

ENGL 2650 M01 Media, Technology and Literature (3 credits)
Professor: Dr. Timothy Ryan Day
Fall 2017, M/W/F 11:00-11:50, Padre Rubio 13
Email: timothy.day@slu.edu
Office: San Ignacio Hall
Phone: 91 554 58 58
Office Hours: Tues 9:00-11:00 M, W, F (or by appointment)

Course Description:

Our experience has always been mediated by the senses, filtered through the changing landscape of evolutionary biology and the resultant body. Film, news, music, literature and the “new media” are but extensions of a simple fact: we process information through the senses and construct narratives about the world which we occupy physically and mentally.

How has our increasing awareness of this mediation, combined with a steady march into an ever more technological habitat, effected us as a fundamentally creative species?

Over the course of the semester we will trace a line from Shakespeare and Milton, through Walt Whitman and George Orwell, to Margaret Atwood and Richard Powers, in an effort to grapple with the effects—political, artistic, and spiritual—of the changing media landscape.

We’ll be talking about media in expected ways: News, print, literature, art... But also in some ways in which may be surprising: the body as a mediator of experience, the mind as an interpreter of the physical world, and even cellular activity as base models for what later becomes artistic expression. Ultimately, we will pose the question of how advances in science and technology are complicating our view of media, of narrative, of sensual experience and the transmission of information.

Course Objectives:

- To increase understanding of the complex relationships of media and technology to our cultural, political, economic and artistic realities, and to explore how these issues are material in nature, that is to say embodied.
- To write about media and technology in critical ways that will help to guide our thinking and actions beyond the classroom.
- To perform in depth textual analysis and create essays which communicate ideas with a sense of urgency and relevance.
- To be more familiar with current models of how media, technology and human influence in our time are interacting in the environment, and to be capable of interjecting ourselves into those debates in ways that recognize that they are not mere abstractions, rather conversations that have consequence for the future of our planet and our species.

Learning Outcomes:

Students who complete this course will be able to:

- Generate engaged and responsive close readings of texts
- Describe and analyze the ways in which texts reflect and help shape wide ranging cultural conditions
- Construct clear spoken and written arguments that demonstrate awareness of purpose and audience

Required Texts:

A Midsummer Nights Dream. Shakespeare
Aereopagitica. Milton
1984. George Orwell
Oryx and Crake. Margaret Atwood
Orfeo. Richard Powers

Recommended and supplementary Reading:

The Whole Animal, Wendy Wheeler
Cyborgs, Simians and Women, Donna Haraway
Material Ecocriticism, Iovino and Opperman
Dark Green Religion, Bron Taylor
Biosemiotics, Jesper Hoffmeyer
Ecologies of the Moving Image, Adrian J. Ivakhiv
Botany of Desire, Michael Pollan
The Machine in the Garden, Leo Marx
...And lots more upon request!!

Resources:

-Recommended databases from library website: Oxford English Dictionary Online, JSTOR, Project Muse, Humanities Full Text, FirstSearch, MLA International Bibliography

Requirements:

-Regular attendance and participation 10% Class discussions are at the center of this course; it is essential that you show up on time and contribute to the intellectual climate of the group (this entails keeping up with the reading assignments, taking notes during class and as you complete the readings, posing questions in class, etc.). You are allowed four absences during the course of the semester. Additional unexcused absences will affect your final grade. You cannot pass the class if you miss four classes or more for whatever reason (you must withdraw or you will receive an “F” as a final grade). Please take this into account if you have class trips scheduled or plan to participate in other school-sponsored activities that will require you to miss classes (I will fully support your involvement in these activities so long as you adhere to the class attendance policy). You are responsible for keeping up with class discussions and assignments, so please contact me as soon as possible if you miss a class. If you have questions or concerns about the attendance policy now or at any point in the semester, please do not hesitate to contact me. Absences will be excused upon presentation of a doctor’s note (so long as the total number remains under 4).

-2 essays: 50% of final grade (20% and 30% respectively) 3-4 pages, 6-8 pages

I will distribute the details of each assignment along with the criteria for assessment well in advance of the due dates. For now (to give you an idea of the goals for each assignment), here is a brief account of the areas of assessment for each essay :

Essay I: An in depth analysis of one of the texts from the first half of the semester particularly addressing an issue of how technology and/or media impacts or is represented in the text. The essay should invoke secondary sources and be properly formatted and cited.

Essay II: An in depth analysis of one of the texts from the second half of the semester particularly addressing an issue of how media and/or technology impacts or is represented in the text. The essay should invoke secondary sources and be properly formatted and cited.

