**Level:** MA

**Year of Study:** 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Semester:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Number of ECTS credits allocated:** 6

**Name of the lecturer:** Dana Bădulescu

**Course objective:** Course of lectures given in English aimed at familiarizing students with the main characteristics and aesthetics of postmodernism, with examples from literature and the arts, focusing upon the importance of their iconoclastic, heterodox and playful spirit. The interactive approach is used with a view to improving the students' skills of debating and arguing coherently in English about various aspects of postmodernism.

**Course contents:** Informing students about the complex and problematic relation between modernism and postmodernism starting from the differences between the two paradigms as they appear in Ihab Hassan's schema. Some lectures will debate postmodernism as a reincorporation of modernism. Some other lectures will introduce the main characteristics and aesthetics of postmodernism, the philosophical and scientific bases of postmodernism, and the main trends in contemporary North American arts.

**Recommended reading:** Bădulescu, Dana, *PoMo Mosaics. PoMo City and PoMo Identities at the Crossroads*, with a preface by Thomas B. Byers, Demiurg Publishing House, Iași, 2004; Călinescu, Matei, *Cinci fețe ale modernității. Modernism, avangardă, decadență, kitsch, postmodernism*, București, Editura Univers, 1995; Foster, Hal (ed.), *The Anti-Aesthetic. Essays on Postmodern Culture*, Edited and with an Introduction by Hal Foster, The New Press, New York, 1998; Jameson, Frederic, *Postmodernism, or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*, Durham: Duke UP, 1991; Lucie-Smith, Edward, *Movements in Art since 1945*, London: Thames and Hudson, 2001

**Teaching methods:** lectures, interactive approaches

**Assessment:** (a) mid-term (written) test; (b) final (written) test

**Teaching language:** English