

LCC 3314
Technologies of Representation: **Speech, Writing and Language**
M W F 2-3
Skiles 308

Prof. **Sha** Xin Wei
xinwei@lcc.gatech.edu
404-579-4944
Skiles 019 • Office Hours: MW 3-4 and by arrangement

http://www.lcc.gatech.edu/~xinwei/classes/lcc/3314_TechRep/

Overview

In this course, we explore the questions: What is writing? What is speech? What are the limits of writing and language? We will cross the boundaries between oral and literate and computational culture, the formation of modern reading and writing practices, the technologies of writing, sign, notation and diagram. Along the way, we will see how technologies of speech and writing and shape our thinking and our experience. In particular, we'll consider different systems of writing such as cartoons, American Sign Language, maps, musical and mathematical notation.

This is a course with challenging readings and a heavy emphasis on in-class discussion. Students will be expected to make presentations in a variety of formats, in addition to composing written pieces.

Prerequisites are a second course in a scientific discipline or mathematics, plus a course in literature, or history, philosophy or cultural studies of science.

Themes and Readings (warning: may vary!)

Examples : Writing systems, diagrams; speech, music.
Mathematical Notation: Mathematica writing system.
Codes and Representations: Visual languages, musical notation.
Linguistics and Semiotics: Saussure, A Course in General Linguistics.
Wittgenstein's dissection of philosophy of language.
Derrida and writing.
George Orwell, Language and politics
Orality and writing, Illich, Sanders
Midterm paper

Calligraphy and typography
Cartoons, McCloud
Roy Harris and writing
Gesture and Speech, Leroi-Gourhan
American Sign Language
Computer mediated gesture
Final paper

Class Work (approximate)

In-class group presentations -- responses to the readings. (1/3)

Everyone must co-present once during the term, typically on a Monday, starting Sep. 9.

Mid-term paper/presentation: based on theoretical readings. (1/3)

Final paper/presentation: Analysis of a non-phonetic writing system. (1/3)

Materials

Calligraphic pen, brush
Mathematica (software)

Reading List (may vary) http://www.lcc.gatech.edu/~xinwei/classes/lcc/3314_TechRep/readings/Mathematica 4

<http://documents.wolfram.com/v4/>

Ferdinand Saussure, *A Course in General Linguistics*, tr. Wade Baskin, Paperback 1, 1965) , WCB/McGraw-Hill; ISBN: 0070165246;

Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* (3rd Edition), tr. G. E. M. Anscombe, Paperback. Prentice Hall; ISBN: 0024288101; 3rd edition (1999).

George Orwell, *1984*, New Amer Library Classics; paperback, ISBN: 0451524934; Reissue edition (May 1990)

Ivan Illich, Barry Sanders, *A B C, the Alphabetization of the Popular Mind*, Publisher: Vintage, ASIN: 0679721924, (1988)

Roy Harris , *Signs of Writing*, London: Routledge, 1995

Roy Harris , *The Origin of Writing*. Open Court Publishing Company; ASIN: 0812690354; (1986).

Andre Leroi-Gourhan, *Gesture and Speech*, tr. Berger, MIT Press; ISBN: 0262121735; (1993).

Dennis Cokely, Charlotte Baker-Shenk, *American Sign Language: A Student Text, Units 1-9* (American Sign Language Series), paperback, 1991, ISBN: 0930323866.

Scott McCloud, *Understanding Comics*. Paperback: 224 pages ; Publisher: Kitchen Sink Press; ISBN: 006097625X; Reprint (May 1994)

Supplementary

Jacques Derrida, *Of Grammatology*, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976 (1967)

Brian Rotman, *Mathematics As Sign: Writing, Imagining, Counting*, Stanford Univ Pr (T); ISBN: 0804736847 Paperback - 170 pages, (September 2000) .

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Topics, reading
1	Aug 19	Aug 21	Aug 23	Examples of writing & speech systems
2	Aug 26	Aug 28	Aug 30	Mathematical Notation. Mathematica: http://documents.wolfram.com/v4/
3	Sep 2 Pictionary	Sep 4 Invent graph.	Sep 6 intro ling., structuralism	Code, Representation Visual languages, Musical notation
4	Sep 9 pres. Saussure	Sep 11	Sep 13 intro Wittgenstein	Linguistics & Semiotics Saussure, A Course in General Linguistics
5	Sep 16 pres. Witt.	Sep 18	Sep 20 intro Derrida	Wittgenstein <u>Philosophical Investigations</u>
6	Sep 21 pres. Derrida	Sep 25	Sep 27	Derrida, Differance, Signature Event Context
7	Sep 30 pres. Orwell	Oct 2	Oct 4	recap critiques of language. George Orwell 1984
8	Oct 7 pres. Illich	Oct 9	Oct 11 <i>hand out midterm</i>	Orality and writing Illich, Sanders
9	Oct 14	Oct 16 collect midterm	Oct 18 intro McCloud	review, mid-term paper
10	Oct 21 pres. McCloud	Oct 23	Oct 25	Cartoons, McCloud
11	Oct 28 <i>Beyond Silence 1/2</i>	Oct 30 <i>Beyond Silence 2/2</i>	Nov 1 intro Harris	Calligraphy and typography
12	Nov 4 pres. Harris	Nov 6	Nov 8 intro Leroi-G	Roy Harris , Signs of Writing;
13	Nov 11 pres. Leroi-G	Nov 13	Nov 15	Gesture and speech, Leroi-Gourhan
14	Nov 18 pres. ASL	Nov 20 (lessons)	Nov 22	American Sign Language
15	Nov 25	Nov 27	Nov 29	Computer mediated gesture
16	Dec 2	Dec 4	Dec 6	presentations of papers