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HONR 4010
Electronic Literature, Spring 2017

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Course Description

Electronic Literature is often described as a "digitally-born literary work." Unlike traditional literature (books, newspapers, and other print material), electronic literature is created for technology and often eschews conventional writing practices. This makes studying electronic literature a daunting task for some, and there are still regions of academia that reject the credibility of e-lit. This class is designed to introduce students to electronic literature and some of its most common forms, but many students will have already come into contact with e-lit without even realizing it. This course should still be considered by those students, as we will also be applying literary theory to these works in an attempt to obtain a deeper understanding of them.

In HONR 4010, we will discuss the rise of Internet culture and how it has affected traditional literature, read works of literature that have influenced this culture, and experience some of the new and upcoming types of electronic literature through mediums such as hypertext, video games, and interactive fiction. This will be an online course, meaning that all of our meetings and discussions will take place on Moodle and through email.

Course Textbooks/Materials

While many of these texts can be found online for free, there are some that need to be purchased elsewhere. Please do **not** pirate any of the materials, as that is stealing and stealing is bad (and illegal under federal law).

Books:

Neuromancer by William Gibson (ISBN: 978-0441569595)

E-Lit:

The Stanley Parable by Galactic Cafe (http://www.stanleyparable.com/)

Gone Home by The Fulbright Company (http://gonehome.game/)

Undertale by Toby Fox (http://undertale.com/)

Other Materials:

- A computer with a Windows OS (otherwise known as a "PC"). Mac can work, but not every item on the syllabus is geared for Apple OS. The ULM library has plenty to borrow if you cannot obtain one. **Please do <u>NOT</u> use a smartphone to complete assignments!**

- A Broadband Internet connection or better. Because many varieties of Electronic Literature are found on the Internet, it is expected that all students have a way to access them. ULM has numerous wireless hotspots across campus, and the ULM library has computers that can be utilized for this purpose.

Course Methods

Students will participate in in-depth **forum discussions**, submit **brief essays** detailing their personal reactions to a given work, and communicate with their peers and their instructors to complete **an original research paper** on a work of electronic literature.

<div align="center">Course Topics</div>

We will discuss...
- Predictions and Realities of the Internet
- Internet culture
- Cyberpolitics
- Traditional literature vs Electronic literature
- The Growth of E-Lit
- Other issues relevant to class as they arise

Course Goals/Student Learning Objectives

- To learn about how the Internet became such a dominant part of our lives
- To discover the founding ideologies of Internet culture
- To understand the ongoing debate between Traditional Media and New Media
- To acknowledge and understand the growing number of New Media genres
- To create in students the desire to apply what they have learned to their daily lives and their current media consumption
- To develop presentation and public speaking skills
- To foster better relations between fellow classmates and promote deeper discussions
- To develop critical thinking, active reading, research, and writing skills at the undergraduate level.

<div align="center">Course Requirements, Assignments, and Grading</div>

30% Research Paper
- You will research one or two related texts of electronic literature (hypertext novels, video games, interactive fiction, etc.) and make a detailed argumentative essay for why your chosen works should be a part of the canon of electronic literature. Your argument will need to be backed by research and other sources. Do not tell us *what* the work is about; tell us *why* it matters.
  - Works may be related to those we've discussed in class, but they cannot focus on any of the assigned texts. In other words, you may reference one of the works we discuss, but it cannot be the topic of your work. I want you to search for something new and not simply regurgitate what you've picked up in class.
  - Paper Requirements
    - 8-10 pages
    - 12pt Times New Roman (Not Comic Sans!), Double-spaced
    - MLA Format
    - 8 or more scholarly (Peer-reviewed) sources

30% Online Assignments

20% Midterm Exam

20% Final Exam

Policies on...
- Late Work

- Because all assignments will be open at least a week in advance, I will **<u>NOT</u>** accept any late online submissions. Forums, response papers, essays, etc. will be given a **ZERO** if they are not turned in by the due date.
- I will only allow make-ups if you were absent due to extenuating circumstances or you provided warning ahead of time.
- Missed Final Exams
  - Must be negotiated in advance.
  - I will excuse a student from the final only if s/he qualifies for an Incomplete and is willing to take an "I" for the semester.
- Course Evaluation
  - Please complete the online evaluation of this course by the end of the semester.
  - This helps me as a professor to improve and lets you make this course better for the next class.
- Communication
  - Contact Dr. Grinnell via her office hours or through email.
  - Contact Cameron Irby via email.

