

**POLITICAL  
COMICS  
AND  
GRAPHIC  
NOVELS**

COMIC BOOK STUDIES  
AND POLITICAL  
SCIENCE

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# STUDYING COMICS

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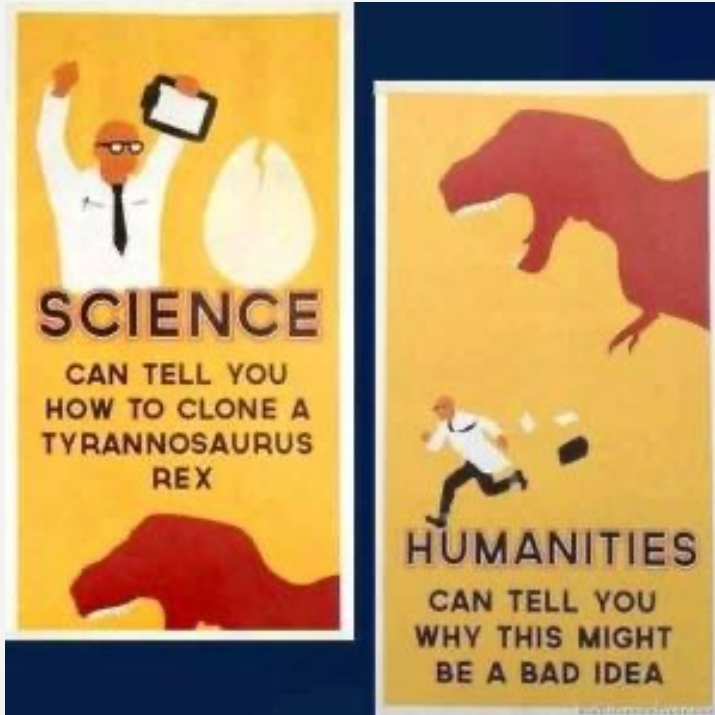
- how to study comic books and graphic novels?
- politics and the world of comic books
- political fiction
- comics and ideology
- political science and graphic narratives
- political education

# COMIC BOOKS STUDIES

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- variety of methodological approaches
- interpretative approaches: hermeneutics i  
poststructuralism / postmodernism
- discourse analysis
- qualitative and quantitative methods

# COMIC BOOK STUDIES



- discipline or a field of studies
- interdisciplinary approach
- „soft science“

# INTERPRETATIVE APPROACH

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- search for meanings
- analysis of ideas, beliefs and discourses
- perspectives:
  - hermeneutics
  - postmodernism

# INTERPRETATIVE APPROACH

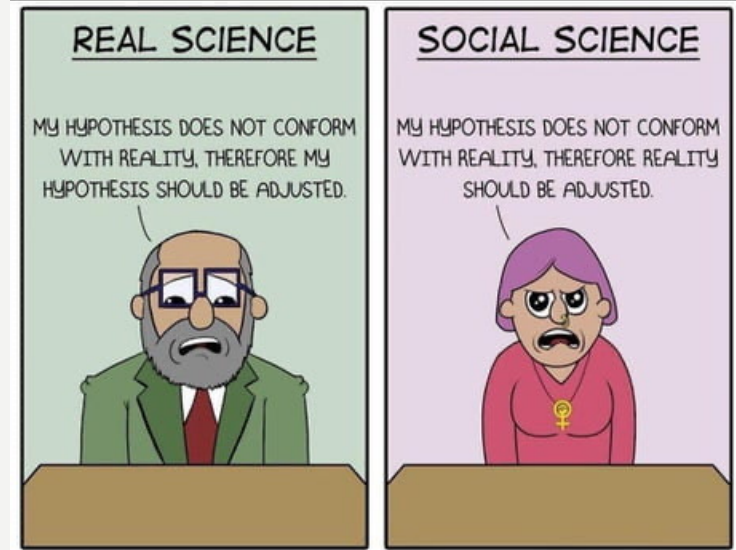
## PRESUMPTIONS

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- human actions/activities = based of human beliefs and preferences
- they cannot be derived from objective/obvious facts

# INTERPRETATIVE APPROACH

- politics = conflicted /competing narratives
- impermanence of results
- understanding (*what it means?*)
- different epistemologies
- practice: ironic commentary



