

LMC 2000: Introduction to Literature, Media, and Communication
Professors Farooq, Klein, & Santesso
<http://blogs.iac.gatech.edu/introlmc15/>

TR 12:05-1:25
Paper Tricentennial 109

Office Hours: By appointment

Instructor Contact Information:

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Course Prerequisites: English 1102
Core Area/Attribute: C - Humanities

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the major methods employed in the analysis of literature, media, and other forms of culture, drawing upon examples from the early modern period to the present day. After an introductory methodological unit, the course will move chronologically, maintaining a focus on the thematic keywords central to the unique and cross-disciplinary ways in which humanities research is conducted in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication. Our goal is to help you acquire a solid background in literary and cultural history and analysis, a broad yet specific knowledge of critical and theoretical methodologies, and a practical understanding of the value and power of humanistic inquiry in today's technological world.

Learning Outcomes:

- I. Textual Analysis:** Students will learn to read, analyze, and interpret cultural projects such as film, literature, art, and new media.
- II. Interpretive Frameworks:** Students will become familiar with a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and be able to apply those theories to our course readings, as well as to their own cultural observations.
- III. Literary/Media/Narrative Art Inquiry:** Students will be aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, media, and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.
- IV. Historical Analysis:** Students will study literary and cultural texts within an historical framework to become familiar with the various forces that shape artistic and commercial production. They will learn to interpret history actively, rather than passively accepting archival information.
- V. Communication Skills:** Students will be able to gather, organize, and express information clearly and accurately, with sensitivity to audience. They will be also be able to discuss and describe relationships among cultures, literature, ethics, and the arts.

Learning Accommodations:

Classroom accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. These accommodations must be arranged in advance and in accordance with the ADAPTS office (<http://www.adapts.gatech.edu>).

Academic Integrity:

Students are reminded of the obligations and expectations associated with the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code and Student Code of Conduct, available online at:

http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity/policies/honor_code.php

<http://www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/codeofconduct>.

Required Texts (books available at GTBarnes & Noble and Engineers' Bookstore):

Octavia Butler, *Kindred*
Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
Herman Melville, *Bartleby and Benito Cereno*
George Miller, *Mad Max: Fury Road* (film), available via Amazon Instant Video
Edgar Allan Poe, *Selected Tales*
William Shakespeare, *Othello*
H.G. Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau*
Braid (video game), available via [Steam](#)

Course Requirements:

• **Attendance and Participation - 10%**

You will not be able to pass the unit exams without regular attendance and participation. Indeed, they are vital to your success in this class. Although we are a large group, we expect that you will all come prepared to engage with the material, and to share your thoughts when possible with the instructors and/or in smaller breakout groups.

• **4 Unit Exams – 60% [15% each]**

There will be four unit exams to held throughout the semester. Please make a note of these important exam dates:

UNIT EXAM ONE: September 15

UNIT EXAM TWO: October 1

UNIT EXAM THREE: October 22

UNIT EXAM FOUR: November 10

These exams are designed to assess how well you have kept up with the course readings and discussions throughout the semester. They will include all texts, materials, films, and in-class discussions covered in that particular unit. The exams will consist of multiple choice, passage identification, short answer, and essays.

• **Final Paper - 30%**

7-9 page paper due **Tuesday, December 8 by 2pm in Skiles 335b (Dr. Farooq's office).**

No late papers will be accepted.

This paper should engage a critical lens in further examining at least one of the texts and one of the keywords covered in class. You may use 1-2 secondary sources in addition to the primary text on which you are writing, though this is not a requirement. In all cases, your paper should make an original, refutable claim.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE:

Introduction

T Aug 18 Syllabus Review and Course Introduction: What are the keywords of LMC?

