




Unit Information

UNIT CODE: AHT232

**Unit name: Postmodernism: Art, Architecture,
Culture and Theory**

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10 credit points

Internal

Class Times

Contact hour requirements for each week:

- 2 hours of lecture per week
- 1 hour of tutorial per week

Recommended private study commitments

A minimum of 6 hours per week private study is required.

Prerequisites/ Corequisites

Prerequisite: AHT231

Occupational Health & Safety

CDU occupational health and safety requirements apply.

Unit Purpose

This unit explores the history of visual art and architectural practices and theories associated with the discourses of 'postmodernism', in relation to the history of modernism, the sustained critiques of modernism in the 1970s, the pluralism of the 1980s and contemporary shifts of interest including 'post-colonialism'. This unit will selectively focus on and contextualise key developments in European, American and Australian visual art and architecture.

Rather than plot the genealogies of theory in detail, the unit will map out a broad outline of concepts, concerns and practices and provide some indication of the interdisciplinary scope in redefining the domain of contemporary culture. Of particular interest will be the instigation of change in visual cultures through innovations and revisions in architecture and notions of the city; the relationships between visual cultures from "high" and "low" domains, the restoration of 'historicism', the use of quotation and intertextuality, regionalism and postcolonial identities.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit students should be able to:

- identify the salient characteristics of postmodernism
- apply theoretical frameworks to engage with the conceptual concerns of postmodernist practices.
- make informed evaluations of the developments of postmodernism.

Learning Strategies/ Approach

Students will learn through a range of processes in this unit. Knowledge acquisition will take place through the lecture program. Students will then reflect upon, question and analyse that knowledge in the tutorial context. They will be expected to undertake critical reading and analysis of set readings and demonstrate their comprehension of that material in writing and develop their understanding in discussions in class. Essay writing will further build upon these skills and knowledge. In addition students will undertake group programs of investigation in which material gathered is presented to the class for discussion. This is a process requiring cooperation, skill in research, an ability to identify appropriate information, a capacity to synthesise this material and then organise appropriately to communicate to others. These learning processes, combining class delivered information; group discussions and self-directed investigation are structured to encourage the development of critical thinking and analysis alongside knowledge building.

Set Text

Postmodernism: Art, Architecture, Culture and Theory
prescribed readings.

Resources

The following resources are highly recommended:

Frampton, Kenneth (1982), *Modern Architecture: a critical history*, Thames & Hudson, London.

Harrison, C & Woods, P, (2001), *Art in theory, 1900-2000: an anthology of changing ideas*, Blackwell, Oxford.

Harrison, C & Woods, P. (1998), *Art in theory, 1815-1900: an anthology of changing ideas*, Blackwell, Oxford.

Jencks, Charles, (1992), *The Postmodern Reader*, St Martin's Press, London & New York.

Preziosi, Donald (1998), *The art of art history: a critical anthology*, OUP, Oxford.

Tschumi, B. (1944) *Architecture and disjunction*, MIT Press, Cambridge.

Additional reading lists will be distributed with assignment details.

Class Schedule

Week	Lecture	Tutorial
1	Back to the future: Postmodern visions. Lycia Trouton	Trouton
2	15 minutes of fame: Warhol & Pop! Lycia Trouton	Trouton
3	Viva Las Vegas! Venturi's vernacular. Marianne Dyason	Trouton
4	The new historicism: Louis Kahn Marianne Dyason	Trouton
5	Feminism in art: Ambiguity and the Female Nude Lycia Trouton	Trouton
6	Film: Blade Runner TBA	Trouton
7	Body works: performance art. Lycia Trouton	Trouton
8	Architecture Deconstructivism Marianne Dyason	Trouton
9	Fashion & Street Culture Lycia Trouton	Trouton
10	Regionalism. Lycia Trouton	Trouton
11	Postmodernism: Minimalism and Conceptualism in Music Guest: Adrian Walter, Senior Lecturer, Head of School	Trouton

12	Postmodernism in the Tropics Marianne Dyason	Trouton
13	Back to the Future? Lycia Trouton	Trouton

Assessment

Overview

The unit consists of the following assessable tasks:

Assessment item	Focus	Value	Length	Due date
Assignment 1	Critical response to Readings 1 + 2 + 3	20%	1000 words	Wednesday, week 5
Assignment 2	Critical response to Readings 4 + 5 + 6	20%	1000 words	Wednesday, Week 8
Assignment 3	Class presentation (group)	20%	25 minutes	TBA
Assignment 4	Abstract	10%	250 words	Wednesday Week 6
Assignment 5	Essay	30%	3000 words	Monday, Week 14

Assessment information

All tasks must be successfully completed to pass the unit

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is described as a process that allows a person to receive formal recognition for the skills and knowledge they have, no matter how, when and where they were attained. This usually includes skills and knowledge obtained from work and life experiences, although skills and knowledge obtained through credentialed learning may contribute to the RPL assessment process. Please see your Course Coordinator to discuss your eligibility to apply for RPL.