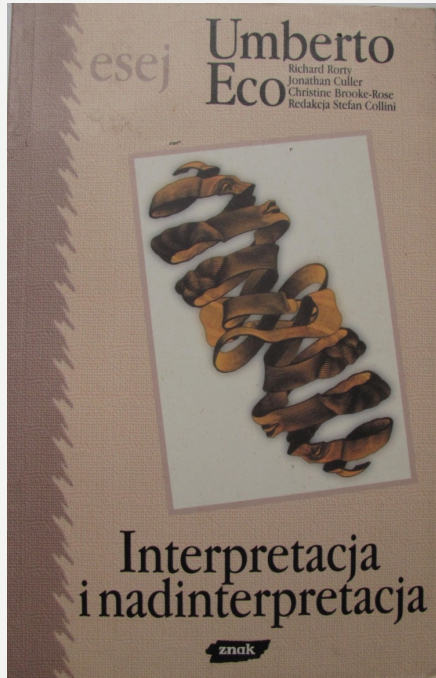
# HERMENEUTICS

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- interpretation of texts and actions
- similarities with history of ideas
- understanding rooted in tradition
- reconstruction of the web of meanings („thick description“)
- fluidity of results, permanent discourse



# INTERPRETATION



- rules
- spectrum of reader's freedom
- risk of overinterpretation
- falsifiability of interpretation
- structure's intentionality: author's, readers', work's

# AUTHORIAL INTENT INTENTIONAL FALLACY

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- author's intentions = limits of interpretation
- intentional fallacy = risk of misunderstanding of a text
- importance of the plain text

# NEW HISTORICISM

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- text should be read in the social and cultural as well as political context
- *do not accept autonomous contents of a text, rather relating contents to other parallelly produced cultural forms (memoirs, diaries, anecdotes, fashion etc.), to the context of other codes of an era, its institutions and customs, so that question can be asked on ideological problems of literature, eg. its class identity, race and gender determination etc. according to the belief that 'thought has its own history'*

# INTERTEXTUALITY

- Charles Bazerman: *the relation each text has to texts surrounding it*
- pre-existing texts have impact on any text ever created:
  - direct quotations
  - indirect allusions
  - language similarities
  - similar style of communications



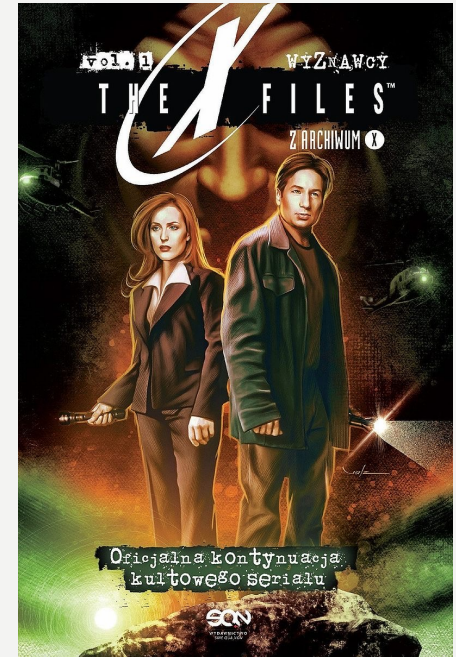
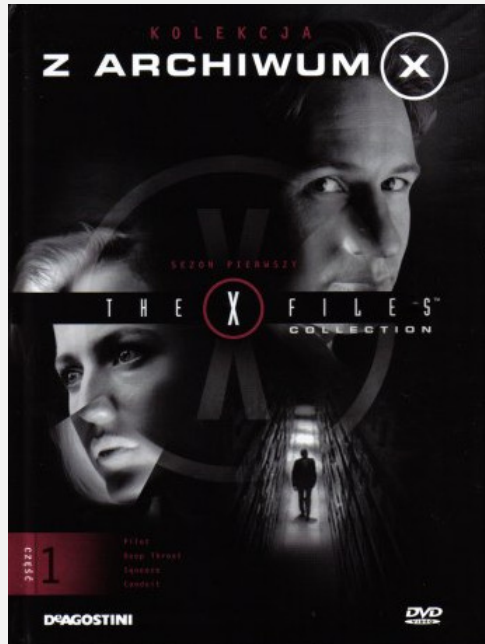
# INTERTEXTUALITY

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- *stylish way of talking about allusion and influence (William Irwin)*
- important: the way text is used

