

## Critical Theory

1. 履修条件・注意事項 = Requirements for registration

Good English and an interest in discussion.

2. 授業の目的 = Course purpose

Through critical theory, this course investigates the cultural, political and philosophical implications of globalization. It provides an opportunity to engage in serious critical reflection on questions of progress, multiculturalism, and authority. Although literature is the main focus we will also explore these critical concepts and approaches through other media. In addition, over the course of the semester, students will undertake a close reading of *The Crying of Lot 49* by Thomas Pynchon (1965). At the end of this course, students will have a thorough understanding of multiple approaches to critical theory, and experience of close reading a multitude of texts.

3. 授業の内容・方法 = Content

1. Introduction
2. Walter Benjamin, 'The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction' (1936).
3. Edward Said, 'Orientalism' (1977) (extracts).
4. Vijay Mishra, "What was Multiculturalism?" (2005).
5. Jean-François Lyotard, 'The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge' (1979) (extracts).
6. Frederic Jameson, 'Postmodernism, or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capital' (1989) (extracts).
7. Joseph Tabbi, 'Postmodern Sublime' (1995) (extracts).
8. Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author" (1967).
9. Michel Foucault, "What Is an Author?" (1969).
10. J.M. Coetzee, 'Diary of a Bad Year' (2007) (extracts).
11. Jacques Derrida, 'Archive Fever' (1995) and 'Writing and Difference' (1967) (extracts).
12. Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, 'A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia' (1987) (extracts).
13. Jean Baudrillard, 'Simulacra and Simulation' (1981) (extracts).
14. Alan Kirby, 'Digimodernism' (2009) (extracts).
15. Jussi Parikka, 'A Geology of Media' (2015) (extracts) and Conclusion.

4. 教科書・テキスト = Textbooks

*The Crying of Lot 49* by Thomas Pynchon, Vintage Classics, ISBN-10 : 0099532611  
ISBN-13 : 978-0099532613, JPY 873.

All other readings will be provided.

5. 参考書 = References

For further reading (note: this is not compulsory reading):

Connor, S. (Ed.). (2004). 'The Cambridge Companion to Postmodernism' (Cambridge Companions to Literature). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

受講生の自宅学習 = Preparation and Review

Students are advised to acquaint themselves with the set texts.

#### 6. 成績評価の方法と基準 = Evaluation

Assessment will be via a presentation where students lead discussion (worth 20%) and two written assignments – a series of short answer responses (worth 30%) and a final comparative essay (worth 40%). An additional 10% is awarded for participation in class discussion. Students are expected to write using correct English, and display a deep knowledge of and ability to apply the critical theory covered in class.

#### 8. 連絡方法 = Contact information

If you have any questions please email Dr. David Thomas Henry Wright (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Humanities, Nagoya University) at [davidthwright@gmail.com](mailto:davidthwright@gmail.com). This outline may be subject to change.