

English 04
Spring 2007
Tu Th 11:30-12:50
Webster 220

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LITERARY HISTORY AND/AS MEDIA HISTORY

Living in an era of rapid technological innovation, we tend to forget that print itself was once a new medium. The history of English and American literature since the Renaissance has been as much a response to the development of new material formats (scribal copying, printed playtexts, newspaper and serial publication, broadsides and ballads, “little magazines,” radio, film, television, the internet) as it has been a succession of ideal literary forms (poems, plays, and novels). This course will survey literary works from the sixteenth to the twentieth century in relation to the history of media.

This course requires active participation and the timely completion of all assigned readings and written work, which will include frequent 2- to 3-page papers and library/archival exercises.

Required Texts:

Beardsley/Wilde, *Salomé: A Tragedy in One Act* (Dover) 0486218309
Beckett, *Krapp's Last Tape* (Grove) 0802151345
Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451* (Del Ray) 0345342968
Chesnutt, *The Conjure Woman and Other Conjure Tales* (Duke) 0822313871
Gay, *The Beggar's Opera* (Penguin) 0140432205
Pound, *Selected Cantos* (New Directions) 0811201600
Sidney, *The Major Works* (Oxford) 0192840800
Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Norton) 0393963039

The required texts are available at the Amherst Bookshop, 8 Main Street (256-1547). *Please use these editions* (their ISBN's are included above), whether you purchase them new or used.

Other materials will be handed out in class (h) or made available on Blackboard course site. Students will be charged a nominal fee for these and billed through the Comptroller's Office.

Syllabus

Tu 1/30 Introduction: On Not Seeing Through Media – in-class *Phaedrus* passages?

Th 2/01 What Are Media? When Are They New?
Martin Lister et al., *New Media: A Critical Introduction* 9-59 (h)
Peter Stallybrass, from “Books and Scrolls: Navigating the Bible” 42-47 (h)

Jacques Derrida, from *Paper Machine* 41-47 (h)

- Tu 2/06 Sir Philip Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* (w. 1581-2, p. 1591), Sonnets 1-20; esp. 1, 2, 5, 6, 14, 15, 18-20
Thomas Wyatt, “Whoso List to Hunt” (h)
Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, “Love, That Doth Reign and Live Within My Thought” (h)
- Th 2/08 Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*, Sonnets 21, 23, 27, 31, 37, 39, 47-49, 52
Arthur F. Marotti, “Elizabethan Lyric Poetry and Early Modern Print Culture” (h)
Harold Love and Arthur F. Marotti, “Manuscript Circulation and Transmission,” 55-68 (h)
- Tu 2/13 Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella*, Sonnets 69, 71, 72, 86, Eighth Song, 88, 101-104, 105-108
Browse in *Tottel’s Miscellany* (1557), Syr P.S. *His Astrophel and Stella* (1591), and *The Countesse of Pembroke’s Arcadia* (1598) 519-69 (on Blackboard)
- Th 2/15 Jonson, *Bartholomew Fair* (1614), Act I
- Tu 2/20 Jonson, *Bartholomew Fair*, Acts II and III
- Th 2/22 Jonson, *Bartholomew Fair*, Acts IV and V
- Tu 2/27 John Gay, *The Beggar’s Opera* (1728)
Alvin Kernan, from Samuel Johnson & the Impact of Print, 48-70 (h)
- Th 3/01 Gay, *The Beggar’s Opera*
Joseph Addison, *The Spectator*, nos. 70, 74, 85 (1711)
“The Children in the Wood,” “Chevy Chase” (on Blackboard)
- Tu 3/06 Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1851-2), chapters I – XI, 1-100
Familiarize yourself with “Uncle Tom’s Cabin & American Culture: A Multi-Media Archive”: <http://www.iath.virginia.edu/utc/>
- Th 3/08 Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, chapters XI – XX, 101-218
Go to <http://www.amherst.edu/library/>; click on Research; click on Indexes and Databases; click on Sorted A-Z; click on American Periodical Series Online; click on Search for Periodicals; type in National Era in “publication title”; read one

installment of the novel in its *National Era* context—be sure to view the “Page Map” as well as the individual articles

- Tu 3/13 Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, chapters XXI – XXXIV, 219-319
Browse in “Minstrel Shows,” UTC: Multi-Media Archive
- Th 3/15 Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, chapters XXXV – XLV, 320-388
Browse in *The Key to Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1853), and “Other Media,” UTC:
Multi-Media Archive

Spring Break

- Tu 3/27 Charles Chesnutt, *The Conjure Woman* (1899), 31-120
Richard Brodhead, ““Why Could Not a Colored Man?”: Chesnutt and the Transaction of Authorship,” 195-210 (h)
- Th 3/29 Chesnutt, “Dave’s Neckliss” (1889), 123-135
Browse in *The Atlantic Monthly* (August 1887), (May 1888), (October 1889) – you can find these on the library homepage under e-journals; and *The Overland Monthly* (June 1889) from American Periodical Series Online (see 3/08 above)
- Tu 4/03 Beardsley/Wilde, *Salomé: A Tragedy in One Act* (1894)
Refer to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salome_%28play%29
- Th 4/05 Beardsley/Wilde, *Salomé: A Tragedy in One Act*; visit to Special Collections, Frost Library
- Tu 4/10 Walter Benjamin, “The Storyteller” (h) and “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” (h)
- Th 4/12 Roger Chartier, “Languages, Books, and Reading from the Printed Word to the Digital Text” (h)
- Tu 4/17 Pound, *Selected Cantos* (1922-69), pages 3-36, 43-49, 57-58
Refer to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cantos
- Th 4/19 Pound, *Selected Cantos*, pages 59-96

- Tu 4/24 Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451* (1953)
- Th 4/26 Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*
Denis Hollier, “The Death of Paper: A Radio Play” (on Blackboard)
- Tu 5/01 Beckett, *Krapp’s Last Tape* (1958) and *All That Fall* (1957)
Everett C. Frost, “Fundamental Sounds: Recording Samuel Beckett’s Radio Plays” (h)
- Th 5/03 Beckett, *Embers* (1959)
In class: clips from *Krapp’s Last Tape* (dir. Atom Egoyan, 2001)
- Tu 5/08 Literature and media 2007 (TBA)
- Th 5/10 Literature and media 2007 (TBA)