# TRANSMEDIA STORYTELLING



# POSTMODERNISM



# POSTMODERNISM

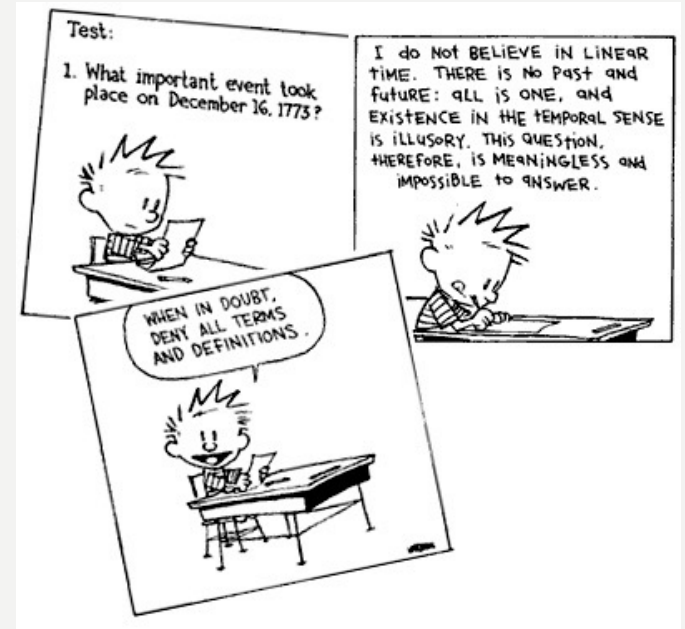


- ?
- critical approach tradition and modernism
- new ways to describe the world

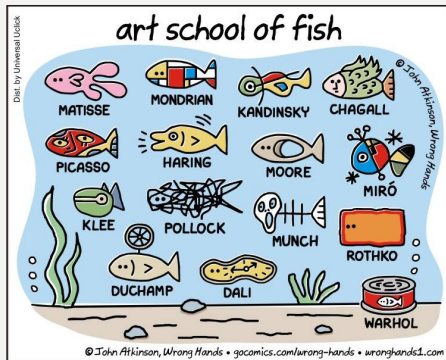
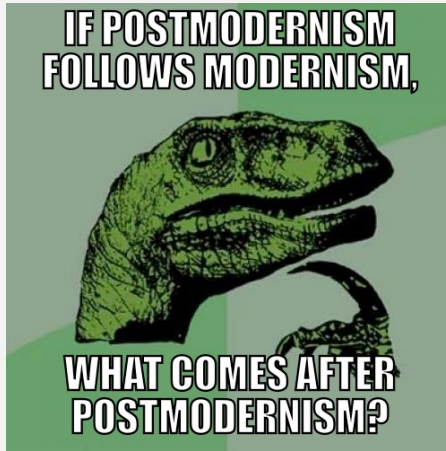


# POSTMODERNISM

- epistemological agnosticism (it is not possible to present /reconstruct objective reality )
- axiological nihilism (no objective meaning)



# POSTMODERNISM



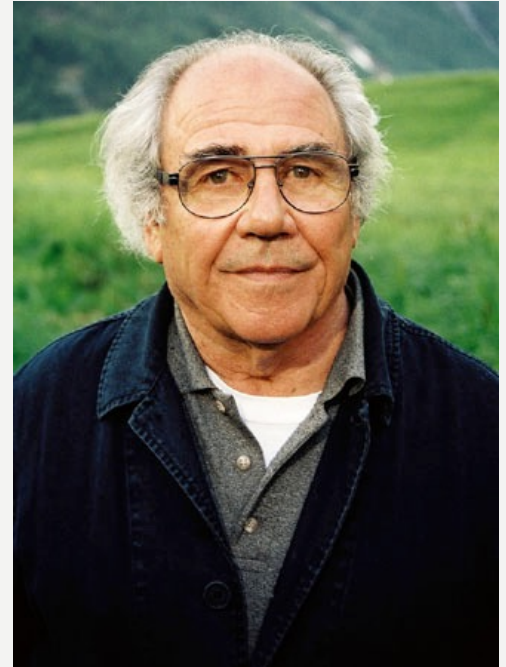
- social structures = conventional
- subjectivity of truth (no objective truth)
- relativism
- denial of the fundamentals of European civilisation

# POSTMODERNISM

## SIMULACRUM

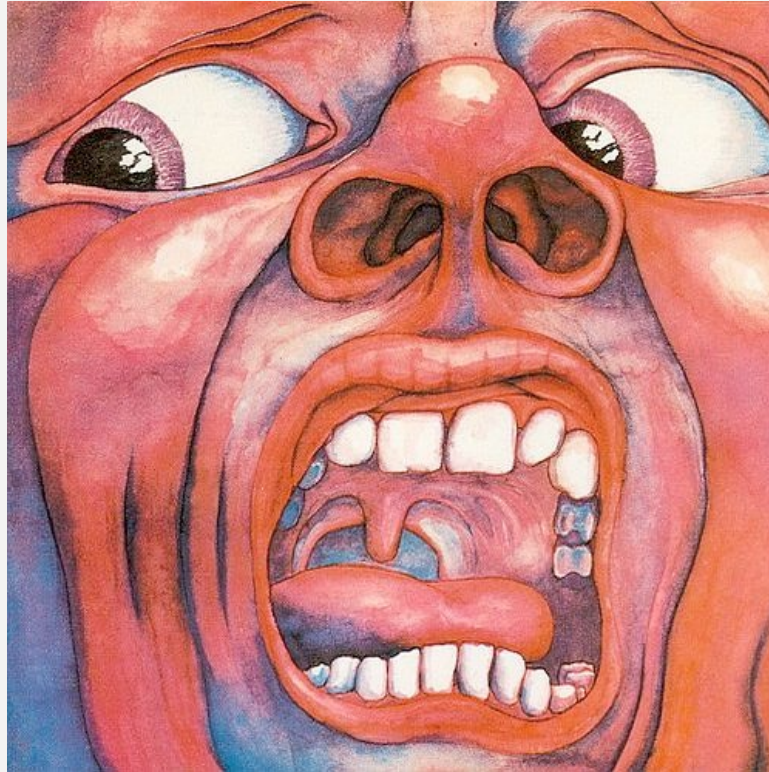
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- representation or imitation
- „copy without original“
- original transferred to the sphere of signs
- existence without the possibility of reference to the real one
- virtuality of existence



