



## Eng 323 Literature & Computers

Spring 2008 MWF 2:00-2:50

Dr. Cynthia Jenéy  
Office: Eder Hall 222K  
Office Hours: MWF: 12:00-12:50; T-TH: 12:30-1:30 (and by appointment)  
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WebBoard: <http://webboard.missouriwestern.edu> (click on “Boards”; then select this course)

### Texts:

1. Browner, Pulsford, Sears. *Literature and the Internet: A Guide for Students, Teachers, and Scholars*. NY: Garland.
2. Lee, Tanith. *Biting the Sun*. NY: Bantam.
3. Shakespeare, William. *Much Ado About Nothing*. NY: New Folger Library, Pocket Books.
4. Various handouts/reserve/online readings (supplied by instructor)



### Required Materials

1. A working, steady campus email account to which you know the exact address.
2. Flash/jump drive or other disks for storing files
3. Notebook for notes; folder for handouts

### Recommended:

- o *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* or writing handbook that includes MLA guidelines for research papers.

### Reading:

Reading assignments are reasonable in length and should be *completed prior to the class meeting* in which readings are listed. Come to class prepared to discuss and analyze the assigned text(s).

### Course Description:

This course will examine the relationship between computers and literary studies. The course covers topics such as digital media, hypertext/hypermedia as genre, technology theory, cyber literature, computerized research, software interfaces and usability issues, and postmodern conceptualizations of “virtuality” and “virtual reality.” Prerequisite: ENG 108 or 112, and ENG 210 or 220 (LAS Computer Literacy).

Needless to say, we will not have time to fully explore every intersection of literature and computers, but our aim is to explore the language, purposes, trends, and uses of computers and internet technologies in the field of Language and Literature Studies.

### Assignments and Participation:

**Assignment due dates are firm.** This will avoid lag, confusion, and delays in evaluation of student progress. Assignments are based upon research and scholarship in contemporary literary studies. Some of this work involves

- ✓ using computers to perform analyses of literature;
- ✓ employing the internet as a networking space for scholars to collaborate and engage in dialectic;
- ✓ exploring hypertext as an alternative medium for creating analytical and critical texts.
- ✓ combining images, sound, and even video to enhance primary and secondary texts.
- ✓ critical reading of belletristic texts that address issues concerning the role of computer technologies in human societies and cultures.
- ✓ creating and experiencing virtual/textual worlds; defining and redefining “cyberspace.”
- ✓ creating and experiencing hypertext (“ergodic”) literature, textual gaming spaces, digital multimedia, and “cyberpunk” texts.
- ✓ building interactive online resources for literary scholars.
- ✓ new things that are probably being invented and developed while we’re talking about the latest new things.





### **Grading Plan\*:**

20%	Hypertext Fiction PowerPoint Presentation + group project
20%	Linguistic Analysis (short corpus analysis, using search/concordance applications)
20%	Hyper-linked Explication
20%	Short Literary Paper (issues/themes technology in literature 3-5pp. + bibliography)
20%	<u>Literary Web Site Critique; Web Board Participation; In-Class Participation</u>
100%	Total Course Grade

### **Attendance:**

More than 6 absences (equivalent to 2 weeks / MWF class) will result in a failing grade for the course. It is your responsibility to keep track of your attendance. Since a great deal of the work for this class is done *during class time*, and cannot be “made up” later, it is a very good idea to attend all class meetings.



- ❑ Do not send/bring notes from your M.D. (or other medical professional).
- ❑ Do not request special accommodations for your wedding, honeymoon, or vacation.
- ❑ You have a number of allowed absences within which you can work. Plan accordingly.
- ❑ Contact a classmate to get notes and assignments if you miss a class meeting, and make sure you consult the class schedule (attached) to keep up with your studies.

**Note:** my policy is to treat all students with courtesy, but most faculty and students tend to view poor attendance habits as symptomatic of “blowing off” the course. It creates a negative atmosphere, and I prefer a positive, energized, relaxed atmosphere in which all of us can share and explore theories, ideas, and information.

### **Contacting the Instructor:**

Please do not jam your instructors’ inboxes with personal issues and excuses concerning problems with attendance and course work. If you are experiencing extreme hardships/circumstances please phone or talk with me privately during Office Hours.



Contact your instructor when...

- ❑ you don’t understand the assignment;
- ❑ you want to clarify some point from class reading or discussion;
- ❑ you want to make an appointment to meet out of class;
- ❑ you have drafted a written assignment and would like some feedback early in the process;
- ❑ your Mom has been kidnapped by terrorist spies, and you must leave the country to rescue her.

Electronic communications among students and instructors shall remain mature, polite, and appropriate to the context of the class and the college setting. “Flaming” or harassing instructors or classmates in electronic mail or other forums will not be tolerated. Issues and concerns of a sensitive nature should be dealt with *person-to-person*, not in email, as state institutions have archival jurisdiction over electronically transmitted messages. Be courteous. Be thoughtful. Be excellent.

