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CH 202

Response Week 11

20 November 2016

Group 1, Question B

In the film *The Painting* Lola displays her individuality by being the leader of the group outside of their painting. When the soldier came out of the war painting with her, they talked about what they would ask the painter. Lola has many questions for the painter. She wants to know why he decided to leave some of them unfinished and finished others. She wants to know why he made it so they could feel emotions and pain. These deep questions are different than those of other characters in the movie, and are probably very relatable for most people who have lived in the postmodernist era. Postmodernists claim that these questions have no innate answers, and that we as humans could never provide un-biased responses to them.

Group 2, Question A

Jamaica Kincaid talks about the Barclays brothers and how they made their fortune in the slave trade before transferring their focus to banking. I am assuming she is referring to the same multi-national corporate bank that still makes many billions in revenue per year. When she says “So do you see the queer thing about people like me? Sometimes we hold your retribution” (Kincaid 27) she is talking about how even though “The Barclay brothers are dead. The human beings they traded, the human beings who to them were only commodities, are dead” (Kincaid 26), she can achieve a sort of retribution by spreading the story about their horrible beginnings as a company.

Group 3, Question D

I would definitely consider existentialism to be optimistic, primarily because I consider the ability to control my existence—in what I consider to be my life experience—to be a positive force. Existentialism promotes this idea of control by explaining that existence is prior to essence, and therefore “... the first effect of existentialism is that it puts every man in possession

of himself as he is, and places the entire responsibility for his existence squarely upon his own shoulders” (Sartre 1). If you like being in control of your existence, existentialism might be the most positive logically-sound type of philosophy you can explore.

Group 4, Question A

The example in the excerpt from *Simulacra and Simulation* that stood out to me the most was that of religions which choose to disallow representations, or icons, of certain Gods and/or religious figures. Baudrillard wonders how “... the visible machinery of icons substituted for the pure and intelligible Idea of God?” (Baudrillard 3) affects religions. He makes a good point, about how the instant that a being is depicted in simulacra they lose any power inherent to the freedom of interpretation by a third party.

Group 5

Studio 67 is a unique structure, appearing to be a sort of house or housing complex. It incorporates many examples of architectural forms. The focus of the design seems to be a sort of chaotic simplicity. Meaning the shapes and colors are simple, while the dispersement of rooms and placement of windows and foliage is chaotic. This is a step away from the ideas of modern architecture, which if implemented here would look decidedly different. If it was designed to be modern, the building would probably be more functional and have less exposed walls/ceilings/floors. One interesting way to look at this building is that every individual room had to be drawn and placed meticulously and deliberately. This style reminds me of existentialism, specifically the idea that your life is simply a collection of choices.

Works Cited

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