

Course Syllabus

Please use the online course schedule on our course website for active links to the required readings and websites listed in the print version of this syllabus.

Week 1 Approaches

- 01/21: Introduction(s). Course Overview. Cultural Production & Narrative
 1. Peter Howard, *Xylo* <<http://www.wordcircuits.com/gallery/xylo/index.html>>
 2. Stephanie Strickland, *The Ballad of Sand and Harry Soot* <<http://wordcircuits.com/gallery/sandsoot/>>

- 01/23: The Death of Print and Birth of the Digital

Readings Due:

1. Michael Benedikt. "Cyberspace: First Steps." (Handout)
2. Robert Coover. "The End of Books." (Web)
3. Carla Benedetti. "Is the Author Dead?" (Web)

Week 2 Experimenting Within Print (1): Labyrinths

- 01/28: Jorge Luis Borges: Selections

Readings Due:

1. Borges. "The Garden of Forking Paths." pp. 89-101.
2. Borges. "Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius." pp. 17-35.
3. Deleuze/Guattari. "Introduction: Rhizome." (Course Packet)

Browse:

1. Vaios Papanagnou. "The Garden of Forking Paths by Jorge Luis Borges." <<http://www.geocities.com/papanagnou/>>

- 01/30: Jorge Luis Borges: Selections

Readings Due:

1. Borges. "An Examination of the Work of Herbert Quinn." pp. 73-78.
2. Borges. "The Intruder." (Handout)
3. Stuart Moulthrop. "Reading from the Map: Metonymy and Metaphor in the Fiction of 'Forking Paths'." (Handout)

Browse:

1. Natalie Bookchin. "The Intruder." <<http://www.calarts.edu/~bookchin/intruder/>>

Week 3 Experimenting Within Print (2): *nouveau roman*

- 02/04: Alain Robbe-Grillet: *Djinn*

Readings Due:

1. Robbe-Grillet. *Djinn*. pp. 11-128.
2. Robbe-Grillet. "A Future for the Novel." (Course Packet)
3. Robbe-Grillet. "New Novel, New Man." (Course Packet)

- 02/06: **Film:** *Memento* (2000), Christopher Nolan, dir., 113 min.

Week 4 Experimenting Within Print (3): Orality, Myth and Memory

- 02/11: **Film:** *Memento* (2000), Christopher Nolan, dir., 113 min.

Readings Due:

1. Vannevar Bush. "As We May Think." (Web)
2. Ransmayr. *The Last World*. pp. 3-105.

Browse:

1. Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.
<<http://larryavisbrown.homestead.com/files/xeno.ovid1.htm>>
2. Ovid FAQ. <http://www.jiffycomp.com/smr/rob/faq/ovid_faq.php3>

- 02/13: Christoph Ransmayr: *The Last World*.

Readings Due:

1. Ransmayr. *The Last World*. pp. 107-150.
2. Walter J. Ong. *Orality and Literacy*. pp. 78-85, 93-103.
3. Plato. *Phaedrus* (Handout)

Week 5 (Cont.)

- 02/18: Christoph Ransmayr: *The Last World*.
Guest Lecture: James O'Donnell, Georgetown University. Time/Place: TBA

Readings Due:

1. Ransmayr. *The Last World*. pp. 151-219.
2. Walter J. Ong. *Orality and Literacy*. pp. 117-138.

- 02/20: Christoph Ransmayr: *The Last World*.
Concluding Discussion

Week 6 Experiments Within Print (4): Discarding the Author?

- 02/25: Italo Calvino: *If on a winter's night a traveler*.

Readings Due:

1. Calvino. *If on a winter's night a traveler*. pp. 3-114.
2. Barthes. "The Death of the Author." *Image-Music-Text*, 142-149. Also available on Web.

- 02/27: Italo Calvino: *If on a winter's night a traveler*.
Guest Lecture: Massimo Riva, Brown University. Time/Place: TBA

Readings Due:

1. Calvino. *If on a winter's night a traveler*. pp. 115-168.

Week 7 (Cont.)

- 03/04: Italo Calvino: *If on a winter's night a traveler*.

Readings Due:

1. Calvino. *If on a winter's night a traveler*. pp. 169-260.
2. Foucault. "What is an Author?" (Web)

- 03/06: **Virtual Class Meeting.** Calvino Discussion.
Online MOO Discussion (Instructions to follow)

Assignment: Pick up take-home midterm exam from my office door. Exam due at next class session.

Week 8 Hypertext: Exploding the Print Narrative

- 03/11: Italo Calvino: *If on a winter's night a traveler*.
Final Discussion.

Readings Due:

1. Peruse *Patchwork Girl* and keep a "reading map" to your walk-through of the CD.
2. Shelley Jackson. "Stitch Bitch: the patchwork girl." (Web)

Midterm Take-Home Exam DUE.

- 03/13: Shelley Jackson. *Patchwork Girl*

Readings Due:

1. George P. Landow. "Hypertext and Critical Theory." (Course Packet)
2. J. Yellowlees Douglas. "Just Tell Me When to Stop: Hypertext and the Displacement of Closure." (Course Packet).

