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|  | **LMC 8813 Advanced Issues in Interactive Narrative: Storyworlds** |

**1. Instructor Name, Contact Information and Office Hours**

Instructor: Janet Murray

Email: janet.murray@lmc.gatech.edu

Phone:

Office: TSRB 320

Meetings by Appointment

**2. Course Prerequisites:**(None)

**3. Course Description**

This course is an advanced graduate seminar that examines one or more critically significant topics related to the design of interactive narrative. This semester’s focus will be the emerging concept of the Storyworld, and how it can be applied to create formalisms and schematic representations of complex narrative structures suitable for instantiation in digital media.

Each class, except for the first class, will have two components. First, each of you will report on the current state of your project; these reports will be oral or written, formal or informal, depending on where we are in the course. Second, I will describe the problems and issues to be confronted in the following week. If we all do this right, the course should have two outcomes. You will get a chance to take a specific and develop it in a fairly rigorous way, seeing all of its implications, all of its potential pitfalls. You will also get a general introduction to a number of the key concerns in electronic project development.

**4. Learning Outcomes**

Top Level

* Demonstrate knowledge, comprehension, and application of the tools and formal design elements of digital media design relating to Interactive Narrative
* Demonstrate the ability to devise, design, create, and assess prototypical digital Interactive Narratives and to contextualize them within recognized traditions of practice
* Demonstrate the ability to analyze and critically evaluate existing digital  Interactive Narratives using formal knowledge, and to explain and defend one's critical evaluation.

**5. Required Texts**

**Books**

Bal, M., *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative*. 1998, Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Chatman, S., *Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film*. 1980, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

McQuillan, M., *The Narrative Reader*. 2000, London: Routledge.

Prince, G., *A Dictionary of Narratology*. 1987, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Propp, V., *Morphology of the Folktale*. 1928, Austin: University of Texas Press.

Jenkins, H., *Convergence culture : where old and new media collide*2006, New York: New York University Press. xi, 308 p.

Herman, D., *Story logic : problems and possibilities of narrative*. Frontiers of narrative2002, Lincoln, Neb: University of Nebraska Press. xvi, 477 p.

Ryan, M.-L., *Narrative across media : the languages of storytelling*. Frontiers of narrative2004, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 422 p.

Murray, J. *Transcending Transmedia: Emerging Story Telling Structures for the Emerging Convergence Platforms*. in *Proceedings of the 10th European conference on Interactive TV and video (Euro iTV 2012)*. 2012. Berlin Germany.

**Interactive Artifacts**

M. Matteas and A. Stern, Façade (2005)

M. Matteas et al, Prom Week (2012)

Will Wright (Maxis) The Sims (Maxis, 2001)

Red Dead Redemption (Rockstar, 2010)

Waking Dead (Tell Tale, 2012)

**Transmedia and Long-Form Narratives (choose a storyworld domain from one of these or any approved alternative)**

Jane Austen *Pride and Prejudice* and any 2 adaptations interactive, dramatic, or print, with or without zombies

*Justified* (TV series produced by Graham Yost and related novels and short stories by Elmore Leonard)

*Game of Thrones* (HBO TV series produced by D. Benioff and D.B. Weiss, and related websites; and original novels by George R.R. Martin )

*Star Trek* (TV Show, created by Gene Rodenberry plus later series, movies, or games)

Robyn and Rand Miller’s *Myst* (Interactive game and associated print books and virtual environment)

George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*

Leo Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*

*Walking Dead* (TV series and game)

*The Wire* (David Simon’s multi-season TV series, 2002-2008)

**6. Graded Assignments**

You will be graded on the following:

* One critical work presented to the group (10%)
* One interactive artifact presented to the group (10%)
* Participation in class discussion (20%)
* Schematizations of an existing chosen storyworld (20% )
* Formalism for generating storyworlds (20%)
* Draft of publishable/conference-ready paper on the structure of storyworlds using particular story domain as example(30%)

**7. Attendance Policy**

Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. Three or more unexcused absences will result in a half grade point reduction. An **excused** absence is one in which permission is requested in advance and you have a legitimate reason to skip class, such as an illness. You are expected to make up what you missed by checking with other students and reviewing lecture materials on the web site.

**8. Information for Students with Disabilities**

Please notify the instructor if you have any disabilities with which you need special assistance or consideration. The campus disability assistance program can be contacted through ADAPTS: <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu>

**9. Honor Code Statement**

Students are expected to adhere to the Georgia Tech Honor Code:

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

**10. Course Schedule**

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| **Week #** |  | **Read [Due Thurs]** |
| **Week 1** | Introduction |  |
| **Week 2** | Narratology of legacy forms |  |
| **Week 3** | Structural approaches to narrative |  |
| **Week 4** | Digital narrative theory |  |
| **Weeks 5-8** | Critique of Interactive Artifacts |  |
| **Week 5** | Narrative formalisms |  |
| **Week 6** | Transmedia theory and practice |  |
| **Week 7** | Analyzing narrative worlds (drawn from suggested list above) |  |
| **Week 8** | Student conferences to choose focal worlds for individual reports |  |
| **Week 9** | Issues in narrative schematization and narrative formalism |  |
| **Week 10** | Narrative schemas – preliminary reports part 1 |  |
| **Week 11** | Narrative schemas – preliminary reports part 2 |  |
| **Week 12** | Narrative formalisms – preliminary reports part 1 |  |
| **Week 13** | Narrative formalisms – preliminary reports part 2 |  |
| **Week 14** | Revised schema |  |
| **Week 15** | Revised formalisms |  |
| **Week 16** | **Final seminar papers** |  |