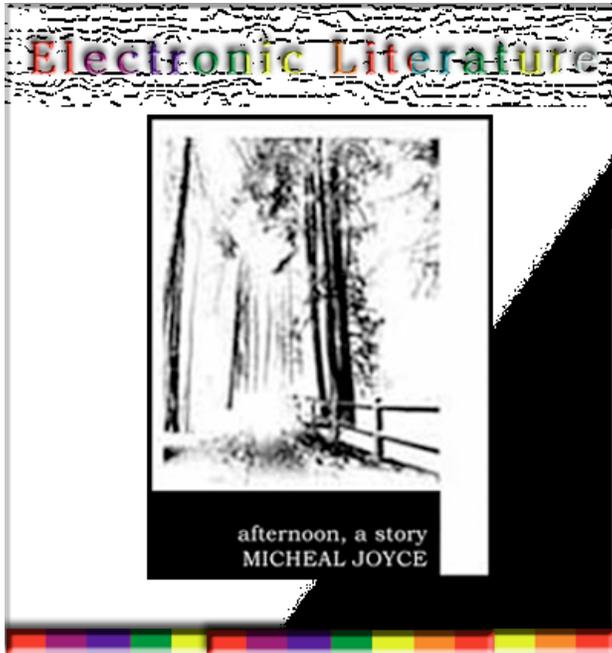


## DTC 338.01 Special Topics in Digital Technology & Culture: Electronic Literature



In 1989 Michael Joyce published what is now considered the first commercial work of electronic literature, *afternoon: a story*, a hypertext narrative that tells, from the first person point of view, about the death of the protagonist's lover. From that work was born both a field and a genre.

This course looks at numerous works of electronic literature, the major authors working in the field, the genres developing, and the ideas underlying the practice. It also provides the underpinning for students to author their own works of electronic literature since part of the course is devoted to practice.

This course is also aimed at preparing students for "Visionary Landscapes: The Electronic Literature Organization 2008 Conference" that will be held on the Washington State University Vancouver campus from May 28-June 1, 2008, chaired by members of the DTC faculty. Thus, students in this course will have the opportunity to meet and interact with artists and works studied during this semester.

### Part I Course Information

Dr. Dene Grigar, Associate Professor

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Class Blog: <http://elit.motime.com>; Professor's Website: <http://www.nospace.net/dene>  
Course Media

1. The class blog (<http://elit.motime.com>) for announcements and links to resources and materials.
2. The database of free works of electronic literature sponsored by the Electronic Literature Organization (<http://directory.eliterature.org/>).

3. Free online journals: *Iowa Review Web* (<http://www.uiowa.edu/~iareview/mainpages/tirwebhome.htm>), *Poems That Go* (<http://www.poemsthatgo.com/>); *Drunken Boat* (<http://www.drunkenboat.com/>), and many others.

### Technology and Knowledge Required

All students need access to a computer with an internet connection and should be familiar with the following technical skills:

1. How to access and browse the internet
2. How to function in a MS Word environment, including how to create and save documents *and* how to cut and paste information
3. How to use email, including how to send Word documents via email as attachments
4. How to post comments to a blog

Additionally, students will be exposed to the following skills:

1. How to create and save images in PhotoShop
2. How to produce an animation in Flash
3. How to produce a hypertext document using Dreamweaver
4. How to make a video

### Assignments

1. One formal analysis paper (500-750 words), following the completion of "The Nature of Elit" portion of the course; must incorporate concepts expressed by Guest Bloggers in their postings.
2. One major project, chosen from the following: Long informative report about an author, genre, or theory of elit (2500-3000 words); Interview with an author (2500-3000 words); Critique of a body of works; Work of Electronic Literature (of good quality), which includes an "artist paper" (250-300 words); the development of an electronic publication (journal, blog, website) for showcasing class work, with introduction, resource links, and annotated bibliography of recommended works. This project is presented to the class at the end of the semester.
3. Three in-class works of electronic literature using video, the web, and animation.

### Assessment

One formal analysis paper	1 @ 30% = 30%
Final project	1 @ 30% = 30%

Three in-class projects	3 @ 10 = 30%
Class participation and preparedness	10%

### Textbooks to Purchase

1. *Close Reading New Media: Analyzing Electronic Literature*

Jan Van Looy and Jan Baetans (Eds.)

Symbolae, Facultatis Litterarum Lovaniensis, Series d Litteraria vol. 16. Leuven University Press, 2003

Eur24.00 (Paper)

ISBN: 90-5867-323-5

2. *Writing Machines.*

N. Katherine Hayles

Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2002

\$19.95 (Paper)

ISBN: 0-262-58215-5

### Other Materials (Free)

1. *Electronic Literature Collection (ELC)*, Volume I (free CD made available to students)
2. Materials on reserve at WSU Vancouver Library
3. Materials free from ELO website: [eliterature.org](http://eliterature.org)
4. Handouts from the professor
5. *State of the Arts: The Proceedings of the Electronic Literature Organization's 2002 Symposium*

### Plagiarism

As you may well surmise, plagiarism is not an acceptable practice. Accordingly, this instructor follows the university policies regarding plagiarism. Students needing help with understanding plagiarism are encouraged to visit the university site,

<http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/plagiarism/main.html>. Additionally, you can refer to the *MLA Handbook 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*, pp. 65-75, for an depth discussion about the subject.

### Students with Disabilities Act

The professor complies with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines, specifically Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with respect to providing appropriate academic adjustments to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the responsibility of the student to register with and provide medical verification and academic schedules to Disability Resource Center at the beginning of each semester and no later than the second week of school, unless oth-

erwise determined by the coordinator. The student also must contact the faculty member in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate academic adjustments.

