Hypertext

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About this course

Hypertext fiction is a new literary genre that has developed at the juncture of rapidly developing technology, critical thought, and literature during the late 20th Century. During this course we will develop an understanding of hypertext as a 21st Century literature derived from innovative literatures of the 20th Century. Students will engage in the critical study of hypertext literature, and will write hypertext fictions of their own.

Attendance for this course is mandatory. Students missing more than three scheduled class sessions will lose one letter grade for each absence thereafter. Any evidence of plagiarism will be grounds for failing the course.

Website

The paper syllabus is not the "live" version. Our schedule is likely to change over the course of the semester. Page numbers of assignments, paper topic assignments and modifications to the class schedule will be posted to this Website. You are expected to check the site at the start of every week for this updated information.

Required Texts

Required texts for this course include
Postmodern American Fiction, A Norton Anthology. Paula Geyh, Fred Leebron and Andrew Levy, eds.
Patchwork Girl by Shelley Jackson.
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley.
The Dictionary of the Khazars by Mildorad Pavic.

Papers

Students will write 6 short weblog position papers, produce a Storyspace hypertext, write a collaborative web hypertext with the rest of the class, and write a 7-8 page final paper. If class participation shows that not everyone is keeping up on the reading, there be periodic unannounced quizzes, which will figure into the class participation grade. Position paper assignments will be posted on the website. There will be 8 opportunities to write these brief (approx. 600 word) papers. Each student must complete 6. The final paper will be a close reading of a hypertext from the Electronic Literature Directory. The paper should both perform what Kate Hayles calls "media specific analysis" – that is develop a reading of the text in its technologically specific context – and should be a close reading – analyzing the hypertext in the same way as one would a literary text in any medium.

Evaluation
Position Papers: 20%
Contribution to Web Project: 15%
Informal Presentation: 10%
Storyspace Hypertext: 15%
Final Paper: 30%
Attendance, Participation and Quizzes: 10%

Schedule

Jan 20   Classes Begin

     22   Norton 1-3, 15-25 (Burroughs), 585-594 (Hassan)
            Lab – Set up Weblogs

     27   Bush, Nelson (Handouts)

     29   Vonnegut 84-94, White 255-263

Feb 03   Douglas, Joyce 573-80, Harpold 637-48
            RJ #1 due

     05   *Frankenstein*
            Lab – Writing in Storyspace

     10   *Frankenstein*
            RJ #2 due

     12   No Class – Harry Mathews reading at Kelly Writers House – Upenn

     14th   (Friday) Scott will be reading with The Unknown at Kelly Writers
            House Upenn

     17   Harraway   from "A Cyborg Manifesto" 603-621, *Patchwork Girl*
            RJ #3 due

     19   *Patchwork Girl*
            Lab – work on Storyspace Hypertext

     24   Coover, Landow (Handouts)
            RJ #4 due

     26   *Patchwork Girl*
            Lab – work on Storyspace Hypertext

Mar 02   *Patchwork Girl* (Kate Hayles essay)
            RJ #5 due

     04   Storyspace Hypertext Readings/Presentations

     09   Shelley Jackson "My Body, a Wunderkammer"

     11   Shelley and Pamela Jackson "The Doll Games"

RJ #6 due

16   Spring Break

18   Spring Break

23   Pavic *Dictionary of the Khazars*

25   Pavic *Dictionary of the Khazars*
      Lab – collaborative hypertext

30   Preceptorial Advising

Apr 01   Pavic *Dictionary of the Khazars*
      Lab – collaborative hypertext

06   Pavic Hypertext – "The Glass Snail"

08   *The Unknown*
      Lab – collborative hypertext

13   Web Hypertext Presentations

15   Paper Topics Due
      Web Hypertext Presentations

20   Web Hypertext Presentations

22   Web Hypertext Presentations
      Lab – Collaborative Hypertext

27   Writing workshop

29   Papers due at start of class

May 04   Collaborative hypertext completed