

**Carleton University
Winter 2018
Department of English**

ENGL 1200

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & LITERATURE:
TECHNOLOGIES OF REPRESENTATION**

TBD

Location: TBD

Instructor: Dr. Chris Eaket

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(Note: Please include ENGL 1200 in the subject line of all emails)

Office Hours: By request

COURSE DESCRIPTION

When we think of things being “technological,” we typically think of things like computers, cell phones, software, and artificial intelligence. We rarely think of cultural or “soft” technologies, nor do we think of some of our oldest, most familiar and mundane inventions – fire and language, for example – as being technological at all. The more familiar & ubiquitous a technology, the more it tends towards (mental) internalization or a kind of perceived invisibility; old tech isn’t tech anymore ... it just “is”. But if we are to understand technology, and media technologies in particular, we have to go back and look at how imitation (mimesis) works, and understand what each medium is “brings to the table” through reproducing and representing the world in particular ways.

This class looks at various philosophical and fictional works that grapple with the effects of media and technology on human beings. We also look at how specific media create the effects that they do, and how they differ from one another through their medium-specificity. We start off with Aristotle’s early ideas of mimesis & representation in the *Poetics*, then move on to look at literary works dealing with spoken & written language, visual art, photography, hypertext, AI and more. One of our central questions will be: “How do these kinds of ‘simulations’ affect us, what makes them effective, and to what degree might they changing who we are and how we think?”

RULES OF THE ROAD

- Be prepared and ready to engage with the materials. It really does make things more fruitful and insightful for everyone.
- Turn off all things that buzz, beep, or ping. Really.
- No texting in class. If you need to take a brief glance at alerts, fine. But in general, phones face down or in pockets.
- You're welcome to bring your computer to class to take notes. Try to avoid the temptation to multitask -- be attentive to the discussion at hand. Concentrated attention is different than surfing and multitasking.
- No one in this class is stupid. Ever. University requires thinking in different ways and that can take time. Just because someone hasn't acquired a skill yet or a mode of thinking yet doesn't mean they're any better or worse than anyone else. Everyone has a unique skillset & set of contributions to make. Patience. Empathy. Everyone is a knowledge resource for everyone else.
- Be respectful of others with your presence, time, and attention.
- Get to know the ins & outs of the library. Online resources are great, but there's no substitute for the book and resource people there.
- Discrimination or disrespect of any type will not be tolerated. Full stop.
- Feel free to bring your own experiences, scholarship, and interests to bear on the work at hand. The more invested you are in it, the more interesting the end product will tend to be. Chances are, others will have had similar experiences to share that will be catalyzed by your contribution.
- Connect with others. Five intelligent people over coffee can teach you as much as any class -- five clever people with books & laptops, possibly even more so. Get to know one another. Share notes, ideas, skills and recommendations.

TEXTS

Aristotle. <i>Poetics</i> (excerpts). NY: Penguin Classics, 1997.	(mimesis)
Orwell, George. <i>1984</i> . London: Penguin UK, 2008.	(language)
Nelson, Jandy. <i>I'll Give you the Sun</i> . New York: Dial Books, 2014.	(visual art)
Tomasula, Steve. <i>The Book of Portraiture</i> . Tuscaloosa, AL: Fiction Collective 2, 2006.	(misc)
Lively, Penelope. <i>The Photograph</i> . NY: Penguin Books, 2004.	(photography)
Short, Emily. <i>Galatea</i> . Self-published. Online resource. 2000.	(hypertext)
Garland, Alex. <i>Ex Machina</i> . London, UK: Universal Pictures, 2015.	(film & AI)

Texts will be available at Octopus Books @ 118 Third Ave, Ottawa.
Check <http://octopusbooks.ca> for hours of operation.

There will also be some short, secondary readings posted on cuLearn.

GRADING

Attendance and participation	10%
Early feedback assignment	5%
Short Responses (250-300wd)	30%
Midterm Project/Paper	25%
Final exam	30%

Full assignment details will be available on cuLearn.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

ATTENDANCE

Students will be allowed three absences. Additional absences will impact the final grade. Absences and contributions to the class overall are taken into account when calculating the final participation grade. If you need to be absent from class due to unforeseen circumstances, email me *before* class to let me know you will not be attending and (in general) why. Try to get notes and materials from others to see what we've covered.

*In cases where you are experiencing problems in class, or have circumstances outside of class that are affecting your academic work, the most important thing is to let me know. I don't need to have all the gritty details (and probably don't *want* to know) -- just keep me in the loop so that I know "where you're at" and hopefully alternative arrangements can be made. If you need some advice, guidance, a referral, assistance, or someone to listen, the door's always open.*

*Please note: If you vanish inexplicably for an extended period of time, there's a certain point at which it's out of my hands and I *can't* help you, due to the policies of the university. So don't do that.*

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

ACCOMMODATION

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information

about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

FORMATTING AND CITATION

Papers should be typed/printed double-spaced on 8 ½ x 11” white paper. Please ensure a 1” margin on all sides of the page and use a 12 pt Times font or equivalent. Also, remember to keep backup copies of your papers, either hard copy or on a flash drive. E-mailing of papers is prohibited, unless one is given express permission of the professor.

Please use MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation style. For examples, see:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

For formatting of Works Cited, see: <http://bibme.org> or <http://www.citationmachine.net/>

SYLLABUS

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations will be announced to the class by the instructor as necessary.

See below. Supplemental readings are marked (SUPP).

READING SCHEDULE
ENGL 1200

JANUARY

- WEEK 1 Class Intro + Syllabus; A Brief History of Media
WEEK 2 *Poetics*: Mimesis & Representation
WEEK 3 *1984*: The Prisonhouse of Language
WEEK 4 *1984* cont'd

FEBRUARY

- WEEK 5 *I'll Give You the Sun*: Why Art?
WEEK 6 *I'll Give You the Sun* cont'd
WEEK 7 WINTER BREAK
WEEK 8 *Book of Portraiture*: How Do Media and Technology Change Us?

MARCH

- WEEK 9 *Book of Portraiture* cont'd
WEEK 10 *The Photograph*: Indexicality & Externalized Memory
WEEK 11 *The Photograph* cont'd
WEEK 12 *Galatea*: Networks, Forking Paths, & Hypermedia

APRIL

- WEEK 13 *Ex Machina*: Representing Humanity & the Frankenstein Mythos
WEEK 14 (Wrap-up & Review)