## Part II. Course Schedule

### Weeks 1-4: Introduction to Electronic Literature

Monday, January 7, 2008	Introduction to Course
Wednesday, January 9, 2008	<b>Guest Blogger: Rob Kendall, on his work, "Faith"</b> Class discussion on Hayles' essay: "Electronic Literature: What Is It?", found at <a href="http://eliterature.org/pad/elp.html">http://eliterature.org/pad/elp.html</a> . pp. 1-19; Leishman's "Deviant: The Possession of Christian Shaw," Dan Waber's "Strings," Stefans' "The Dreamlife of Letters," Kendall's, "Faith" at ELC I; Waber's "5 x 5" at <a href="http://www.uiowa.edu/~iareview/mainpages/new/september06/waber/fivebyfive.html">http://www.uiowa.edu/~iareview/mainpages/new/september06/waber/fivebyfive.html</a>
Monday, January 14, 2008	<b>Guest Blogger: Kate Pullinger, on her work, "Inanimate Alice"</b> Class discussion on: Kac's "Introduction" (handout); Glazier's "White-Faced Bromeliads on 20 Hectares," Flanagan's "The House," and Wylde's "Storyland," at ELC I; Pullinger and Babel's "Inanimate Alice, episodes 1-3" at <a href="http://www.inanimatealice.com/">http://www.inanimatealice.com/</a>
Wednesday, January 16, 2008	Meet in MOVE Lab, VCL 3 Demonstration of early elit
Monday, January 21, 2008	<b>Guest Blogger: MD Coverley, on her work "Book of Going Forth"</b> Class discussion on: Hayles' "Deeper into the Machine," found in <i>State of the Arts</i> ; Coverley's "Book of Going Forth by Day," found at <a href="http://eliterature.org">eliterature.org</a>
Wednesday, January 23, 2008	Class discussion on: "Multimedia Criticism," in <i>State of the Arts</i> ; Shelley's "My Body," on ELC I; Raley's interview with Shelley for Iowa Review Web, at <a href="http://www.uiowa.edu/%7Eiareview/tirweb/feature/jackson/jackson.htm">http://www.uiowa.edu/%7Eiareview/tirweb/feature/jackson/jackson.htm</a>

### Weeks 5-10: Genres of Elit

Monday, January 28, 2008	Meet in MOVE Lab, VCL 3
Wednesday, January 30, 2008	Lecture on elit genres; viewing of Bastos' "Free Radicals" <b>Guest Blogger: Stephanie Strickland, on her work "True North"</b> Class discussion on Hypertext section of Van Looy and Baetens' CRNM; demonstration of Strickland's <i>True North</i> ; Shelley's <i>Patchwork Girl</i> , and Coverley's <i>Califia</i>
Monday, February 4, 2008	<b>Guest Blogger: Deena Larsen, on "Creating Hypertext Lit"</b> Introduction to Dreamweaver
Wednesday, February 6, 2008	Studio
Monday, February 11, 2008	Studio
Wednesday, February 13, 2008	Project due
Monday, February 18, 2008	<b>Guest Blogger: Marcus Bastos, on his work "Free Radicals"</b>

Wednesday, February 20, 2008	Introduction to Final Cut Studio
Monday, February 25, 2008	Studio
Wednesday, February 27, 2008	Project Due
Monday, March 3, 2008	<b>Guest Blogger: Dan Waber, on his work "Strings" and "5 x 5"</b> Introduction to Flash
Wednesday, March 5, 2008	Studio

### Spring Break March 10-14, 2008

Monday, March 17, 2008	Studio
Wednesday, March 19, 2008	Project Due

### Week 11-13: The Nature of Elit

Monday, March 24, 2008	Class discussion on Hayles' <i>Writing Machines</i> , pp. 1-45; Young Hae-Chang Heavy Industries' "Samsung" series at <a href="http://eliterature.org">eliterature.org</a> ; Rackham's "Carrier" at <i>ELC I</i>
Wednesday, March 26, 2008	Class discussion on Hayles' <i>Writing Machines</i> , pp. 47-75; Memmott's "Lexia to Perplexia," Stefans' "Star Wars, One Letter at a Time," and Mercia's "Birds" at <i>ELC I</i>
Monday, March 31, 2008	<b>Guest Blogger: Deena Larsen, on her work "Disappearing Rain"</b> Class discussion on Hayles' <i>Writing Machines</i> , pp. 76-end; Larsen's "Disappearing Rain" at <a href="http://eliterature.org">eliterature.org</a> ; Carpenter's "The Cape" at <i>ELC I</i>
Wednesday, April 2, 2008	<b>Guest Blogger: Joe Tabbi, on his essay "A Media Migration"</b> Class discussion on Tabbi's "A Media Migration" (handout)
Monday, April 7, 2008	Class discussion of Strickland's <i>True North</i> (print poetry) and <i>True North</i> (electronic version)
Wednesday, April 9, 2008	Meet in MOVE Lab, VCL 3 Lecture on 3D literature Analysis Paper due

### Week 14-16: Final Projects

Monday, April 14, 2008	Final project outlines due
Wednesday, April 16, 2008	Studio
Monday, April 21, 2008	Studio
Wednesday, April 23, 2008	Studio
Monday, April 28, 2008	Professor critique
Wednesday, April 30, 2008	Projects due, counts as Final Exam, students must turn in projects at 10:30 a.m. The class time is spent viewing each other's projects