

ENGL 25: Literature and the Information, Media, and Communication Revolutions¹

Professor Alan Liu

Lecture: BUCHN 1920, MWF 1:00-1:50p

Section Information

Instructor: Ryan Leach

Monday Sessions: SH 1415, 5:00-5:50p & 6:00-6:50p

Office and Hours: SH 2432 J, W 2:30-4:30p or by appointment

Mailbox Location: SH 3421

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Course Description

How have language, reading, and literature responded to revolutions in media, communication, and information technology? This course introduces the history and theory of the major changes in human discourse that have led up to our current information age. Readings in literary and artistic works exemplify the creative artist's response to these changes.

Requirements

Texts (All texts available through the UCEN Bookstore or SBPrinters)

- Franco Moretti, *Graphs, Maps, Trees* (Verso, 2007)
- Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (Harper Perennial, 2006)
- William Gibson, *Neuromancer* (ACE, 1984)
- English 25 Reader at SBPrinters (in UCEN)

Attendance

- If you miss more than one discussion section, you will forfeit all 10% of your section discussion grade, in addition to making me very sad. (Exceptions due to unavoidable circumstances must be sought in advance from me.)
- If you are more than 10 minutes late, you will be marked absent.
- If you are late but less than 10 minutes so, it is your responsibility to make sure you get marked present.

¹ This syllabus is subject to change--as is everything!

Participation

Active participation is essential to learning in a discussion section. Please come to section prepared to discuss the assigned texts and engage critically with these works. Remember the words of George Costanza: “We’re living in a society here!”--as in most places, respect for your peers is of utmost importance. If you would like any tips/guidance on contributing to class discussions, please see me during office hours.

Assignments

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| • Create your system for working with online readings | DUE 10/02 in Section |
| • Essay 1: The Future of Computing | DUE 10/25 in Lecture |
| • Midterm Exam | DUE 11/03 in Lecture |
| • Essay 2: Thomas Pynchon's The Crying of Lot 49 | DUE 11/08 in Lecture |
| • Spreadsheet Comparison | DUE 11/22 in Lecture |
| • Essay 3: Being Human in the Age of Information | DUE 12/01 in Lecture |
| • Text Analysis Exercise & Short Commentary | DUE 12/04 in Section |
| • Final Exam | DUE 12/14, Room TBD |

Paper Format:

Papers should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins and double-spaced, with page numbers. A heading consisting of your name, the lecturer's name (Professor Liu), the course number (ENGL 25), the time of your discussion section, and the date should be typed in the top left corner of the first page. Papers should also include in-text citations and a Works Cited page in MLA format (a guide to MLA style may be found online at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>).

Policies and Resources

Technology Policy

Please bring your laptop or tablet to each section. Please leave your phone on silent and tucked away. Not only is the use of digital technology encouraged (in some cases, even required) for accessing and annotating the readings, constant and deep reflection on the role of these technologies in your life is fundamental to the purpose of this course. While reading and marking up PDFs or typing notes in class, I encourage you to reflect on how media technological revolutions have altered, circumscribed, or augmented the cultural practices of research and learning in a university setting. How would it be different if you were using pen and paper, tape recorders, quills and parchment, cuneiform tablets, etchings in the sand, etc.?

That said, irrelevant browsing, social media sites, online shopping, and any other computer uses unrelated to the discussion at hand are **strictly prohibited**. If I catch you wandering in the interwebs, I will mark you as absent for that day's section, despite how physically present you might be.

Late Work

Late assignments for which an extension was not approved by me in advance decay by one partial letter-step grade for each day they are late (so, for example, a B+ paper turned in one day late will become a B paper; a B paper will become a B-; or a B- paper will become a C+ paper).

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism will not be tolerated by me or especially by the University, the policy of which is here below:

"Any act of academic dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, will subject a person to University disciplinary action. Using or attempting to use materials, information, study aids, or commercial "research" services not authorized by the instructor of the course constitutes cheating. Representing the words, ideas, or concepts of another person without appropriate attribution is plagiarism. Whenever another person's written work is utilized, whether it be a single phrase or longer, quotation marks must be used and sources cited."

(Taken from UCSB Campus Regulations:

<http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/Regulations/index.aspx?page=conduct>)

Special Accommodations

If students with disability need special accommodations they can come directly to me for assistance and/or contact the Disabled Students Program (<http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu>). Be aware that University policy forbids me from giving special consideration to students not enrolled in the DSP.

Learning Assistance

Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) provides tutoring services to UCSB students, including one-on-one tutoring and drop-in writing tutoring. More information on their services and appointments can be found on their website: <http://clas.sa.ucsb.edu>.

For more information about the course, please visit the PBWorks site:

<http://eng25f2017.pbworks.com/w/page/119713737/FrontPage>.