

**AM 340:51**  
**Fall 2005**  
**Tue 3:00-4:30**

**Postmodern Fiction**  
**Enikő Bollobás**  
**ADs 238**

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**Description**

This elective course offers an overview of postmodern American fiction in its diversity. Reading one novel a week from John Barth, John Hawkes, Maxine Hong Kingston, Marge Piercy, Leslie Marmon Silko, Raymond Federman, Paul Auster, Joyce Carol Oates, Octavia Butler, Michael Cunningham, Toni Morrison, and Philip Roth, we will identify them as representative texts of postmodernism – “high postmodernism,” surfiction, metafiction, feminist, ethnic, multicultural fiction, science fiction etc. Over the semester, we will investigate the major claims of postmodernism, both in terms of theory and technique.

**Course requirements:**

- (i) reading assignments (all students must read one novel/week),
- (ii) class participation,
- (iii) one presentation (ca. 10-15 minutes to introduce the novel and the novelist, to identify the main issues raised in the novel),
- (iv) in-class final test covering all the texts.

**Texts**

We have five copies of most of the novels in SEAS Library. For unavailable text, reading Hungarian translations is acceptable too. (See syllabus for translations.) For a critical survey of postmodernism in American fiction and critical readings of most of the novels, see: Bollobás Enikő, *Az amerikai irodalom története* (Budapest: Osiris, 2005).

**Absences**

General ELTE regulations apply: you can miss three classes without consequences. However, you must come to class prepared. Not reading the assigned texts of the day counts as absence.

**Assessment:** class participation+presentation 60%, final test 40%

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**Syllabus**

September 6 Orientation

September 13 John Barth, *The End of the Road* (1958) (*Az út vége*)

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September 20 John Hawkes, *Travesty* (1976)

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September 27 Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior* (1976)

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October 4 Marge Piercy, *Woman on the Edge of Time* (1976)

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October 11 Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony* (1977)

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October 18 Raymond Federman, *Smiles on Washington Square* (1985)  
(*Mosolyregény*)

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October 25 Paul Auster, *The New York Trilogy* (1986) (*New York trilógia*)

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November 1 Fall break (no class)

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November 8 Joyce Carol Oates, *Black Water* (1992)

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November 15 Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower* (1993)

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November 22 Toni Morrison, *Paradise* (1998) (*Paradicsom*)

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November 29 Philip Roth, *The Dying Animal* (2001)

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December 6 **IN-CLASS FINAL TEST**

December 13 Wrapping up