Browse:

1. Carolyn Guyer and Michael Joyce. "Lasting Image."
<<http://www.eastgate.com/LastingImage/Welcome.html>>
2. babel, Hooshla Fox, et. al. "Access Points." <<http://www.391.org/29>>

Week 9

- Spring Break – No Classes

Week 10 NetArt; Art on the Net; Networked Art; Digital Art

- 03/25: Digital Artists. (Technical Requirements: many of these art pieces require Shockwave plug-ins, or are viewed best on a particular browser)
Film: *Synthetic Pleasures*. (1995) Iara Lee, dir., 83 min. Clips

Browse and Play:

1. Frankensteins Netz, Prométhée Numérique, Wiretapping the Beast: <<http://www.frankensteins-netz.de/index.html>>
2. Museum of Web Art: <<http://www.mowa.org/>>
3. Das Epos der Maschine: <<http://kunst.im.internett.de/epos-der-maschine/>>
4. Lexia to Perplexia: <<http://trace.ntu.ac.uk/newmedia/lexia/>>

Assignment: Mine the Web for some art projects you find particularly interesting. Bring in or send me the URLs for inclusion in today's discussion.

Readings Due:

1. Walter Benjamin. "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction." (Web)
2. Walter Benjamin. "The Author as Producer." (Web)

- 03/27: Intellectual Property/Copyright

Readings Due:

1. John Frow. "Timeshift: Technologies of Reproduction and Intellectual Property." (Course Packet)
2. John Frow. "Repetition and Limitation: Computer Software and Copyright Law." (Course Packet)
3. Lawrence Lessig. "Intellectual Property." (Course Packet)
4. Lawrence Lessig. "Privacy." (Course Packet)

Week 11 Digital Projects: New Media & Scholarship

- 04/01: Online Scholarly Projects. Electrifying the Canon.

Browse and Evaluate:

1. "The Decameron Web" <http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/dweb/>
2. "Gutenberg Digital" <<http://www.gutenbergdigital.de/>>
3. "ARTFL Encyclopédie" <<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/efts/ARTFL/projects/encyc/>>
4. "The Cervantes Project" <<http://www.csdl.tamu.edu/cervantes/english/texts.html>>
5. "Dickinson Electronic Archives" <<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/dickinson/>>

- 04/03: Electronic Scholarly Publishing.

Guest Lecture: Sue Hunter, Hayden Library, **Place: TBA**

Readings Due:

1. Robert J. Silverman. "The Impact of Electronic Publishing on the Academic Community." (Course Packet)
2. MLA Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Scholarly Publishing. "The Future of Scholarly Publishing." (Course Packet)

Week 12 What's so New about New Media?

- 04/08: Remediation and the Remediated Self.

Readings Due:

1. Bolter and Grusin. *Remediation*, Ch. 1 – 3, pp. 21-84.
2. Bolter and Grusin. *Remediation*, Ch. 15, pp. 231-240.

Assignment: Web-Storyboard Project

- 04/10: No Class.

Week 13 Cyberculture in Film: Is it all Fun and Games?

- 04/15: **Film:** *Strange Days*. (1999). Kathryn Bigelow, dir., 145 min.
- 04/17: **Film:** *Strange Days*. (1999). Kathryn Bigelow, dir., 145 min.

Assignment: Web-Storyboard Project DUE

Week 14 (Cont.)

- 04/22: **Film:** *Lola rennt (Run Lola Run)*, (1998). Tom Tykwer, dir., 80 min
- 04/24: No Class. Work on seminar project.

Week 15 (Cont.)

- 04/29: **Film:** *eXistenZ* (1999). David Cronenberg, dir., 97 min.
- 05/01: **Film:** *eXistenZ* (1999). David Cronenberg, dir., 97 min.

Project Presentations

Week 16 Conclusions

- 05/06: Last Day of Classes.
Project Presentations
Seminar Wrap Up, Evaluations

Seminar Project Due

Parameters for Evaluation

Students participating in the course will be evaluated on their engaged participation in class discussion, on their written work for the course, and on their ability to engage with the course content in an exam situation. An attendance policy will be in effect.

Class discussions will be built on assigned readings and in-class exploration of web-based artistic and scholarly projects. (20% of grade)

Undergraduate students will be responsible for:

- leading one class discussion (10%)
- taking minutes of class discussions, individually (to be handed out in class at the next meeting and posted to our discussion forum on Blackboard) (5%)

- participating in the Blackboard discussion forum (one substantive post based on a class reading, or a response to a question that I post) (5%)

Graduate students will be responsible for:

- leading two class discussions (15%)
- taking minutes of class discussions, individually (to be handed out in class at the next meeting and posted to our discussion forum on Blackboard) (5%)
- participating in the Blackboard discussion forum (one substantive post based on a class reading, or a response to a question that I post)

Written work for the course will consist of: (60% of grade)

- two short reviews (900-1000 words) of websites and films discussed in class, and of books related to the course. Viable titles will be discussed in class. (20%)
- website storyboard for a future web project based on individual research or creative interests; these can be done individually or with a partner (10%)
- seminar project: undergraduate students will produce an 8 - 10 page paper with citations and graduate students will produce a 10 - 12 page paper with citations. Topics for these papers should develop from the content of the course, and students should discuss their ideas with the instructor. Multimedia alternatives to the seminar paper will be entertained by the instructor, if there are students who have the capability and skills necessary to produce a multimedia project. (30%)

Exams: (20% of grade)

- there will be one take-home essay exam at midterm (20%)