ENC 1131 Section 4841
Writing through Media

Instructor Steven J LeMieux
MWF 4th Period CSE E211A
T 9-11th Period CBD 0110B Screening
Office: Th 5th Turlington 2301

Course Description

This course serves as an introduction to electronic literature. We will engage both theories of new media and the burgeoning canon of electronic texts. Alongside our study of canonical texts, we will examine a range of digital texts towards a further understanding of how electronic literature influences a broad spectrum of media. We will explore the constraints as well as conditions of possibility that attend writing in electronic media. Students will be expected to engage in critical close readings of electronic works as well as create their own piece of electronic literature.

Course Goals

This course has two main goals. The first is to familiarize students with the emerging field of electronic literature. This familiarization is geared towards both an understanding of the academic canon as well as more diffuse and popular methods of engagement. Towards this end students should begin to recognize themselves as situated within a transitional period rife with various blended media. The second is to nudge students towards an understanding of the multiple ways that electronic literature can be engaged. We will look towards creating our own pieces of electronic literature as a means of engaging these works on their own terms. The various technical skills necessary for this engagement will be introduced, but it will be up to students to develop them more fully.

Texts

The New Media Reader Edited by Noah Wardrip-Fruin and Nick Monfort **(NMR)**
Electronic Literature: New Horizons for the Literary by N. Katherine Hayles **(EL)**

Assignments

Course Blog—Updated twice weekly (One post directly concerning a piece of E Lit and one concerning a class reading). The blog should act as an experimental space to reflect on readings and explore theory.

Group Presentations—The class will be split into four groups. Each group will present twice on the intersections of electronic literature and new media theory. Specific details forthcoming.

6-8 Page Paper—A sustained engagement with course issues.Specific topic questions forthcoming.

Website—Each student will be required to build his or her own website (either on personal or UF provided space). This will act as a foundation for the final project.

Final Project—Using the concepts and models that we have examined throughout the semester students will theorize and create a piece of electronic literature that examines an issue raised in this course.

Grading Criteria:

Grades will be based on individual project criteria to be outlined in further detail on individual assignment sheets. The Participation and Blogging grades will be based on completion.

Final grade breakdown is as follows
10% Participation
20% Blogging
20% Group Presentations
20% 6-8 Page Paper
10% Website
20% Final Project

94 and above A
90-93 A-
87-89 B+
84-86 B
80-83 B-
77-79 C+
74-76 C
70-73 C-
67-69 D+
64-66 D
60-63 D-
59 and below E

Absence and Tardiness Policy
Attendance and participation are key factors in the design of this course. Missing more than 6 classes will result in immediate failure.

Final Grade Appeals:
Final grades may be appealed by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant. Grade changes may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade. Statement of

Composition (C) and Humanities (H) credit
This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/advisinggened.html

Statement of Writing requirement (WR)—formerly Gordon Rule
This course can satisfy the UF requirement for Writing. For more information, see:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/advisinggordon.html

Statement of student disability services
The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. For more information, see:
http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Statement on harassment
UF provides an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see:
http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php#s4041

Statement on academic honesty
All students are required to abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see:
http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php

Statement on grade point equivalencies
UF has recently instituted minus grades. As a result, letter grades now have different grade point equivalencies. For more information, see:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html

