TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

ENGL 437: LITERATURE and TECHNOLOGY

Trimester 1 2010

1 March to 4 July 2010

30 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010

Mid-trimester break: 5 April to 18 April 2010

Study week: 7 June to 11 June 2010

Examination/Assessment period: 11 June to 4 July 2010

- **Note**: Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

- **Public holidays this trimester**: Easter: Friday 2 April - Tuesday 6 April 2010

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds.aspx

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Brian Opie   brian.opie@vuw.ac.nz   463-6812   VZ 804   (Course coordinator)

Office hours: Thursday 12-2pm (or contact me to arrange an appointment).

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Seminar

Tuesdays at 1.00 pm in VZ802

COURSE DELIVERY

Preparation before each seminar will require more than a first reading of the material. At least one member of the class will be expected to make a brief presentation of no more than 20 minutes duration to introduce each seminar's discussion.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information can be found on the notice boards adjacent to VZ808 or will be provided by email.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will explore issues in the relations between literature and technology, specifically information technology and communications media. Literature as a technology, the representation of technology in literature, reading as detection, and the implications of the development of electronic or digital textuality will be foregrounded.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, you should:

1. employ key concepts effectively in the discussion of literary and other texts, including representation, technology, virtuality, media, and textuality;

2. understand key similarities and differences between literary texts and texts in other media;

3. analyse literature as a technology through the representation of technology in literature;

4. be able to compare and contrast the print book and the computer as information and communications technologies; and

5. have reflected upon and advanced your capabilities in the medium of writing.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

You should expect to spend, on average, about 20 hours per week on work for this paper, apart from the seminars. Note that this is a rough guideline only, which will vary from student to student and from week to week.

READINGS

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

Essential texts:

Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveller* (Vintage); Jean Baudrillard, *Simulacra and Simulation* (Michigan); Philip K Dick, *Simulacra* (Gollancz); Neil Gaiman, *The Sandman: Dream Country*, Vol 3 (Vertigo);

Russell Hoban, *Angelica's Grotto* (Bloomsbury); Don DeLillo, *Mao II* (Vintage); Neal Stephenson, *The Diamond Age* (Signet); William Gibson and Bruce Sterling, *The Difference Engine* (Bantam); *ENGL 437 Literature and Technology Readings and E-text Readings* (Student Notes).

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Term work (50% of the final grade)

1. Due on 19 April. Length: 2000 words. [40%]

A critical analysis of one from a selection of passages chosen from the set texts and focussed by a theoretical issue. OR an alternative on E-Text/E-Lit, to be confirmed.

2. Due on 28 May. Length: 3000 words maximum. [60%]

Writing on a theoretical topic or problem to be agreed in discussion with me, drawing evidence from the theoretical literature and at least TWO of the fictional texts.

Final examination (50% of the final grade)

Part 1 - 50%: A critical analysis of one extract from a small selection from the set texts. Part 2 - 50%: Writing on a general topic chosen from a selection of topics.

Examination/Assessment period: Friday 11 June to Saturday 4 July 2010

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and no comments are offered.

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Attend at least 8 of the 12 seminars;
- Complete both of the internal assessment pieces by Friday 4 June;
- Sit the final examination.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source

- The work of other students or staff

- Information from the internet

- Software programs and other electronic material

- Designs and ideas

- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise yourself with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week	Date	Seminar Topic	Student Notes Readings
Week 1	**2 March**	Introduction: E-Text	E-Text Readings
Week 2	**9 March**	*Writer as Machine:* Calvino and Doyle	Calvino, "Cybernetics and Ghosts"; Bolter, "Writing Space"
Week 3	**16 March**	*Reader as Detective*: Calvino and Doyle	Poster, "Mode"; Burbules, "Rhetorics"
Week 4	**23 March**	Dick	Ryan, "Cyberspace"
Week 5	**30 March** **1 April**	*Word and Image*: Baudrillard **First Assignment due**	Luke, "Touring"
Mid Trimester Break: Friday 2 April– Sunday 18 April 2010			
Week 6	**20 April**	Gaiman	Leed, "Voice and Print"
Week 7	**27 April**	Hoban	Benjamin, "Work of Art", Nichols, "Work of Culture"
Week 8	**4 May**	*Writing and Technology*: DeLillo	Haraway, "Cyborg manifesto", Christie, Tragedy"
Week 9	**11 May**	Stephenson	Lanham, "Extraordinary Convergence", Mitchell, "City of Bits", Hayles "Virtuality"
Week 10	**18 May**	Gibson and Sterling	Adams, "Education"
Week 11	**25 May** **28 May**	Gibson and Sterling **Second Assignment due**	Grusin, "Electronic Author"
Week 12	**1 June**	Re-vision	
Study Week: Monday 7 June to Friday 11 June 2010			
Examination Period: Friday 11 June – Sunday 4 July 2010			