Credit Transfer

Credit Transfer is defined as the process of evaluating the components of one qualification for the purpose of determining the overlap/equivalence with the components of another qualification to establish formal credits, within that qualification, for individuals. Please see your Course Coordinator to discuss your eligibility to apply for credit transfer.

Delivery and submission

This unit is delivered on-campus; work should be submitted to the lecturer.

Extensions and late submission

Extensions will only be granted in extreme circumstances and requests must be made in writing and supported by appropriate documentation, such as medical certificates.

Resubmission

Resubmission is at the discretion of the lecturer.

University Plagiarism policy

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of material written or produced by others or a rework of your own material. All sources of information and ideas used in assignments must be referenced. This applies whether the information is from a book, journal article, the internet, or a previous essay you wrote or the assignment of a friend.

Plagiarism policy is available at:

http://mindil.ntu.edu.au/ntu/apps/ntuinfo.nsf/WWWView/Policy_170

Exams

Exam rules are available at <http://www.ntu.edu.au/scs/pdf/examinationrules.pdf>

Assessment 1 + 2:

Critical response to lectures + class readings. Weeks 1,2,3 & Weeks 4,5,6.

Due date: Wednesday, Week 5 and Wednesday week 7.

Length: 1000 words

Value: 20% each (2 x 20% = 40% of assessment)

Task	<p>To encourage participation during tutorial time, gain a deeper understanding of the lecture material and develop critical thinking, students will be required to write an informed critical response to the lectures and set readings. The critical responses are to be concise summaries addressing the lectures and readings <i>in your own words</i>. Students need to read the set readings critically identifying the salient points of the readings and evaluating arguments. Your comments should demonstrate an informed, thoughtful and evaluative response to the material encountered in the lectures and in the readings. You are, however, encouraged to think and read outside of the parameters introduced in the classroom!</p>
Preparation	<p>Students need to attend lectures and read the set readings critically, identifying the salient points of the reading and evaluating arguments. Set questions will guide the focus of their response, which should be presented in essay form (not question by question).</p>
Presentation	<p>The assignment should be typed in no less than 12pt font. Double spacing is preferred. The pages should be stapled together.</p>
Assessment Criteria	<p>Assessment will be based upon the student's appropriate, informed response to the lectures and set text. Their response should demonstrate their comprehension of both lectures and text. Their writing should be clearly constructed, grammatically correct and demonstrate understanding of any specific terminology. Students are encouraged to refer to additional material outside of the set text and any such references must be correctly documented. The assignment should demonstrate the student's integration of information gained from the lectures, the reading and class discussions, as well as their own additional investigation.</p>

Assessment 3: Group class presentation

Due date: TBA

Length: 25 minute presentation + one page handout

Value: 20%

Task

Working in pairs students are required to investigate a given topic for presentation to the class for discussion. Topics will be distributed in week 1 and students will nominate themselves for a topic and a time to do their presentation. Students will be expected to investigate their topic, gather information, synthesise that information and then present that material to the class in an interesting, informative manner. The presentation must contain accurate and appropriate information, be clearly structured and easy to follow, informative and interesting.

Preparation

Students will need to work collaboratively with their partner and ensure an equal division of tasks, which will include library and internet research.

Presentation

This is an oral presentation, but students are also required to produce a one page handout for the class which itemises the key points of their presentation. The oral presentation can include slides, powerpoint presentation, video or other visual material. However, video components should not comprise more than 5 minutes of allocated time, unless by prior arrangement with the lecturers.

Assessment Criteria

The presentation will be assessed on the following:

- Demonstrated investigation of the topic;
- Demonstrated planning of presentation and clarity of presentation;
- Evidence of identification and considered analysis of issues;

Assessment 5: Essay

Due date: Monday, Week 14

Length: 3,000 words

Value: 30%

Task	<p>Students are to select a topic in art/architecture/design that relates to discourse on postmodernism, develop appropriate questions research the topic and produce a properly referenced 3000 word essay, including relevant images.</p> <p>The chosen topic may be an individual architect/artist, a design movement or a theme. The primary task is to explore the way art and design fits within a cultural context. Simple factual material will be insufficient.</p> <p>Students may elect to expand on a topic addressed in the lecture series or one of the questions prepared by the Tutor.</p>
Preparation	<p>Students will prepare themselves for this task by attending all lectures and tutorials as well as undertaking readings as directed. Additional bibliographies detailing material relevant to the topic of their essay will be distributed in class.</p>
Presentation	<p>Essays should be typed, with no less than size 12pt font, single-spacing, single-sided, with all pages firmly stapled together.</p> <p>Students must keep a copy of all material presented for assessment.</p>

Assessment 4: Abstract

Due date: Wednesday, Week 6

Length: 250 words

Value: 10%

Task	To ensure the student has a grasp of the topic, located appropriate reference material and has chosen an appropriate subject matter for the final paper, a proposal not exceeding 250 words should be submitted to the Tutor
Preparation	Students will prepare themselves for this task by attending all lectures and tutorials as well as undertaking readings as directed. Additional bibliographies detailing material relevant to the topic of their essay will be distributed in class.