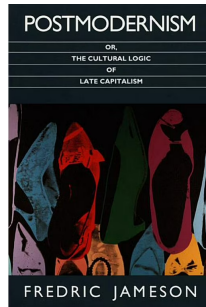


Concept Document and Calendar: Postmodernism and Capitalism Reading Group
Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America, Fall 2025

"It is safest to grasp the concept of the postmodern as an attempt to think the present historically in an age that has forgotten how to think historically in the first place."

— Fredric Jameson, *Postmodernism or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*



Facilitators: Franklin R and Amina B

Notes, Questions, and Quotes Document: Forthcoming

Signal Chat: TBD

Summary: The Postmodernism and Capitalism Reading Group will meet on Sunday nights in Fall 2025, with the purpose of reading and discussing key readings on how the spread of capitalism across the globe and its entry into all facets of life has created postmodern culture. Based in the DC area, the Reading Group hopes to examine capitalism's effect on world culture and the difference between postmodern and 'modern' and 'feudal' modes of production. The group will meet weekly in a virtual setting on Sunday nights, with in-person social events around the DMV and the option to continue future socials or continue readings and discussions. No experience or knowledge level is required to join. Online text is available for all readings and is provided below; no book is necessary, though the group will use several selections from Fredric Jameson's *Postmodernism* and *The Cultural Turn*. The group will use a Notes document during and before meetings to gather members' thoughts and questions before and during each meeting and a Signal chat will be available for informal inquiries.

Origin: The idea for the group came from two factors: 1) The continued hold over politics by far-right movements whose understanding of the world and media is best described as postmodern; and 2) The full spread of capitalist logics and methods across the globe. The group intends to meet interest in the topic by reading core works on the topic.

Details: The group is based with Metro DC DSA's Political Education Workgroup and welcomes members from outside of the organization. The group will primarily consist of reading and then holding online meetings to discuss chapters from books on the topic. The reading schedule will be able to continue after if the group decides. Those group discussions will be interspersed with occasional guest presentations from authors or experts.

Structure: The group will have 2 coordinators that take responsibility for administrative elements of the group. The group will pass facilitation duties and other conversational responsibilities between members meeting-by-meeting unless the group determines otherwise.

Timeline and Location: The group is intended to start readings and discussion just after Labor Day. The group will meet ~every week until ~Thanksgiving, with meetings held all or mostly online and with 2 dedicated group social meet ups. The reading group may hold some meetings outside of the reading structure if prompted by anyone.

Discussion and Notes Document forthcoming

Draft Calendar -all times at 7:30 pm unless modified

Meeting #1 (Sun. September 7): Introductions and overview of Reading Group format, online

Optional Reading/Viewing: “[Capture](#)”, Chapter 3, *The Origins of Postmodernity*, Perry Anderson, 47-77 (51-81 in PDF)

Meeting #2 (Sun. September 14): Social, 6 pm, Lyman’s Tavern, 3720 14th St. NW, DC

Meeting #3 (Sun. September 21): Postmodernism and Late Capitalism, online.

Reading: “[The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism](#)”, Chapter 1, Pages 1-54 (24-77 on PDF), *Postmodernism*, Fredric Jameson

Optional: “[Revisiting Postmodernism](#)”, 2014 Interview with Jameson in *boundary 2*, and “[Marxism and Postmodernism](#)”, 1989 follow up from Jameson in the *New Left Review*

Meeting #4 (Sun. September 28): Postmodernism Today, online

Reading: “[Post-Postmodernism. Periodizing the '80s: The Cultural Logic of Economic Privatization in the US](#)”, Pages 1-24 (16-39 in PDF), Chapter 1, *Post-Postmodernism*, Jeffrey Nealon (2012)

Meeting #5 (Sun. October 5): Postmodernism and Architecture, Part I, online

Reading: “[Spatial Equivalents in the World System](#)”, Pages 97-130 (Pages 120-153 in PDF), Chapter 4 (Architecture), *Postmodernism*, Jameson

Meeting #6 (Sun. October 12): History of the Postmodern Condition, online,

Reading: “[After Effects](#)”, Chapter 4, *The Origins of Postmodernity*, Perry Anderson, 78-137 (82-141 in PDF)

Meeting #7 (Sun. October 19): Social, Metrobar, 640 Rhode Island Ave. NE, DC, 6 pm

Meeting #8 (Sun. October 26): Postmodernism, Modernism, and Capitalism's History, online

Reading: “[Modernity, Postmodernity, or Capitalism?](#)”, Ellen Meiksins Wood, *International Review of Political Economy* (1997); and “[Capitalism, Modernism, and Postmodernism](#)”, Terry Eagleton, *New Left Review* (1985)

Meeting #9 (Sun. November 2): How to Make a Cognitive Map in a Postmodern World, online

Reading: “[How to Map a Totality](#)”, Pages 399-418 (412-431 in PDF), *Postmodernism*, Jameson

Optional: “[Notes on Miami](#),”, John Beverley & David Houston, *boundary 2* (1996)

Meeting #10 (Sun. November 9): Postmodernism and Architecture, Part II, online

Reading: “[Postmodernism in the City: Architecture and Urban Design](#)”, Pages 66-98 (Pages 73-105 in PDF), Chapter 4, *The Condition of Postmodernity*, David Harvey,

Meeting #11 (Sun. November 15) Final Social, Midlands Tavern, 3333 Georgia Ave. NW, DC

Optional: Meeting #12: (Sun. November 23): Finance Capital and Postmodernism, online

Reading: “[The Brick and the Balloon: Architecture, Idealism, and Land Speculation](#)”, Pages 162-191 (Pages 174-203 in PDF), Chapter 8, *The Cultural Turn*, Jameson

More: Continuation with readings or socials?