

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page xi
<i>Preface: reading postmodern fiction</i>	xiii
Introduction: postmodernism and postmodernity	1
Postmodernity and ‘late capitalism’	3
Baudrillard and simulation	4
Poststructuralism, postmodernism, and ‘the real’	6
Sociology and the construction of reality	8
Jameson and the crisis in historicity	9
Lyotard and the decline of the metanarrative	11
Irony and ‘double-coding’	12
Chapter 1 Postmodern fiction: theory and practice	17
An incredulity towards realism	17
What postmodern fiction does	30
How to read postmodern fiction	39
Chapter 2 Early postmodern fiction: Beckett, Borges, and Burroughs	50
Samuel Beckett	52
Jorge Luis Borges	58
William Burroughs	65

Chapter 3 US metafiction: Coover, Barth, Nabokov, Vonnegut, Pynchon	72
Barth's <i>Funhouse</i> and Coover's <i>Descants</i>	75
Vladimir Nabokov, <i>Pale Fire</i>	82
Kurt Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i>	86
Thomas Pynchon	89
Chapter 4 The postmodern historical novel: Fowles, Barnes, Swift	99
Historiographic metafiction	103
British historiographic metafiction	105
John Fowles, <i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i>	106
Graham Swift, <i>Waterland</i>	112
Julian Barnes, <i>Flaubert's Parrot</i>	116
Chapter 5 Postmodern-postcolonial fiction	121
Salman Rushdie, <i>Midnight's Children</i>	124
Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i>	127
Ishmael Reed, <i>Mumbo Jumbo</i>	133
Chapter 6 Postmodern fiction by women: Carter, Atwood, Acker	140
Angela Carter	142
Margaret Atwood	148
Kathy Acker	156
Chapter 7 Two postmodern genres: cyberpunk and 'metaphysical' detective fiction	164
Sci-fi and cyberpunk	164
William Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i>	167
Detective fiction	171
Jorge Luis Borges, 'Death and the Compass'	173
Umberto Eco, <i>The Name of the Rose</i>	175
Paul Auster, <i>City of Glass</i>	178

Chapter 8 Fiction of the 'postmodern condition': Ballard, DeLillo, Ellis	184
Conclusion: 'ficto-criticism'	184
J. G. Ballard, <i>Crash</i>	186
Don DeLillo, <i>White Noise</i> and <i>Libra</i>	191
Bret Easton Ellis, <i>American Psycho</i>	197
<i>References</i>	205
<i>Index</i>	215