

Great Works of Literature: TechnoLiterature
English 10, Fall 2012 San José State University
Section 02: T/R 1:30-2:45pm, Sweeney Hall 229

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Technology has completely overtaken our lives, from interaction between and manufacture of human beings to the daily use of technology. How has this shifted our culture, our literature, our legacy? This semester, we will explore literary representations of biotechnology (mad scientists!), society's reactions to technological impositions (Luddites and punks!) and techno un-literature (hypertextual madness!). Along the way, we will discuss literary elements, historical context, readers' reactions, and the techno/digi/cyborg world of TechnoLiterature. GE Area C-2 (Letters)

Official Description: Fiction, drama, and poetry for non-English majors. Emphasis on critical appreciation of various literary forms.

Students will examine the interaction of analytical and creative processes in the production and perception of such works, and the significance of the historical and cultural contexts in which the works are created and interpreted. GE Area C-2 (Letters)

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature
2. Show familiarity with major critical approaches to British, American and World Literature;
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and the nature of the subject;
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively; and
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

REQUIRED BOOKS & MATERIALS (See Amazon list: <http://amzn.com/lm/R2AGOOOLE7WSDH>)

Burgess, Anthony. *A Clockwork Orange*. 1962. 5th ed. New York: Norton, 1986.

Carter, Angela. *The Passion of New Eve*. London: Little, Brown Book Group/Virago Modern Classics, 1987.

Dick, Phillip K. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Del Rey, 1996.

Jackson, Shelley. *Patchwork Girl*. Watertown: Eastgate, 1995 – **CD Rom (*let's talk about this one*)**

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*. 1818. 2nd ed. Ed. Susan Wolfson.

New York: Longman, 2006.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and Other Tales*. 1886. Ed.

Roger Luckhurst. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Ullman, Ellen. *The Bug*. Picador, 2012.

Email account, Turnitin.com account, Blizzard account

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

10% Class Discussion & Participation (SLO 1, 5)

15% Reading Responses (SLO 3)

25% Collaborative Presentation & Essay (SLO 2, 3, 4, 5)

15% Mid-Term Exam (SLO 2)

35% Final Project (SLO 2, 3)

TechnoLiterature (Engl. 10) Policies 1

Class Discussion & Participation

This course studies the theme of technology in a variety of literary genres, and even in a role playing game. Since we will build on our definition of “techno” and “literature” from the first day of class, your participation in each class meeting is imperative. Since this class is largely discussion-based, arrive to class prepared with the proper readings.

A student’s participation is assessed by his/her contribution throughout the semester. Use the following as guidelines for this portion of your final grade:

- To earn a "C," do the minimum: read and prepare assigned readings so you are never at a loss if you are asked a question, but speak only when called upon, do "ordinary," plain-vanilla presentations and responses. This is the "bottom line" for getting a "C" in this part of the course.
- To earn a "B," prepare assigned readings thoroughly, initiate discussions about them by asking good questions or suggesting ways to interpret readings, do presentations that reveal that you have done good additional work that you can make both interesting and meaningful to our discussions, and participate actively in those discussions.
- For an "A," take it up another level entirely: prepare readings thoroughly, find and talk about connections among them and among other aspects of culture (then and now), take a real leadership role in class discussions, including working actively to get others involved in the talk, make your presentations and responses "sparkle" by bringing to them something really special in terms of your own contributions, interests, skills, and abilities to think in broad even interdisciplinary terms. Most of all, remember that an "A" indicates the very best grade a person can get; that should tell you what sort of work you need to do to earn the grade of "A."

If you miss class, contact a classmate for notes, reading assignments and handouts – or check our Course Website. (Please do not email me to ask “Did I miss anything important?”)

Reading Responses/Blog Posts

For each novel or poetry collection, you will produce a 1-2 page Reading Response (300-500 words) to the assigned readings and submit it via email by the assigned date and time. *(Let's talk about making this a blog?)* These will be used to stimulate your thoughts on the texts and to serve as ideas for your essays. You will receive a prompt in the prior class. Absolutely avoid using “I” in these writings.

