

**Carleton University
Department of English
Winter 2011**

**ENGL 5606W: Twentieth-Century Literature
Topic: Narrative After Print**

**Time: Mondays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Location: 1816DT**

**Professor B. Greenspan
Office: 1802DT
613 520-2600 ext. 2360**

Course description

As the dominant mode of communication shifted from word of mouth to handwritten scrolls to the printed page, that which we call “literature” also changed. The object of literary study is still evolving, alongside digital techniques for producing, reproducing, disseminating, reading and responding to texts.

In this course, we will study the ideological and material contexts of debates over the “end of books” and explore competing claims for the superiority of either printed books or digital texts. What strategies do contemporary fictional narratives use to make sense of information society and how are digital forms of dialogue changing novelistic discourse? Is it still useful to distinguish literary knowledge from other forms of data? How do interactive narratives compare with films, television shows, or video games? In the age of ebooks, chatterbots, and group blogs, who or what controls the reading experience?

Weekly seminars will cover a variety of topics, including new media theory, the poetics of interactivity, digital authorship, and intellectual property, archive theory, and network culture. We will explore printed novels, hypertexts and interactive fictions by the likes of Richard Powers, Shelly Jackson and Mark Danielewski, as well as new scholarly technologies.

REQUIRED READINGS: TO BE ANNOUNCED