Th Aug 20 Course introduction: Meet the Profs and their Research

Unit I: Methods

T Aug 25 Literary Methods/Santesso
Edgar Allan Poe, “The Cask of Amontillado” (1846); “Murders in the Rue Morgue” (1841)

Th Aug 27 Literary Methods/Santesso
William Blake, “The Tyger”; “The Chimney Sweeper”; “A Poison Tree” (1789)
[T-Square]

T Sep 1 **Film and Media Methods/Klein**
Marshall McLuhan, selections from *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* (1964)
[T-Square]
William Gibson, “Agrippa” (1992) [T-Square]
Alan Liu et al., “[The Agrippa Files](#)” [website; explore before class]

Th Sep 3 **Film and Media Methods/Klein**
Timothy Corrigan and Patricia White, “Introduction,” *The Film Experience* (2012)
[T-Square]
Chuck Jones, *Duck Amuck* (1953), film [view before class]
9/11 in film (ca. 2000s) [selected clips; in class]

T Sep 8 Cultural Studies Methods/ Farooq
Lawrence Grossberg et. al., “Cultural Studies: An Introduction” [pp. 1-6; T-Square]
Begin reading Junot Diaz, *Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007), Part I

Th Sep 10 Cultural Studies Methods/ Farooq
Jennie Livingston, *Paris is Burning* (1990), film [selected clips; in class]
Diaz, *Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007), Part II

T Sep 15 **UNIT I EXAM**

Unit II: Classical Period to Eighteenth Century

Th Sep 17 Keywords: classical, medieval, public / Santesso

excerpts from *Gilgamesh* and *Beowulf* [T-Square]

T Sep 22 Keywords: Renaissance, interaction / Santesso
William Shakespeare, *Othello* (1603) Acts 1-3.

Th Sep 24 Keywords: character, liberalism / Santesso
Shakespeare, *Othello*, Acts 4-5

T Sep 29 Keyword: narrative / Santesso
Jonathan Swift, *A Modest Proposal* (1729); excerpts from Daniel Defoe and Henry Fielding [T-Square]

Th Oct 1 **UNIT II EXAM**

Unit III: Eighteenth Century to 1865

T Oct 6 Keyword: sensation / Klein
Mary Rowlandson, *Narrative* (1682) [T-Square]

Th Oct 8 Keyword: fact / Klein
excerpts from Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography* (1791) [T-Square]

T Oct 13 **Fall recess – no class meeting**

Th Oct 15 Keyword: archive / Klein
Phillis Wheatley, selected poems (ca. 1790s) [T-Square]
James Hemings, selected documents (ca. 1790s) [T-Square]

T Oct 20 Keyword: materiality / Klein
Emily Dickinson, selected poems (ca. 1850s) [T-Square]
Walt Whitman, selected poems (ca. 1850s) [T-Square]

Th Oct 22 **UNIT III EXAM**

Unit IV: 1865 to Present

T Oct 27 Keyword: diaspora / Farooq
M. NourbeSe Philip, *Zong!* (poems and podcast, in class)
Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890), Chs 1-3 [bartleby.com/208/]
Theodore Roosevelt, “True Americanism” (1894)
[teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/true-americanism-the-forum-magazine/]

Th Oct 29 Keywords: migration, space, temporality / Farooq
Octavia Butler, *Kindred* (1979) [Read at least through p. 107]

- T Nov 3** Keywords: science, embodiment / Farooq
 Charles Darwin, *Voyage of the Beagle* (1839), Ch 10: “Tierra del Fuego”
 [literature.org/authors/darwin-charles/the-voyage-of-the-beagle/chapter-10.html]
 W.E.B. DuBois, “The Comet” (1920)
 [www.gutenberg.org/files/15210/15210-h/15210-h.htm#Chapter_X]
 H.G. Wells, *The Island of Doctor of Moreau*
- Th Nov 5** Keyword: networks / Farooq
 Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861), Preface, Chs. 1, 2, 6, 21:
 [http://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/jacobs/jacobs.html]
 Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007), Part III
- T Nov 10** **UNIT IV EXAM**
- Unit V: The Contemporary / Course Wrap-Up**
- Th Nov 12** Keyword: surveillance / Santesso
 Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (1855)
- T Nov 17** Keyword: platform / Klein
Braid (2008), video game
- Th Nov 19** Keyword; futurity, extinction / Farooq, Klein, Santesso
 George Miller, *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015), film
 Elizabeth Grosz, *Time Travels: Feminism, Nature, Power* (2005), selections
 [T-Square]
- T Nov 24** **NO CLASS MEETING**
- Nov 25-30** *Thanksgiving Recess*
- T Dec 1** **Paper conferences (Individual meetings)**
- Th Dec 3** **Paper conferences (Individual meetings)**
- T Dec 8** **FINAL PAPERS DUE by 2pm in Skiles 335b**