

LIT 6934: Science, Technology, Humanities, Posthumanities

Fall, 2014

M 3-5

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Office Hours by Appointment

Description

In 1959 C. P. Snow delivered his now-famous Rede Lecture, "The Two Cultures," which would serve as the foundation for his book by the same name. Snow argued that our society, influenced by the education system and intellectual inquiry, can be characterized as being formed by two cultures: the arts and humanities on one hand and the sciences on the other. In 2009, Jerome Kagan expanded Snow's taxonomy to identify three cultures of influence: science, humanities, and social sciences. Also in 2009, Toney Hey, Stewart Tansley, and Kristin Tolle—by way of Microsoft—extended the conversation to account for the "fourth paradigm" of data-intensive scientific research.

This course will consider what it means to distinguish between sciences, humanities, and technologies and what the ramifications might be for the future of the humanities in light of the posthumanities. This course will specifically consider the future of English studies research and disciplinarity in light of science, technology, and data methodologies and knowledge. This course works to imagine different futures for work in English, most notably in Writing Studies.

Required Readings

- Brockman, John. *The Third Culture: Beyond the Scientific Revolution*. Tuchstone, 1995.
- DeWitt, Richard. *Worldviews: An Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Science*. 2nd ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- Doyle, Richard. *Wetwares: Experiments in Postvital Living*. U Minnesota P, 2003.
- Hey, Tony. Stewart Tansley, and Kristen Tolle. *The Fourth Paradigm: Data Intensive Scientific Discovery*. Microsoft Research, 2009. (available at http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/UM/redmond/about/collaboration/fourthparadigm/4th_PARADIGM_BOOK_complete_HR.pdf and at www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdobrin/4th_PARADIGM_BOOK_complete_HR.pdf)
- Kagan, Jerome. *The Three Cultures: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and the Humanities in the 21st Century, Revisiting C.P. Snow*. Cambridge UP, 2009.
- Kuhn, Thomas. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. 4th ed. U Chicago P, 2012.
- Latour, Bruno. *Science in Action*. Harvard UP, 1987.
- Lenoir, Timothy, Ed. *Inscribing Science: Scientific Texts and the Materiality of Communication*. Stanford UP, 1998.
- Rotman, Brian. *Becoming Beside Ourselves: The Alphabet, Ghosts, and Distributed Human Being*. Duke UP, 2008.
- Slingerland, Edward. *What Science offers the Humanities: Integrating Body and Culture*. Cambridge UP, 2008.
- Snow, C.P. *The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution*. Martino, 2013. (Note: there is a pdf version posted at www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdobrin/Rede-lecture-2-cultures.pdf)
- Thacker, Eugene. *Biomedica*. U Minnesota P, 2004.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Agenda	Discussion Leader
August 25	Course Introduction	
September 1	Labor Day—No Classes	
September 8	DeWitt, Richard. <i>Worldviews: An Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Science</i> Accawi, “The Telephone.” (Available at: www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdobrin/Telephone.pdf) Read, “I, Pencil.” (Available at www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sdobrin/IPencil.pdf) View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYO3tOqDISE	
September 15	Kuhn, Thomas. <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i>	
September 22	Snow, C.P. <i>The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution</i>	
September 29	Kagan, Jerome. <i>The Three Cultures: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and the Humanities in the 21st Century, Revisiting C.P. Snow</i>	
October 6	Hey, Tony. Stewart Tansley, and Kristen Tolle. <i>The Fourth Paradigm: Data Intensive Scientific Discovery</i>	
October 13	Slingerland, Edward. <i>What Science offers the Humanities: Integrating Body and Culture</i>	
October 20	Brockman, John. <i>The Third Culture: Beyond the Scientific Revolution</i>	
October 27	Latour, Bruno. <i>Science in Action</i>	
November 3	Lenoir, Timothy, Ed. <i>Inscribing Science: Scientific Texts and the Materiality of Communication</i>	
November 10	Doyle, Richard. <i>Wetwares: Experiments in Postvital Living</i>	
November 17	Thacker, Eugene. <i>Biomedea</i>	
December 1	Rotman, Brian. <i>Becoming Beside Ourselves: The Alphabet, Ghosts, and Distributed Human Being</i>	
December 8	Course wrap up	

Requirements

- Class participation
- Each student will select one of the days to serve as discussion leader
- Each student will write one seminar paper geared toward future revision for publication. Each student should meet with me individually to discuss possible paper topics/positions.

Policies

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

This class adheres to UF's policies regarding grading, which can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Phone numbers and contact sites for university counseling services and mental health services: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>; 392-1575, University Police Department 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.