Plagiarism

The English department adheres to the ULM published policy on Academic Dishonesty (see Page4 in ULM Student Policy Manual, or http://www.ulm.edu/studentpolicy/). This policy pertains foremost to deliberate acts of plagiarism, punishable on a first offense by a minimum of a "0" on the plagiarized assignment and a report of the incident to appropriate University officials. On a second offense, the minimum sanction is an "F" in the course. On a third offense, the minimum sanction is disciplinary action at the University level (academic probation, suspension, etc). More serious first or second offenses may result in action at the University level as well.

However, if a freshman year instructor determines to his or her satisfaction that a student's genuine misunderstanding of quotation, citation or documentation rules that are being learned in the class has resulted in accidental plagiarism on an assignment the instructor may opt to give a "50" rather than a 0.

Plagiarism may be defined as the use of another person's words, ideas, research or interpretation of facts; and images, graphics or other original work without appropriate citation and documentation. In this class, we use the rules of MLA style. To avoid plagiarism one must:

1. Put all borrowed language—even key words—into quotation marks or block quotation format.
2. Avoid copying a source's sentence structure and order of ideas too closely without quoting directly.
3. Cite in parentheses the author's name and page or paragraph number if applicable for all quotations from a source and for all borrowed ideas, facts, graphics, statistics or other materials.
4. Provide an entry on a Works Cited page prepared according to MLA style for every source used and cited in the paper.

Emergencies

- If there's a fire, take the nearest stair case and walk down quietly in single file.
- If there's a weather alert that requires it, we should go to the first floor and avoid sitting or standing too close to glass doors or windows.
- If someone has a serious accident or becomes seriously ill, we should call the campus police or 9-11.
- If another emergency arises, follow directions and use common sense to protect yourself and your classmates.

Student Services

The following services are available to students, and we encourage you to use them when you need them.

- Student Success Center (http://www.ulm/edu.cass/)
- Counseling Center http://www.ulm.edu/counselingcenter/
- Special Needs at http://www.ulm.edu/studentaffairs/
- Library http://www.ulm.edu/library/referencedesk.html
- Computing Center Help Desk http://www.ulm.edu/computingcenter/helpdesk
- The Write Place (Located on the Third floor of Walker Hall) is not only a center for assigned 1001/1002 activities but also a place where students may go for tutoring or for use of computers.

Students with Special Needs

In this class I happily accommodate students with special needs. Contact the Counseling Center to establish appropriate accommodations and have them send me a letter spelling out what I can do in formal terms. Also, please stop by and talk to me so that we can establish a one to one understanding of how to best cooperate to optimize your learning experience in this class.

Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds, including federal loans and grants. Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment and retaliation. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please contact Student Services at 318 342 5230 or to file a complaint, visit www.ulm.edu/titleix.

IMPORTANT: Everything that follows is **subject to change** and will be amended or added to throughout the semester. Always check Moodle or email me if you are unsure as to what is assigned.

Spring 2017

Week One – Background Information on Digital Humanities / Introductions

Week Two – *Neuromancer* , Response Paper

Week Three – Cyberpunk films & *Neuromancer* , Forum

Week Four – Selected Readings on e-lit, Forum

Week Five – *My Body & a Wunderkammer*, Forum

Week Six – *Depression Quest*, Forum

Week Seven – Mardi Gras Break, Midterm

Week Eight – Young Hae Chang Heavy Industries, Reaction Paper, Forum

Week Nine – E-poetry, Forum

Week Ten – *The Stanley Parable*, Forum

Week Eleven – *Gone Home*, Forum

Week Twelve – *Undertale*, Reaction Paper

Week Thirteen – *Undertale*, Forums

Week Fourteen – Spring Break, **Research Paper Summaries Due**

Week Fifteen – Generative Works, forum

Week Sixteen – **Research Paper Due**, Final exams for Graduating Seniors

Week Seventeen – Final Exams for non-graduating students