Tentative Schedule

Electronic Literature

M	5 January	Introduction/Course Goals
F	7 January	New Media Reader/Electronic Literature Collection, Volume 1
M	10 January	Blogs/Webspace
T	11 January	Introduction to the Electronic Literature Connection **(ELO)**
W	12 January	**EL** Electronic Literature: What is it?
F	14 January	**NMR** New Media from Borges to HTML by Lev Manovich
M	17 January	MLK DAY
T	18 January	Screening:La Jetée
W	19 January	**NMR** from a *Thousand Plateaus* / Introduction: Rhizome
F	21 January	Rhizomes Continued
		(ELO) *Soliloquy* by Kenneth Goldsmith
M	24 January	**NMR** Responsive Environments
		(ELO) *Whom the Telling Changed* by Aaron A. Reed
T	25 January	Screening: Play Time by Jacques Tati
W	26 January	**NMR** From *Soft Architecture Machines*
F	28 January	**NMR** The Garden of Forking Paths / The Library of Babel (handout)
		(ELO) *Whom the Telling Changed* by Aaron A. Reed
M	31 January	**NMR** Direct Manipulations
T	1 February	Workshop: Blog overviews
W	2 February	Groups 1 and 4 presentations
F	4 February	Groups 2 and 3 presentations

Writing Digital Spaces

M	7 February	"Signature, Event, Context" Derrida
T	8 February	**(ELO)** *Bad Machine* by Dan Shiovitz
W	9 February	"Transparency and Opacity" and "For Opacity" Glissant
		(ELO) *Bad Machine* by Dan Shiovitz
F	11 February	**NMR** Direct Manipulation
		(ELO) *Storyland* by Nanette Wylde
M	14 February	**NMR** Seeing and Writing
T	15 February	**(ELO)** *Translation* by John Cayley
W	16 February	**NMR** Using Computers
		(ELO) *Translation* by John Cayley
F	18 February	**NMR** The End of Books
M	21 February	**EL**The Future of Literature
		(ELO) *Internet Text, 1994 – [Through Feb2, 2006]* by Alan Sondheim
T	22 February	**(ELO)** *Internet Text, 1994 – [Through Feb2, 2006]* by Alan Sondheim
		(ELO) *Strings* by Dan Waber
W	23 February	**NMR** From *Literary Machines* Proposal for a Universal Publishing…
F	25 February	**NMR** You Say You Want a Revolution

M	28 February	**NMR** A File Structure for the Complex, the Changing, and the Indeterminate
T	1 March	**(ELO)** discussion/viewing
W	2 March	TBA
F	4 March	**Paper Due**

M	7 March	SPRING BREAK
T	8 March	SPRING BREAK
W	9 March	SPRING BREAK
F	11 March	SPRING BREAK

Cyborgs: Human/Digital Bodies

M	14 March	**NMR** Men, Machines, and the World About / Man-Computer Symbiosis
		(ELO) *my body – a WunderKammer* by Shelly Jackson
T	15 March	Workshop: Website Construction
		(ELO) *my body – a WunderKammer* by Shelly Jackson
W	16 March	**NMR** From *Augmenting Human Intellect*
F	18 March	*Dorsality* Introduction—David Wills

M	21 March	"A Cyborg Manifesto…"—Donna Haraway
		(ELO) *carrier (becoming symbord)* by Melinda Rackham and Damien Everett
T	22 March	Websites Continued
W	23 March	Cyborg continued
		(ELO) *carrier (becoming symbord)* by Melinda Rackham and Damien Everett
F	25 March	**Website Due**

M	28 March	**EL** Intermediation: From Page to Screen
T	29 March	**(ELO)** *Regime Change* by Noah Wardrip-Fruin, David Durand, Brion Moss, and Elaine Froehlich
W	30 March	**EL** Intermediation / Contexts for Electronic Literature
F	1 April	**EL** Contexts for Electronic Literature

M	4 April	**NMR** The Endless Chain
		(ELO) *Project for Tachistoscope [Bottomless Pit]* by William Poundstone
T	5 April	Project Meetings
W	6 April	Group 2 and 3 present
F	8 April	Group 1 and 4 present

M	11 April	**NMR** Video Games and Computer Holding Power
T	12 April	Screening: *Portal* by Valve Software
W	13 April	**(ELO)** *Deviant: The Possession of Christian Shaw* by Donna Leishman
F	15 April	**NMR** Towards a New Classification of Tele-Information Services

M	18 April	Work Day
T	19 April	Screening:TBA
W	20 April	**Projects Due**