

FR118 Strategies for Reading French Texts

Term 2, weeks 9 and 10. Lipovetsky, *Les Temps hypermodernes*

Week 9, Seminar 1

A. Read pages 59-61, specifically from ‘La consécration sociale du présent’ to ‘des désirs d’affranchissement des contraintes de l’espace-temps’.

B. Be prepared to discuss the following questions:

1. How does Lipovetsky characterize the present, in terms of values, projects, activities?
2. How does Lipovetsky describe and evaluate the previous 50 years, and what are the stages that he thinks we have moved through?
3. How does Lipovetsky characterize current economic reality? What is Lipovetsky’s view of ‘postmodernity’? What forms of language and analogy does Lipovetsky employ?
4. What do you think are the various insights and problems associated with Lipovetsky’s approach to what he calls ‘*l’hypermodernité*’?

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Week 10, Seminar 2

A. Read pages 89-93, given below, specifically from ‘Le retour en grâce du passé’ to ‘l’inclination sexuelle ou la mémoire historique’.

B. Be prepared to discuss the following questions:

1. How does Lipovetsky conceive of the return of the past, in terms of values, projects, activities?
2. How does Lipovetsky more particularly understand a return of religious or ethnic identities, or the return of ‘identity politics’, in a context of commercial and technological globalization?
3. How does Lipovetsky view ‘instrumental rationality’ operating within hypermodernity? In what way do you think this might lead him to disagree with Foucault? What is Lipovetsky’s view of ‘secularization’?
4. What does Lipovetsky mean by ‘*hyper-reconnaissance*’? What might this mean for a Lipovetsky in a French context, based on what you know about a French national understanding of citizenship? What do you think are the various insights and problems associated with Lipovetsky’s notion of ‘*hyper-reconnaissance*’?

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