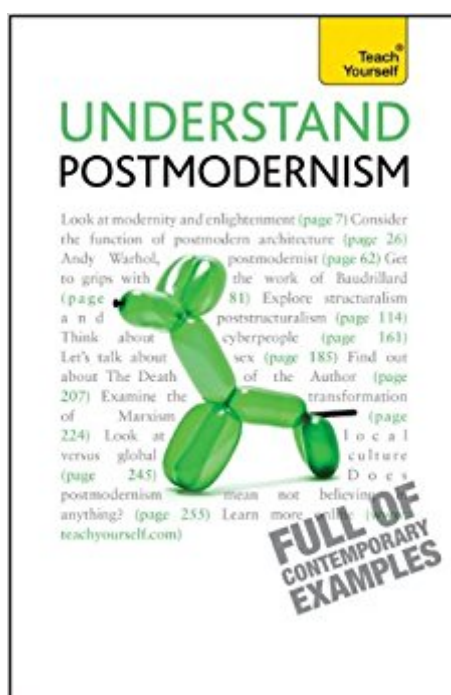


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# Understand Postmodernism: A Teach Yourself Guide (Teach Yourself: General Reference)



## Synopsis

More than 60 million books sold in the Teach Yourself series! Learn to understand and appreciate postmodernism. *Understand Postmodernism* is an indispensable guide to this sometimes challenging domain. Using contemporary examples to further understanding, it takes a broad look at theorists in a range of disciplines. Whether encountering postmodernism for the first time or needing a quick reference to support your studies, this guide offers readers a comprehensive introduction to the key ideas in this thought-provoking philosophy. Includes: An introduction as wide a range of ideas, thinkers and views as possible without losing focus. Many examples to help when encountering the theories involved. One, five and ten-minute introductions to key principles to get you started. Lots of instant help with common problems and quick tips for success, based on the authors' many years of experience. Tests in the book and online to keep track of your progress. Quick refreshers to help you remember the key facts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Glenn Ward lectures in visual culture at the University of the West of England.

I really like how this book presents its information. It's a tough subject for me and I can only read a few pages at a time, but it's great food for thought. I'm highlighting the heck out of the thing on my Kindle.

It took a while to receive, but the book is in just as good shape as if I'd bought it brand new from a store in town, but a lot less expensive, which is great since it is a required reading for my class. Thanks again!

gibberish. It's a cut and paste of nonsense. And if it isn't? Then philosophy is in deep trouble.

I'm still not sure if postmodernism is a social condition, a cultural experience, or an abstract idea. It's possibly all three. Perhaps it's something else. But let's not worry about that right now. What I do know, for sure, is this introductory book packs one hell of a punch: it's just full of eye-opening, thought-provoking ideas, all, thankfully, concisely and cogently expressed. This stuff's intellectual heroin; it may well blow your mind. Don't say you haven't been warned. Really, if you've ever had the feeling (however dimly) that we're living in "new times" (epochal change "new times") - that is, consciousness, culture, and the organisation of society are not what they used to be - then this is likely to be the "postmodern condition" you've encountered. Further, if you, like me, have a mind that's just a bit relativistic, then you may well be a natural to all this. You've got the gene, as they say. Congratulations. This book's the baby, then; it'll give your thoughts some definition, a home. Seriously, if you're interested in learning about essentialism, anti-essentialism, deconstruction, discourse, post-structuralism, hyper-reality, incommensurability, language games, semiotics, death of the author, post-humanism, metaphysics of presence, social constructivism, sexualities, cyberpunk, cyberfeminism, incredulity towards metanarratives, society as spectacle, "high" and "low" culture, Madonna's multiple identity, death of the real, intertextuality, knowingness, the anthropology of non-places, micro-political subversion, centrism, Warhol's hybridity, boundary blurring, the poetics of place, bricolage, simulation, AND A WHOLE LOT MORE, then this wide-ranging book's for you. Most definitely. Honestly, a thoroughly outstanding starting point. I can't praise it enough. Well done, Mr Ward. (Someone, please, give the teacher an apple.)

This is a superb overview of postmodernism. From its beginnings as a criticism of modern architecture, to its application to all other forms of art, and to, finally, culture and society, postmodernism has permeated all aspects of life in the Western world. Author Glenn Ward, who, at the time of this writing, is working on his PhD in Film Studies, has done an excellent job of presenting the ideas behind postmodernism in a historical format. He reviews the major players in great detail, and clearly and concisely explains the thrust of their ideas. Every chapter has an ending

summary of the most important points. There are numerous references to books that go into more detail regarding particular points of postmodernism. The book ends with a Timeline, a Glossary of important, relevant terms, and an Index. Mr. Ward is not an apologist for postmodernism. He calls a spade a spade, and is more than diligent in pointing out the blemishes, failures and contradictions that critics have noted about postmodernism. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, and have already set my sights on coming back to it again. The main idea of postmodernism can be summed up in one sentence: "All viewpoints are valid." Read this book and get the best view of postmodernism currently in print. John V. Karavitis

Incredible book on this broad cultural movement, don't be fooled by the title this isn't a 'X for dummies' book, it reads like a textbook while still being accessible. Really opened my eyes to a lot of ideas on the world happening around me.

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