Each essay will receive a grade based on the *quality* of your response. Because these Reading Responses pertain to that week's text and are not useful after the discussion has been completed, late Reading Responses will not be accepted. Students who write nothing or who write frivolously will not receive credit for the exercise. Please be aware that missing even a few of these essays will cause your final grade to drop significantly. *I reserve the right to cancel or add weekly responses depending upon class performance.*

Collaborative Presentation & Essay

In collaboration, a group will lead us into the new text with intriguing, engaging information. In other words, your collaborative efforts will inspire us to continue reading. We will discuss both the presentation and the short essay at our second class meeting and will sign up for presentations.

Final Project

You will have several options for the Final Project, ranging from creative to scholarly to collaborative. Thorough instructions will be discussed at a later date. My office door is always open to discuss potential topics, give web designing tutorials or workshop a draft.

Mid-Term

The Mid-Term exam will consist of definitions, short answer and essay questions and will be take-home.

GRADING POLICY

The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU *Catalog* (“The Grading System”). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B = above average; C = average; D = below average; F = failure. Courses graded according to the A,B,C,NoCredit system shall follow the same pattern, except that NC, for NoCredit, shall replace D or F. In A,B,C,NoCredit courses NC shall also substitute for W (for Withdrawl) because neither NC nor W affects students’ grade point averages.

In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of the ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

For your final grades, 100-90 is an A, 89-80 is a B, 79-70 is a C, 69-60 is a D, and below 60 is an F. Pluses and minuses are the middle of each range. In calculating the final grade, a set number will represent each letter grade; for example, B+ is 87.5, B is 85, and B- is 82.5.

COURSE POLICIES

Course Website – <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/harris/Courses.htm>

As we move along in the semester, course materials, and updated reading schedules will be posted on the course website. Click on our class title to review the updated schedule, print handouts, visit outside web projects, print copies of lost documents, find the SJSU Writing Center, or check my office hours.

Late Assignments/Essays

If you cannot meet a deadline, you must contact me *at least 72 hours prior* to our class meeting to discuss the situation. If this is not done, for *every day* that an essay is late, you will be penalized one grade step: A becomes A-, A- becomes a B+, etc. The weekend will count as one day. Unless you have prior permission or the assignment specifically requests it, *absolutely no assignment will be accepted via email.*

Classroom & Online Environment

Respect your fellow students and I: Arrive on time (excessive tardiness will effect your participation grade) and do not partake in disruptive behavior. We will all be respectful of each other in both our face-to-face and online communications. If you are late, wait for an appropriate moment to enter so you do not disturb the class. Turn off cell phones or put them on silent mode during the class period. You are welcome to use your laptop with the caveat that it is used to enhance our discussions.

Email Protocols, Office Hours & Online Contact

Email is the best possible way to contact me (9am-5pm) and has the added bonus of recording our conversations. When emailing me, please consider it a formal communication: include the appropriate salutation, your name, your question/comment, and be aware of tone. Know that long conversations over email are not fruitful merely because of the limitations of technology. If you have an extended question or dilemma that cannot be answered by our online materials, please visit me during office hours, schedule a phone conference, or arrange for an online chat/video chat. You might also be able to get my attention on Twitter. I will amass a class email list and will occasionally send out information regarding our meetings or the readings. *Please provide an email address that you check daily.*

Google Chat ID: drkatherineharris

Skype ID: katherinedharris

Twitter ID: [triproftri](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

SJSU Writing Center

Visit me during office hours for help with your writing. For even further help, go to the Writing Center located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. Call for appointments at 924-2308 or go online at www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter . Work with tutors in a one-on-one environment. Make appointments online at the above website.

Library Liaison

For library research questions, contact Toby Matoush, the English Department's Library Liaison: (408) 808-2096 or toby.matoush@sjsu.edu . King Library has created an extensive and [very useful list of the library's resources specifically for English majors](#).

