

The Postmodern American Novel

Teacher Seminar, 02 February 2010

Speaker: Dr. Sascha Pöhlmann, LMU

Organizer Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, B.A.Z. Amerika-Haus

This seminar presents the major developments in 20th-century American fiction that are conventionally summarized under the label of postmodernism, starting roughly in the 1950s until today. Using selected passages from theoretical texts as well as novels, we will take a look at the social, political and cultural conditions of fictional production and reception while analyzing important narrative techniques. The novels to be discussed include, but are not limited to, the following: Don DeLillo, *White Noise*; Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*; Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*; Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*; Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five*; Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*; Art Spiegelman, *Maus*; Philip K. Dick, *The Man in the High Castle*; Karen Tei Yamashita, *Through the Arc of the Rainforest*; Colson Whitehead, *Apex Hides the Hurt*.

9:00: The context of postmodernism

9:45: Postmodern writing, the death of the author (and the subject), and the crisis of representation

10:30: Coffee break

11:00: A multiplicity of voices: identity, history and politics

11:45: Varieties of postmodernism, or: Where do we go from here?

13:00: End