**Instructor: J. P. Telotte**

**LMC 3352 Film and/as Technology**

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**Prerequisites:** ENGL 1102 and (LMC 2800 or LMC 2500 or LCC 2500 or LMC 2400 or LCC 2400)

**Core Area:** This course fulfills Core Area C (Humanities) requirements

**Description.** This course assumes that to understand technology's depictions in film or video, we need to understand how our media have tried to come to grips with their technological roots. To do so, the course takes as a case study a single studio, The Walt Disney Company, examining how, from the 1920s to the present, it has tried to innovate its products by incorporating the latest technological advances: in image reproduction, sound, color, screens, and computer-generated and manipulated images (CGI). We shall also examine how, through its embrace of various technologies including other media, Disney has helped to alter the media/entertainment landscape. Through this investigation we should better understand a complex set of linkages: between cultural representations of technology, the technologies used to craft their representation, and the media employing those technologies.

**Objectives:** In LMC 3352 students will:

* study a variety of cinematic texts within an industrial/studio framework to become familiar with how a studio or industry employs the latest media technologies,
* learn to read, analyze, and interpret film and television texts,
* develop a familiarity with a variety of historically-situated theories of film and television production and viewership,
* understand the complex relationship between film technologies and cultural production.
* Read, analyze, and interpret not only cultural projects such as film, literature, art and new media, but also scientific and technical documents.
* Recognize a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.

**Texts:**

Telotte. *The Mouse Machine*. U of Illinois P, 2008. (MM)

Smoodin, ed. *Disney Discourse*. Routledge, 1994. (DD)

Selected Films and Television episodes, screened Wednesdays, 3-5, rm. 368

**Graded Assignments:**

2 Quizzes (each 20% of grade)

Oral Report (20% of grade)

Term Paper (20 % of grade)

Final Exam (20% of grade)

**Attendance Policy:**

Students are required to attend weekly screenings and are expected to attend class regularly. Excessive class absences (more than 5) will result in a one-letter-grade reduction in the final grade.

**ADAPTS Information:**

This course adheres to Georgia Tech ADAPTS policies. For information see the following site: <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>

**Honor Code Policy:**

All students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code. Any evidence of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade on an assignment and the student being reported to the Office of Academic Integrity for disciplinary action. For information on Georgia Tech’s Honor Code, see the following site:

http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9

**WEEK TOPIC**

1 Disney and Early Film Development: Telotte (MM); see silent cartoons

2 Sound Technology and Animation: Telotte (MM); see *Mickey Mouse* shorts

3 Developing Sound Narrative: Telotte (MM); see Silly Symphonies

4 Color Technologies: Telotte (MM), Neupert (DD); see *Snow White*

5 Hybrids of Animation and Live-Action: deCordova (DD); see *Three Caballeros*;

QUIZ 1

6 New Hybrid Developments: Telotte (MM); see *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*

7 Innovating Television: Telotte (MM), Gomery (DD); see *Disneyland* episodes

8 Depicting Technology on TV: Telotte (MM); see *Disneyland* episodes

9 New Image and Camera Technologies: Telotte (MM); see *The Living Desert*

10 Wide-Screen Technologies: Telotte (MM); see *20,000 Leagues*; QUIZ 2

11 Depicting Technological Futures: Telotte (MM); see *The Black Hole*

12 Early Computer Effects: Lewis (DD); see *Tron*

13 Pixar and Computer Animation: Telotte (MM); see *WALL-E*

14 CGI/Live-Action Hybrids: Manovich (DD); see *Pirates of the Caribbean*

15 An Audioanimatronics World: Wilson (DD), Telotte (MM); TERM PAPER DUE