AUTUMN 2016 – FRENCH 551 / C LIT 551 / ENG 501

Theories of the Text from Medieval Manuscripts to Digital Media
Tuesday, 12:30-3:20; PDL C-242

Description: This course investigates key articulations in the history of textual and literary interpretation, from humanistic efforts to establish “correct” texts to contemporary transformations brought by digitization. As a core course in the Textual Studies program, the focal and starting points will be the English and Continental traditions of textual scholarship, defined by the effort to account for the text in light of the history of its production, materialization, publication, transmission and reception, in the form of manuscripts, printed editions, performances, digital texts, or combinations thereof. We will consider debates and polemics “internal” to these fields (e.g. the critiques of McGann and McKenzie), the relation of textual scholarship to contemporaneous and sometimes conflicting theorizations of the text (such as New Criticism and post-structuralism), and newer approaches which have sought to integrate the insights of traditional textual scholarship, critical editing, and bibliography into more expansive scholarly investigations, such as book history, reception studies, media studies, and the digital humanities.

Readings: The following books are required:

- Neil Fraistat and Julia Flanders, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Textual Scholarship* (Cambridge, 2013)

Other readings will be distributed as scans through the Canvas site.

Requirements and break-down:

- Final project: 40%.
  This is normally a traditional research paper (10-12 pages). Other projects are possible, such as a critical edition of a short text or part of a text (with introduction and notes), “published” either as a paper text or online.
- Intermediate exercises: an abstract (posted to discussion board in Canvas);
  annotated bibliography: 10%
- Commentary on at least 2 colleagues’ abstracts: 5%
- Leading discussion on one reading (or set of readings): 15%
- Presentation of final project: 15%
- Participation in class discussion: 15%
Syllabus:

Tues, Oct 4 – Historical Backdrop

Grafton, “The Humanist as Reader,” from *A History of Reading in the West*, 178-196
Leah Marcus, “Textual Scholarship” in *Introduction to Scholarship in Modern Languages and Literatures* (2007), 143-159
Greetham, “Introduction” and “Textual Criticism,” from *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*, 1-13 and 295-322
[or ----, “A history of textual scholarship,” in *Cambridge Companion to Textual Scholarship*, 16-41]
Warren, “The politics of textual scholarship,” in *Cambridge Companion to Textual Scholarship*, 119-133

Tues, Oct 11 – Textual Scholarship. Visit to Special Collections

Greetham, “Enumerative and Systematic Bibliography” and “Descriptive Bibliography” in *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*, 1-46 and 153-168 (in addition, skim chs 2 and 3 on the bibliography of manuscript books and printed books, 47-152)
Lernout, “Continental editorial theory,” in *Cambridge Companion to Textual Scholarship*, 61-78.

[optional readings:
And Dominique Varry, “Qu’est-ce que la bibliographie matérielle”: http://dominique-varry.enssib.fr/node/31

Tues, Oct 18 – Textual Scholarship II

McGann, “The Socialization of Texts,” from *The Textual Condition*, 69-87

Tues, Oct 25 – The Text and its Meanings

Barthes, “Death of the Author” and “From Work to Text,” in *Image, Music, Text*, 143-148; 155-64

Abstract due: Friday, Oct 28

Tues, Nov 1 – Book History; Material Texts; Material Philology

Chartier and Stallybrass, “What is a book?” in *Cambridge Companion to Textual Scholarship*, 188-204.
Masten, “Pressing Subjects; Or, The Secret Lives of Shakespeare’s Compositors,” in *Language Machines: Technologies of Literary and Cultural Production*

Tues, Nov 8 – Curation; Archiving; Binding. Guest: Justin Johnson, Senior Conservator, UW Libraries (we’ll meet in Special Collections)

Jeffrey Todd Knight, “Special Collections. Book Curatorship and the Idea of Early Print in Libraries,” in *Bound to Read*
Tues, Nov 15 – Process and Publication; Authorship; Genetic Criticism

Charter, “Figures of the Author,” from *The Order of Books*
Foucault, “What is an Author,” in *The Foucault Reader* (1985; orig. 1969), 1-20

**Annotated bibliography due: Friday, Nov 18**

Tues, Nov 22 – Reception; Transmediation; the Networked Text

Roger Chartier, “From Court Festivity to City Spectators,” in *Forms and Meanings. Texts, Performances, and Audiences from Codex to Computer* (1995), 43-82
-----, “The Text between the Voice and the Book,” in *Voice/Text/Hypertext*
Heidi Brayman Hackel, from *Reading Material in Early Modern England: Print, Gender and Literacy*


Matthew Kirschenbaum, “What is Digital Humanities, and What’s It Doing in English Departments,” *ADE Bulletin* 150 (2010), 1-7
Laura Mandell, “Gendering Digital Literary History: What Counts for Digital Humanities,” in *A New Companion to Digital Humanities*, 511-523

Tues, Dec 6 – Analyzing the Digital Text

Glenn Roe, Dan Edelstein, Robert Morrisey, “To Quote or Not To Quote: Citation Strategies in the Encyclopédie,” *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 74, 2 (2013): 213-236

**Final Paper due: Mon, Dec. 12**