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the [Martin Luther King Library](#). A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Academic Integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity policy, located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

A Word about Plagiarism & Turnitin

Plagiarism checks will be performed by asking students to submit various written exercises or essays to Turnitin.com, a service which scans documents for all references to Web sources and other essays. **To sign up for Turnitin use the Class ID 5402398 and Password techfall11.** You may see your Turnitin report when you submit your assignment; if there are any discrepancies, I will request a meeting with you; if plagiarism is indicated, there is a possibility that you could fail the course.

Campus Policy on Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability. The DRC website is <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu> .

SCHEDULE of READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
English 10, Section 2 (Fall 2012)

Syllabus subject to change

See www.sjsu.edu/faculty/harris/Courses.htm for most current schedule

Date	Topics	Reading Due	Assignment Due
Thur 8/23	Introductions: You, Me, TechnoLit	Greensheet Policies & Schedule <u>Handouts</u> Syllabus Policies & Schedule	
Tues 8/28	Reading Poetry	Byron, “Prometheus” (<i>Frankenstein</i> 315) <u>Handouts</u> Writing Tips Group Presentations & Essay Instructions Hints for Reading Poetry	Discuss & sign up for Group Presentations Discuss Weekly Writing & Blog posts
Thur 8/30	Technology & Satan	Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancyent Mariner” (<i>Frankenstein</i> 218) Shelley, excerpt from <i>Prometheus Unbound</i> (<i>Frankenstein</i> 319) <u>Handouts</u> Hints for Reading Fiction	Blog Post due by 12pm
Tues 9/4	Original Monsters	<i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol. I.	
Thur 9/6		<i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol. II	
Tues 9/11		<i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol. III	
Thur 9/13		<i>Frankenstein</i> wrap-up	Blog Post due by 12pm
Tues 9/18	Evil Twins	<i>Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde</i> (all – it’s short!)	Group Presentation
Thur 9/20		<i>Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde</i>	Blog Post due by 12pm
Tues 9/25	Ludovico Technique	<i>A Clockwork Orange</i> , Part 1	Group Presentation
Thur 9/27		<i>A Clockwork Orange</i> , Part 2	
Tues 10/2		<i>A Clockwork Orange</i> , Part 3	Blog Post due by 12pm
Thur 10/4	Gender Bending Technology	<i>The Passion of New Eve</i>	Group Presentation
Tues 10/9		<i>The Passion of New Eve</i>	
Thur 10/11		<i>The Passion of New Eve</i>	
Tues 10/16		<i>The Passion of New Eve</i>	Blog Post due by 12pm
Thur 10/18	Predicting the Future	<i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i>	
Tues 10/23		<i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i>	
Thur 10/25		<i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i>	Blog Post due by 12pm
Tues 10/30	Take Home Mid-Term Exam		

Date	Topics	Reading Due	Assignment Due
Thur 11/1	Computer Bugs	<i>The Bug</i>	
Tues 11/6		<i>The Bug</i>	
Thur 11/8		<i>The Bug</i>	Blog Post due by 12pm
Tues 11/13	What if...?	<i>Patchwork Girl (does the CD even load?)</i>	
Thur 11/15		<i>Patchwork Girl</i>	Blog Post due by 12pm
Tues 11/20	21st Century Narratives NO CLASS Meeting	<i>Diablo III</i> Developer Diary, Parts 1-5 (YouTube – you will need to have a YouTube account to see these) (see online schedule for URLs)	Team Play: Choose a partner for <i>Diablo III</i> play & write a joint blog post by 3pm
Thur 11/22	THANKSGIVING		
Tues 11/27		<i>Diablo III</i> (in class play? & discussion) – <i>searching for a computer lab so we can play together</i> <i>Diablo III</i> Wiki: http://diablo.wikia.com/wiki/Diablo_III <i>Diablo III</i> Official Site: http://us.blizzard.com/en-us/games/d3/	
Thur 11/29	Visitors from Literature & Game Studies Programs (tba)	<i>Diablo III</i> (in class play? & discussion)	Blog Post due by 12pm
Tues 12/4		<i>Diablo III</i> (in class play & discussion)	
Thur 12/6	Reflections		
<p>Final Exam Meeting: December 18, 12:15-2:30pm Final Projects & Presentation due today</p>			