

**N. Katherine Hayles, UCLA**

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## **Media Theory Graduate Seminar, English 260**

**Winter 2008-01-10**

**University of California, Los Angeles**

### **Syllabus**

#### **Week 1 (January 8): Introductions**

#### **Week 2 (January 15): What have been New Media?**

- Selections from *The New Media Reader* (Vannevar Bush, Alan Turing, Norbert Wiener, J.C.R. Licklider, Douglas Engelbart, Roy Ascott, Theodor Nelson [#s 11, 21, 30], Alan Kay & Adele Goldberg)
- Adalaide Morris, introduction to *New Media Poetics* [ERES\*]
- Watch: [Doug Engelbart SRI presentation](#) (1968)
- Context for discussion: Jay David Bolter and Richard Grusin, *Remediation: Understanding New Media* (1999); Lev Manovich, *The Language of New Media* (2001); N. Katherine Hayles, *Writing Machines* (2002)

#### **Week 3 (January 22): Writing Systems**

- Friedrich Kittler, “Gramophone, Film, Typewriter”; “The World of the Symbolic”; “Protected Mode”; and “There Is No Software,” *Literature, Media, Information Systems*
- Kittler, *Discourse Networks 1800/1900* (pp. xii-xviii, 206-229, 369-372)
- Recommended: Geoffrey Winthrop-Young and Nicholas Gane, “[Friedrich Kittler: An Introduction](#),” *Theory, Culture & Society* 23: 7-8 (2006): 5-16.

#### **Week 4 (January 29): Code**

- Florian Cramer, *Word Made Flesh: Code, Culture, Imagination* (excerpts)
- Adrian Mackenzie, “[The performativity of code: software and cultures of circulation](#)”
- Rita Raley, “[Code.surface || Code.depth](#)”
- Michael Mateas and Nick Montfort, “[A Box, Darkly: Obfuscation, Weird Languages, and Code Aesthetics](#)”
- Browse: Mez, [-\]\[selec\]\[text: co\]\[deP\]\[1\]\[oetry\]\\_ | \\_The Art of M\[ez\]ang.elle.ing | John Cayley, \*translation\* | Ted Warnell, \*Poem by Nari\*](#)

- Browse exhibits: [Code](#) (year01.com) | “[CODEDOC](#)” (Whitney Artport) | “[Obfuscated C Code](#)”

### **Week 5 (February 5): Distraction (attention & perception)**

- Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”
- Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and Space in the 19th Century* (“Panoramic Travel”) [ERES]
- Jonathan Crary, *Suspensions of Perception: Attention, Spectacle, and Modern Culture* (pp. 11-51, 77-78) [ERES]
- Talan Memmott, *Lexia to Perplexia*
- Young Hae-Chang Heavy Industries, “[Rain on the Sea](#)”
- Recommended: Sue Currell, “Streamlining the Eye: Speed Reading and the Revolution of Words, 1870-1940” and Charles Acland, “The Swift View: Tachistoscopes and the Residual Modern,” in *Residual Media* [ERES]

### **Week 6 (February 12): Embodiment**

- Michele White, *The Body and the Screen: Theories of Internet Spectatorship* (introduction & afterword) [ERES]
- N. Katherine Hayles, *How We Became Posthuman* (“Virtual Bodies and Flickering Signifiers”) [ERES]
- Mark Hansen, *New Philosophy for New Media* (Chapter 1) [ERES]
- Recommended: Myron Krueger, “Responsive Environments,” *The New Media Reader*; “[Makeover: Writing the Body into the Posthuman Technoscape](#)” (special issue of *Configurations*); Bernadette Wegenstein, “The Medium is the Body,” *Getting Under the Skin: Body and Media Theory*
- Consider: Shelley Jackson, *Patchwork Girl*; interactive art installations, haptic interfaces

### **Week 7 (February 19): Narrative/Database**

- Victoria Vesna, ed., *Database Aesthetics: Art in the Age of Information Overflow* (selections include Vesna, Manovich, Paul, Dietz, Seaman, Daniel, Sack)
- N. Katherine Hayles, “The Tempestuous Relationship of Narrative and Data” (handout)
- Artists and Data Projects: George Legrady, *Pockets Full of Memories* | Lynn Hershman-Leeson, “The Raw Data Diet” | Eduardo Kac, “[Time Capsule](#)”

### **Week 8 (February 26): Media Ecologies**

- Matthew Fuller, *Media Ecologies: Materialist Energies in Art and Technoculture*
- Recommended: *world wide watch* (irational.org) | John Hilliard, *A Camera Recording Its Own Condition* (1971) | [UK Pirate Radio Broadcasts](#) | [Interview with Germaine Koh](#) (Mathew Kabatoff; Rhizome)

## **Week 9 (March 4): Socio-political Engagements**

- Nigel Thrift, *Knowing Capitalism* (pp. 93-111, 212-226) [ERES]
- Alan Liu, *The Laws of Cool: Knowledge Work and the Culture of Information* ("The Idea of Knowledge Work") [ERES]
- Alex Galloway and Eugene Thacker, *The Exploit: A Theory of Networks* (pp. 25-35, 58-63) [ERES]
- Browse: Lisa Autogena and Joshua Portway, *Black Shoals: Stock Market Planetarium* | John Klima, *ecosystem* (Vesna, ed.) | Nancy Paterson, *Stock Market Skirt* (Vesna, ed.)

## **Week 10 (March 11): Media Spaces (pervasive computing, locative & mobile media)**

- Bruce Sterling, excerpts from *Shaping Things* (pp. 76-111) [ERES]
- Adam Greenfield and Mark Shepard, *Situated Technologies Pamphlet 1: Urban Computing and Its Discontents* (free download)
- Michael Bull, "'To each their own bubble': Mobile Spaces of Sound in the City," in Nick Couldry and Anna McCarthy eds., *MediaSpace* [ERES]
- Bo Kampmann Walther, "Pervasive Gaming: Formats, Rules and Space"
- Browse: urban-scale projected graffiti, e.g. laser graffiti and SMS performances such as TXTual Healing | Tactical Sound Garden | Google Earth | iSee | Beyond the Beyond (Sterling blog) | GPS Drawing