

ENGL238 Literature and New Media

Trimester 2 2009

22 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2009
Study week: 19 to 23 October 2009
Examination/Assessment period: 27 October to 15 November 2009

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

| Staff | Email | Phone | Room | |
|------------|----------------------|----------|--------|----------------------|
| Brian Opie | brian.opie@vuw.ac.nz | 463-6812 | VZ 804 | (Course coordinator) |

Office hours: Monday 11-1pm, (or contact me to arrange an appointment).

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Mon, Tue, and Wed 9.00-9.50am, Murphy MY632.

Tutorials

One tutorial per week, beginning in the second week of the trimester.

COURSE DELIVERY

Lecture topics and texts are set out in the Course Programme. Class members are expected to keep ahead in their reading. Questions during lectures are welcome. Tutorial topics will be notified in advance and class members are expected to have worked on them before the tutorial.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tutorial lists and other information about this course (including the time and place of the final examination) will be posted on the English noticeboard adjacent to Hugh Mackenzie 206. Course information will also be made available on Blackboard.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will explore the relations between literature and other media of communication and representation, with particular emphasis upon fictionality and upon the print book and the computer as information and communications technologies (ICTs).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, you should:

employ key concepts effectively in the discussion of literary and other texts, including representation, the real, and fictionality

understand key similarities and differences between literary texts and texts in other media

be able to compare and contrast the print book and the computer as information and communications technologies; and

have reflected upon and advanced your capabilities in the medium of writing.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

You should expect to spend, on average, at least 15 hours per week on work for this course, including the lectures and tutorials. Note that this is a rough guideline only, which will vary from student to student and from week to week.

READINGS

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

Essential texts:

Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*; Delany, *Babel-17* (Vintage); Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49* (Vintage); Gibson, *Burning Chrome* (Harper Collins); Dick, *Bladerunner* (Random); Stephenson, *Snow Crash*; (Penguin); ENGL 238. Literature and New Media Readings (Student Notes).

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Final examination (50%) and in-term work (50%). In-term work (compulsory) consists of two essays (25% each).

Term work (50%):

(1) A critical analysis, of 1500-1700 words (25%), due by 9.00am on Monday 17 August. This exercise will ask you to write an analysis of one extract from a selection of extracts chosen from the fictional texts discussed in lectures before this date.

(2) An essay, of 1500-1700 words (25%), due by 9.00am on Monday 15 October. This exercise will ask you to write an essay on a major theme or issue in the course, supported by evidence from at least two of the fictional texts by Pynchon, Gibson (each short story is a text), and Dick and critical material from Literature and New Media Readings.

Examination (3 hours, 50%):

Texts set for the course may be taken into the examination.

The final examination will consist of 2 sections:

A: a critical analysis of an extract from Stephenson's *Snow Crash* (50%);

B: an essay on a major theme or issue in the course, supported by evidence from at least two of the set texts and critical material from Literature and New Media Readings (50%).

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and no comments are offered.

Extensions

If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Extension requests must be submitted to the Course Co-ordinator. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to satisfy the minimum requirements to gain a Pass in this course, you must:

- complete the two pieces of internally assessed work by Friday 16 October;
- attend 70% of tutorials (i.e. eight out of eleven); and
- sit the final examination.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 238

COURSE PROGRAMME

| Week | Date | Text | Student Notes Readings |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Week 1 | 13 July | Introduction | O'Donnell, Bolter |
| | 14 | Bradbury, <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Seed | Seed |
| | 15 | Bradbury, <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> | |
| Week 2 | 20 July | Bradbury, <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> | |
| | 21 | Bradbury, <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> | |
| | 22 | Bradbury, <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> | |
| Week 3 | 27 July | Borges | "The Library of Babel", Martin |
| | 28 | Delany, <i>Babel-17</i> | Hardesty, Malmgren |
| | 29 | Delany, <i>Babel-17</i> | |
| Week 4 | 3 August | Delany, <i>Babel-17</i> | |
| | 4 | Delany, <i>Babel-17</i> | |
| | 5 | Delany, <i>Babel-17</i> | |
| Week 5 | 10 August | Borges | "The Garden of Forking Paths" |
| | 11 | Pynchon, <i>Crying of Lot 49</i> | Tomlinson, Gaggi |
| | 12 | Pynchon, <i>Crying of Lot 49</i> | Gleason, Decker |
| Week 6 | 17 August | First Assignment due | |
| | 17 August | Pynchon, <i>Crying of Lot 49</i> | |
| | 18 | Pynchon, <i>Crying of Lot 49</i> | |
| | 19 | Pynchon, <i>Crying of Lot 49</i> | |
| Mid Trimester Break: Monday 24 August– Friday 4 September 2009 | | | |
| Week 7 | 7 September | Pynchon, <i>Crying of Lot 49</i> | |
| | 8 | Pynchon, <i>Crying of Lot 49</i> | |

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| | 9 | Gibson, <i>Burning Chrome</i> | Jordan, Burrows, Punday |
| Week 8 | 14 September | Gibson, <i>Burning Chrome</i> | |
| | 15 | Gibson, <i>Burning Chrome</i> | |
| | 16 | Gibson, <i>Burning Chrome</i> | |
| Week 9 | 21 September | Gibson, <i>Burning Chrome</i> | |
| | 22 | Dick, <i>Bladerunner</i> | |
| | 23 | Dick, <i>Bladerunner</i> | |
| Week 10 | 28 September | Dick, <i>Bladerunner</i> | |
| | 29 | Dick, <i>Bladerunner</i> | |
| | 30 | Stephenson, <i>Snow Crash</i> | Porush |
| Week 11 | 5 October | Second Assignment due | |
| | 5 October | Stephenson, <i>Snow Crash</i> | |
| | 6 | Stephenson, <i>Snow Crash</i> | |
| | 7 | Stephenson, <i>Snow Crash</i> | |
| Week 12 | 12 October | Stephenson, <i>Snow Crash</i> | |
| | 13 | Stephenson, <i>Snow Crash</i> | |
| | 14 | Stephenson, <i>Snow Crash</i> | |
| <p>Study Period: Monday 19 to Friday 23 October 2009</p> <p>Examination Period: Tuesday 27 October – Sunday 15 November 2009</p> | | | |