

POSTMODERNISM

Examines aspects of the human condition

Features of Contemporary Society
 Construction of own truths
 Education as little more than a sick joke

Key Concepts

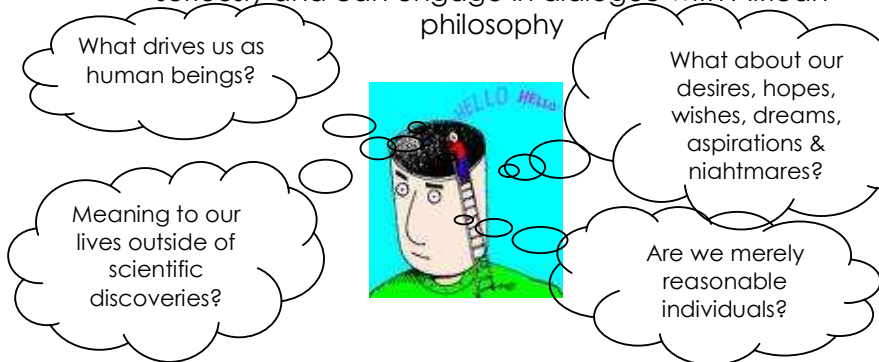
Truth & Safety
 Against grand narratives
 Linguistics
 Critique of reason
 Imagery & Symbolism
 Need to silence dominant voices

Main Proponents

Jacques Derrida
 Michel Foucault
 Jean Baudrillard
 Jacques Lacan

A response to the bewildering world of
 Technology & virtual reality

A Western philosophy, but takes human condition seriously and can engage in dialogue with African philosophy



Method of Enquiry:

A philosophical mode of enquiry

Connection to other methods of enquiry:

- Phenomenology – *Who are we?*
- Hermeneutics – *believes symbols count*
- Empiricism – *What is actually going on?*
- Some forms of Feminism – *Who says the male is the 'norm'?*

Raises important questions & challenges our faith in modernism

Does not believe in definitions/labels

Invites us to rethink our belief in science and scientific progress

Sheds light on what it means to be human – including all the trivial!

Rethinking our world author asks:

Who defines "real" philosophy and intellectual endeavour from something that is bogus?

Disquieting findings are:

- Some philosophers have derided the theory.
- Questioning postmodernists' academic jargon suitable and adequate.
- Notoriously difficult philosophy and time consumer to understand
- Doesn't aid in problem solving
- Self-proclaimed frivolousness not helping with serious threats from eg religious terrorism and political fanaticism.
- Science no longer seen as an enemy of art or poetry, however it is of traditional forms of institutionalised religion.
- Important to remember that one postmodernist claimed to be an empiricist – Michael Foucault

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It re-assesses the quality of our lives • Resists pressure to be workaholics • Leads to more creative energy • Questions claims of rigid morality • Encourages freer lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May encourage negative attitudes • May encourage destructive behaviour eg drug dependency • Does not provide alternatives to science • Discourages disciplined effort • Leads to despair • Is elitist & inaccessible

Remember to know definition of Modernism as this is a response to it!

To ignore Postmodernism then we are ignoring what our world is. These who ignore tend to be rather closed people with rigid value systems they aren't prepare to question. Such people can be faced with sudden catastrophe and find they're ill equipped to cope

Modernism:
 Science, reason & Technology will fix it all! 1940's & 50's