

Anne Balsamo

Undergraduate Course: Quarter System

Literature in the Age of Postmodern Science

Required Texts:

Andrew Ross, *Strange Weather: Culture, Science, and Technology in the Age of Limits*

Larry McCaffrey, ed. *Storming the Reality Studio: A casebook of cyberpunk and postmodern fiction*

Readings on reserve at the library

Required Films:

Monday evenings, 7:00 pm Architecture Auditorium

Bladerunner (Scott, 1982)

Repo Man (Cox, 1984)

Brazil (Gilliam, 1985)

Videodrome (Cronenberg, 1983)

2 films/videos of your choice

General Course Requirements:

--Attendance: more than three absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade.

--Participation in class discussions.

--Attendance at the evening film screenings.

--Background reading.

--All written work must be completed on time to receive credit for the course.

Grade Requirements:

Two Take Home Exams 60%

Final Exam 30%

Attendance/Participation 10%

Week/Topics

READ/FILM

Week 1	Introduction	Visual Grammar
Week 2 Jan 11	Postmodern: Theories of deconstruction appropriation pastiche Postmodern Science Ideology/Aesthetics/Contexts	<u>Bladerunner</u> Derrida, 194 Jameson, 219 Lyotard, 259 Ross, Introduction Gibson, 65
Week 3 Jan 18	Post-futurism New Wave Science Fiction cyberpunk sci-fi postmodern fiction zines	Film of Choice Ross, "Boystown" Csicsery-Ronay, 182 McHale, 308 Hollinger, 203
Week 4 Jan 25	Paper #1 Due	
Week 5 Feb 1	Identity, alienation, & the "other" aliens r us: History of SF films robots/replicants/cyborgs cyberpunks Anti-Oedipus: Subjectivity and Affect	<u>Repo Man</u> Ross, "Kinder, Gentler" Baudrillard, 178 Leary, 245
Week 6 Feb 8	The Body/Machine Interface Bioengineering mutations virtual reality technologies of gender	Film of Choice McCaffrey interview, 263 Rucker, 125 Balsamo, "Virtual Body"
Week 7 Feb 15	The Matrix computer communication networks hackers/crackers electronic freedom economies of meaning: Language is a virus	<u>Brazil</u> Ross, "Hacking Away" Sterling, "Hacker Crackdown"
Week 8 Feb 22	Paper #2 Due	
Week 9 Mar 1	Simulations The disappearance of the real The Media Sensorium synners video as an art form media literacy	<u>Videodrome</u> DeLillo, 63 Kroker/Cook, 227 Cadigan, 48 Baudrillard selection
Week 10 Mar 8	Post-Apocalyptic Culture Nomads/Poachers ecological systems	Film Choice <u>Bolo</u> , <u>Bolo</u> selection Ross, "Drought"