# POSTMODERNISM

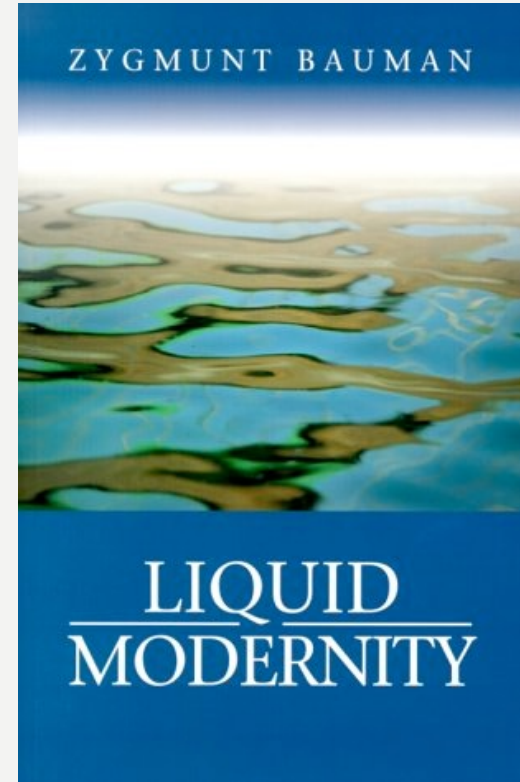
SCHIZOID



# LIQUID MODERNITY

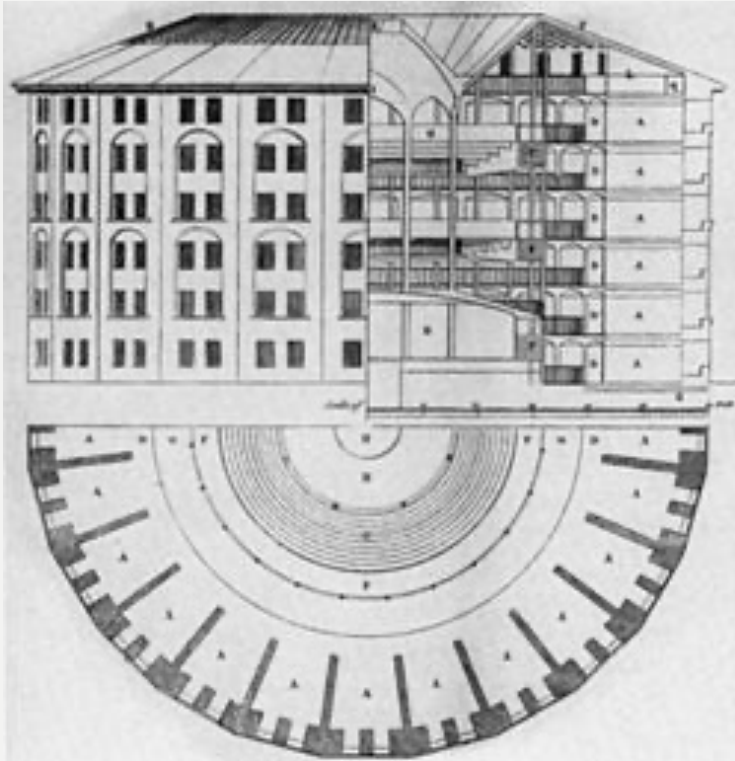
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- lack of stable structures
- uncertainty
- fragmentation
- eradication
- dependence on one's life plan



# PANOPTICISM

## MICHEL FOUCAULT



- punishment = restoration of majesty of the ruler
- discipline = permanent sense of being observed and evaluated

# CULTURAL STUDIES

- culture is ordinary
- banal artefacts – big importance
- culture = a site of political struggle



# IDEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS



- cultural context
- three aspects:
  - ideological content
  - ideological attachment
  - effects of ideologies