**The *Postmortal***

**Themes/ Topics**

* Ageing- who am I now? Who will I become? Who do I want to be?
* Marriage-
	+ Cycle (78-80, 160)
	+ Divorce & affects on kids)
	+ Open (128)
* Retirement & Social Security (68)
* Euthanasia
* Capital Punishment (68, 152-5)
	+ Under what circumstances? What is the purpose of it? Prevent crime? Eye for an eye?
* Big vs. Little government
	+ Department of Containment
	+ (Should they decide who gets the cure?)(66-69)
* Pollution- i.e. Pacific Garbage Patch
* Food production- lack of food, running out of natural resources (67)
* Diary/blog- personal journal of experiences
* Documenting history- who is responsibility/role?
	+ Individuals, scholars, government
* Religion- role in society & individual’s life, Collectivism
* Who would you run into a burning building to look for? (41)
* Definition of family (connection to cycle marriages 59)
* Health Care- who’s responsible? Who gets care? (68)
	+ Unwanted pregnancy? (77-81)
	+ Emergency services?
	+ Organic vs. “genetic work” on human babies (126)
* College/Education- role with cure, put it off till later
* Alcohol- partying? Other drugs like marijuana (Vegas cure parties vs daily use) (82, 88-9)
* Civic Responsibility
* Groups: where do you belong? Who can you relate/connect to?
	+ What role would you play?
		- Pro-death, greenie (141-3, 173), troll (90)
		- Religious group, Church of Man (131)
		- Preparer/stockpile (111-4)
		- Freedom/travel (127)
		- End specialist
* Over Population-
	+ homeless
* Technology:
	+ “Plug-in” cars, WEP’s, door lock with genetic identifier (112)
* Morals- live a good life because afraid of God/death? (p12) Why live a good/moral life, if death is delayed?
* “unluckiest generation” “last to die” (p20)
* The US Constitution,
	+ What does it really state? How can we translate it to our world today? (p 32)
* Gun rights/control (34, 114)
* Relationship with Russians (invade Ukraine 164)
* Human rights:
	+ China (tattoo babies 103, branding people 105)
	+ Russian (compulsory cure for military)
* Dealing with death
	+ Unexpected: Katy 44, 56, 60. Alison (174-5)
	+ Expected: John’s dad (149, 166-170)
	+ Its even more shocking if that person got the cure (46).
* “Luxury of time”… “Do something more substantial with it” (39)
* Protest vs. terrorist attacks (29, 40, 44, 54, 61, 64, 68, 70, 89-94, 143)
* Science & security (52-3)
* The Cure- should it be legal? (origination 47, black market 51, everyone’s doing it, like a cell phone 58)
* The cure compared to other illegal activities from the past: alcohol, abortion, euthanasia, drugs, fake ID, immigration
* News agencies- where do you get your information? Can we trust it?
	+ (66, 70-2, 95-6, 109-110, 116, 164)

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 **Projects**:

* Create constitution (2 different groups? Naturals vs. Cured) (68)
	+ Must include: taxes, health care, unemployment/social security, capital punishment
	+ Research current laws regarding themes above, (compare US to other country?)
* Personal Journals
	+ Photo journal (75)
	+ Written journal (each day for full semester), must include some news accounts
* Analyze the arguments pro/con cure (ethos, logos, pathos) (32-34)
* If the cure became real, what would be the best career choice? (Be happy with your career choice, it could be forever!) (35)

**Campus Partner projects-**

Pick one campus partner and connect with a theme/topic from the book

\*\* These could be projects, discussion questions, or Moodle post topics

* + Matador Involvement Center- Church of Man, greenies, End specialists, Dept. of Containment
	+ Klotz Health Center- health care, legal/illegal, insurance
	+ University Counseling Service- cycle marriage, family (definition), suicide (assisted)
	+ Career Center- creation of cycle marriage-create own jobs?
	+ Financial Aid- social security, taxes, cure= no retirement, estate planning
	+ Library- documentation, finding news/credible sources
	+ Learning Resource Center- importance of writing/communication, new vocabulary in the book
	+ Study Abroad- travel before/instead of school or job? Importance of learning other cultures

**Video links:**

The *Postmortal* Book trailer, official by Penguin Books (1:35)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JzgVVpqX58>

Oscars 2014 - Matthew McConaughey (Acceptance Speech) 4 min.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNVTEK4ZN6U