### **Disabilities:**

Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should contact the MWSC Special Needs Office as soon as possible so that we can discuss alternative ways to satisfy class requirements:

Location: Eder Hall (SS/C Building), Room 202

Office Hours: 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

Phone: (816) 271-4330

**Electronic Forum:** Each student will be required to post various written assignments to the class electronic forum. Posts to the forum will vary in length and formality and include reader-responses, full-length drafts, peer critiques, summaries, analytical questions, and commentaries, based upon the reading and writing assignments in the class. All members of the class will have posting and reading access to the forum.

You must have a *stable* email account established in order to satisfy this writing requirement for the course. I strongly urge you to use your MWSU email account for this forum. Please do not shift around with Yahoo and Hotmail account subscriptions, as this will confuse the moderator, and possibly cause her to delete your membership. Expect the usual glitches and snafu’s when first getting subscribed to the electronic discussion group. I tend to use different technologies as time goes by, and as internet services evolve. I will try to make it as painless and easy as possible for you, but there is a certain amount of meticulous attention required at the outset, in order to get the forum up and running efficiently for us all.

Tentative Class Schedule: Eng 323 Literature & Computers\*\*

JANUARY		
14	M	Introduction; syllabus, course policies.
16	W	<u>LAI</u> Ch. 1 & 2; Intro WebBoard
18	F	<u>LAI</u> Ch. 1 & 2; Intro WebBoard
21	M	MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY—NO CLASS MEETING
23	W	<u>LAI</u> Ch. 1 & 2; Assign brief linked web critique
25	F	<u>LAI</u> Ch. 3 & 6; topics and critical elements of web site critique
28	M	<u>LAI</u> Ch. 3 & 6; topics and critical elements of web site critique
30	W	<u>LAI</u> Ch. 3 & 6; Web Workshop
FEBRUARY		
1	F	<u>LAI</u> Ch. 3 & 6; Web Workshop
4	M	Critique of Literary Web Site & Updated Links Due; Poetry Explication Workshop; BRING LITERATURE ANTHOLOGY TO CLASS WITH YOU, FOR FOOTNOTE “SHOW & TELL”; Handouts; Silva Rhetoricae: terms, figures
6	W	Poetry Explication Workshop; BRING LITERATURE ANTHOLOGY TO CLASS WITH YOU, FOR FOOTNOTE “SHOW & TELL”; Handouts; Silva Rhetoricae: terms, figures
8	F	Poetry Explication; Literary Theory (Burke example; others); Handouts; Silva Rhetoricae: terms, figures
11	M	Poetry Explication; Literary Theory (Burke example; others); Handouts; Silva Rhetoricae: terms, figures
13	W	Hypertext Explication Frames site —Workshop
15	F	Hypertext Explication Frames site —Workshop
18	M	PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY—NO CLASS MEETING
20	W	Hypertext Explication Frames site —Workshop
22	F	Hypertext Explication Frames site —Workshop
25	M	Hypertext Explication Frames site Due. <u>LAI</u> Ch. 9;Intro Hypertext Fiction & Assign PowerPoint/Report project
27	W	<u>LAI</u> Ch. 9; Hypertext Fiction; Lecture & Discussion; In-Class workshops (Links workshop—WebBoard)
29	F	Hypertext Fiction: In-Class workshops (Links workshop—WebBoard)
MARCH		
3	M	Hypertext Fiction: In-Class workshop
5	W	Hypertext Fiction: In-Class workshop
7	F	Hypertext Fiction—In-Class Workshop
10	M	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS MEETING
12	W	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS MEETING
14	F	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS MEETING
17	M	PowerPoint presentations
19	W	PowerPoint presentations
21	F	PowerPoint presentations; Report Due, Hypertext Fiction
24	M	Intro: Shakespeare <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> ; Excerpts from Branagh film; Drama analysis. Assign short paper (linguistic / corpus analysis).
26	W	Intro: Shakespeare <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> ; Excerpts from Branagh film
28	F	Shakespeare <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
31	M	Shakespeare <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
APRIL		
2	W	Shakespeare <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> : in-class workshop
4	F	Shakespeare <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> : in-class workshop
7	M	Shakespeare <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>

9	W	Shakespeare <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
11	F	Handouts (Hartwell, Ryan); Lee, Tanith. <i>Don't Bite the Sun</i> ; Assign Literary Paper
14	M	Handouts (Hartwell, Ryan); Lee, Tanith. <i>Don't Bite the Sun</i> ; Issues & Ideas
16	W	Lee, Tanith. <i>Don't Bite the Sun</i> ; Issues & Ideas
18	F	Lee, Tanith. <i>Don't Bite the Sun</i> ; Characters, Plot, Settings
21	M	Lee, Tanith. <i>Don't Bite the Sun</i> ; Characters, Plot, Settings
23	W	Lee, Tanith. <i>Don't Bite the Sun</i> ; Themes, Stylistics
25	F	Lee, Tanith. <i>Don't Bite the Sun</i> ; Themes, Stylistics
28	M	LAST DAY OF CLASSES
APRIL 30-MAY 6 FINAL EXAM WEEK    Literary Paper Due: <i>Don't Bite the Sun</i>		
FINAL EXAM: DAY _____ TIME _____		

\*Grading plan subject to change & adjustments as needed during the course.

\*\* Schedule subject to change as needed to meet the needs of the course.