Rough and final drafts of papers must be typed, double spaced, and stapled. Papers turned in late and without prior notice will go down 1/3 of a letter grade per class day (starting with the due date) and will not receive comments.

-Reading Reflections 10% 1/2 page essays that will be written throughout the semester.

-Group Author Presentation: 5%

Assignment: I will divide the class into small groups, each of which will be responsible for giving us a presentation on one of the authors or directors mentioned in this course.

-Individual Reading Presentations: 5%

Throughout the semester, each student will be asked to present on a given day about that days reading. Subsequently, they will be expected to guide part of the conversation about that days reading, and to present a series of questions that could be of interest to the class.

-Research project presentation: 5% You will give a brief presentation based on the topic of your research presentation. You will be evaluated on your ability to present your overall argument in a compelling manner and to provide an intriguing example from your research that supports this argument

-Midterm and Final Exams: 15% (5% and 10% respectively)

E-mail: Campus and course announcements will often be handles by e-mail. Students should check their "@slu.edu" e-mail regularly.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at: http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%206-26-15.pdf.

Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

Information regarding the collection of student work for assessment:

In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to accreditation requirements, SLU-Madrid regularly assesses its teaching, services and programs for evidence of student learning. For this purpose, SLU-Madrid keeps representative examples of student work from all courses and programs on file, including assignments, papers, exams, portfolios and results from student surveys, focus groups and reflective exercises. Copies of your work for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer SLU-Madrid not to retain your work for this purpose, you must communicate this decision in writing to your professor.

Title IX Statement:

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University.

If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

Accommodation statement:

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

January	reading	due	class
Wednesday, 10			introductions
Friday, 12	A Midsummer Night's Dream	post to bb	Plato's Allegory of the Cave
Monday, 15	A Midsummer Night's Dream		DesCartes' Demon
Wednesday, 17	A Midsummer Night's Dream		group presentation in class writing/ small group discussion
Friday, 19	A Midsummer Night's Dream	post to bb	video
Sunday, 21	Last day to drop without W		
Monday, 22	Aereopagitica	post to bb	analyse in groups
Wednesday, 24	Aereopagitica		group presentation
Friday, 26	Application deadline for Spring semester degree candidates NO CLASS		
Monday, 29	Leaving the Atocha Station	post to bb	group work presentation
Wednesday, 31	Leaving the Atocha Station		group work: themes Goffman excerpt
February			
Friday, 2	Leaving the Atocha Station		discussion
Monday, 5	Whitman Song of Myself		group presentation Doc
Wednesday, 7	Whitman Song of Myself	post to bb	Dicussion

Friday, 9			workshopping papers
Monday, 12			conferences
Wednesday, 14			conferences
Friday, 16			conferences
Monday, 19			review
Wednesday, 21		Paper one due (3-4 pages)	Midterm Reflection
Friday, 23	NO CLASS		
Monday, 26	Orwell's Why I write		why do we write?
Tuesday, 27	Professors' deadline to submit midterm grades		
Wednesday, 28	Orwell 1984	post to bb	group presentation discussion
March			
Friday, 2	Orwell 1984		small groups
Monday, 5	Orwell 1984		hoffmeyer excerpt
Wednesday, 7	Orwell 1984		close reading
Friday, 9	Orwell 1984 Last day to drop a class with W	post to bb	group presentation discussion
Monday, 12	Oryx and Crake	post to bb	small groups: themes
Wednesday, 14	Oryx and Crake		Atwood interview
Friday, 16	Oryx and Crake		close reading
Monday, 19	Oryx and Crake		small groups: questions
Wednesday, 21	Oryx and Crake		speculative fiction writing exercise
Friday, 23	Oryx and Crake	post to bb	discussion
Monday, 26	NO CLASS		
Wednesday, 28	NO CLASS		
Friday, 30	NO CLASS		
April			
Monday, 2	Orfeo	post to bb	group presentation
Wednesday, 4	Orfeo Registration for Fall 2018 semester begins		Powers interview
Friday, 6	Orfeo		small groups: themes
Monday, 9	Orfeo		Re:sound radio doc

Wednesday, 11	Orfeo		small groups: questions
Friday, 13	Orfeo	post to bb	discussion
Monday, 16			workshopping papers
Wednesday, 18			conferences
Friday, 20			conferences
Monday, 23			conferences
Wednesday, 25			presentations
Friday, 27			presentations
Monday, 30			review
MAY			
Wednesday, 2	NO CLASS Día de la comunidad		
Tuesday, 8 8:30-11:30	Final Exam	Paper 2 due (6-8 pages)	Final Reflection