



What is a Text?

Down the Rabbit Hole:
Chasing Intertextuality
Across Media & Genres

ENG 4815- | Fall 2016
TR 8:30-9:45 | WMS 415

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WMS 229 | MT 1:30-2:30

Course Description

This course investigates the nature of textuality and its relationship to various media and technologies, while also exploring theoretical and practical questions related to the production and reception of texts in a variety of different forms and media. We will read/interact with a constellation of various texts and examine the intertextual links among them, and we will explore ways of representing intertext visually.

Required Course Materials

Online texts accessible online and through Bb, as described below
Access to email
Laptop is strongly recommended

Attendance

Students with more than two absences may have their final grade adversely affected, up to one letter-grade deducted per absence. Students with more than four absences may fail the course.

Participation

This class is discussion-based, and we'll do a lot of workshopping of one another's work, so participation is paramount. If your participation is lacking, I'll let you know, but by then it may have already affected your grade.

Grading Breakdown

Discussion Board	30%
Intertext Concept Tree	30%
ICT Presentation	5%
Intertext Map	30%
Map Presentation	5%

Discussion Board

We will have 1-2 discussion board posts per week. Discussion board due dates are marked with an asterisk on the calendar. I will post a question or prompt, then you will write a post in response (1 point). You will also write a substantive response to a classmate's post (.5 point). Posts are due 11:59 PM the night before class; responses to classmates are due before class.

Intertext Concept Tree (ICT) and Presentation

You will trace a series of intertextual relationships down a number of paths. Detailed description to follow.

Intertext Map

You will create an interactive visual map of intertextual relationships. Detailed description to follow.

Assignment completion statement

You must complete all the assignments in the course in order to pass.

Late work

All assignments (besides discussion board posts) are due at the date and time stated in the assignment prompt. Work not submitted by the due time will be penalized one letter grade per day late. Discussion board posts will not be accepted late.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is grounds for suspension from the university as well as for failure in this course. It will not be tolerated. Any instance of plagiarism will be reported to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Plagiarism is a counterproductive, non-writing behavior that is unacceptable in a course intended to aid the growth of individual writers. Plagiarism is included among the violations defined in the Academic Honor Code, section b), paragraph 2, as follows: "Regarding academic assignments, violations of the Academic Honor Code shall include representing another's work or any part thereof, be it published or unpublished, as one's own."

Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
97 Woodward Avenue, South
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdr@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Week 1

T 8/30 Review Syllabus, Introductions

R 9/1* Read: Harris “Rewriting” (on Bb)
OED entry on “Reference”
Watch: Everything is a Remix -- <https://vimeo.com/139094998>

Week 2

T 9/6* Barthes, “From Work to Text” –
<http://evans-experientialism.freewebspace.com/barthes06.htm>

OED Entry on “Text” (FSU LIB)
Lapham, “Figures of Speech” (on Bb)
R 9/8* David Foster Wallace, “Little Expressionless Animals” (on Bb)
[Assign Intertext Concept Tree](#)

Week 3

T 9/13* Alice in Wonderland, Chapters I-VI (on Bb)
Wikipedia entry on “On Exactitude in Science” (12 May 2016 edition)

R 9/15* Alice in Wonderland, Chapters VII-XII

Week 4

T 9/20* Deleuze and Guattari, Rhizomes (on Bb)
OED entry on “Epistemology”
OED entry on “Ontology”
Anderson et al., On assemblages and geography

R 9/22* Kennedy et al, “All Those Little Machines: Assemblage as Transformative Theory“ (on Bb)

Week 5

T 9/27* David Foster Wallace, “E Unibus Pluram” (on Bb)
Larry McCaffrey, Interview with David Foster Wallace (on Bb)

R 9/29* David Foster Wallace, “Host” (link on Bb)
McGann, “The Rationale of Hypertext” (link on Bb)

Week 6

T 10/4 No Class—Conferences on Intertext Concept Tree (TBD)

R 10/6* Eliot, “The Wasteland” (on Bb)
Brooks, “the Wasteland, Critique of the Myth” (on Bb)
Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent” (on Bb)

Week 7

T 10/11* Listen: Bob Dylan, “Desolation Row” (link on Bb)
Desolation Row lyrics (link on Bb)
Listen: Bob Dylan, “Tempest” (link on Bb)
Tempest lyrics (link on Bb)
Macpherson, Tempest review (link on Bb)
Read: Johnson, “Desolation Row Revisited: Bob Dylan's Rock Poetry” (Bb)
Read: Two brief reviews of books on the *Titanic* (on Bb)

R 10/13* Adorno on popular music (on Bb)
Listen: Beach Boys, “Smiley Smile” (full album, link on Bb)
Read: Wikipedia entry on “Smile” (link on Bb)

Week 8

T 10/18 Intertext concept tree in-class workshop

R 10/20 Intertext concept tree due, Presentations

Week 9

T 10/25* Kelley, “What Technology Wants” (on Bb)
Lanier, “You are not a Gadget” (on Bb)

R 10/27* Borges, Garden of Forking Paths (on Bb)
Borges, Library of Babel (on Bb)
[Assign Intertext Map](#)

Week 10

T 11/1* deCerteau, Spatial Stories (on Bb)

R 11/3* Barton & Barton, Ideology and the Map: Toward a Postmodern Visual
Design Practice (on Bb)

Week 11

T 11/8* Orwell, "Politics and the English Language" (Bb)
Wallace, "Tense Present" (Bb)

R 11/10* Kostelnick & Hassett, from "Shaping Information" (Bb)

Week 12

T 11/15* Reading on visualization TBD

R 11/17 No Class—Conferences on Intertext Concept Map (TBD)

Week 13

T 11/22 Beckett, 'Waiting for Godot' (Bb)

R 11/24 NO CLASS TURKEY & FOOTBALL

Week 14

T 11/29* Wild card reading TBD

R/12/1 Work on Intertext Concept Maps in class

Week 15

T 12/6 Work on Intertext Concept Maps in class

R 12/8 **Intertext Concept Maps due, Presentations**