

AUTUMN 2019

Textual Studies and Digital Editing

ENG 501 (SLN: 22976)/FREN 551 (SLN: 22973)/C LIT 551 (SLN: 22977)

Monday, 12:30-3:20

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Office hours: Tues, 11-1 and by appt (PDL C-237)

Description. This course offers a hands-on exploration of the nature of texts, of the practice of editing in a digital environment using historical printed sources, and of issues related to interface, reading, and access. We'll learn some of the essentials of digital text editing and encoding, including transcription in XML, using the widely-adopted guidelines of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI), protocols for collaboration, and basic techniques for web publishing (XSLT, HTML and CSS). **No prior experience with any of this is required or expected** (if you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact me at gt2@uw.edu).

Our texts will be drawn from the publishing world of the late 17th and early 18th centuries in France and England, which was defined by the growing demand for *nouveautés* – “new things”, aimed at entertainment – as well as by a thirst for “news.” Joan DeJean has argued that a modern public took form in this context, prefiguring the public sphere of the later 18th century. The texts generated in this print market were shaped by quickening temporality: they were short-lived works in the form of *recueils* [collections] of verse and stories, nascent periodicals, and quick reeditions, meant to reaffirm constantly a sense of new-ness and change. As such, they present fascinating editorial puzzles. We'll explore, theoretically and, as we create our own digital edition drawn from a selection of these writings, concretely, how best to address this periodicity and volatility. We'll also explore broader issues of reading, temporality, and technology, which will impact many of the editorial decisions we make: how platforms (print vs. digital) and interface influence the amount of time, attention and focus one is willing to devote to a text. These questions are, in turn, linked to ongoing debates in the digital humanities about close vs. distant reading. We'll highlight extensive Anglo-French interconnections in the period. Students will have the opportunity to work either on a French or English text. **It is not necessary to read French.**

We'll collaborate on the central digital project with the class of Christophe Schuway (who has been on the editorial team for numerous digital editions, including of Donneau de Visé's 1663 *Nouvelles Nouvelles*: <http://www.unifr.ch/nouvellesnouvelles/tomeI.html>) at Yale. Groups will ideally be formed across the two seminars. We'll discuss strategies for working collaboratively in this way.

This is a core course in the Textual and Digital Studies graduate certificate (<http://depts.washington.edu/text/>). We will complement our digital project with discussions and readings in the field of textual scholarship, starting with classic formulations in New Bibliography. We'll look at a series of critiques, emphasizing the “social text” and “material text,” as well as postcolonial, queer and feminist perspectives on editing. These critiques have reshaped and revitalized the field of textual studies, as have opportunities for textual work that digital platforms have opened up. The rise to dominance of digital texts in our reading and

scholarship has revalorized editorial work as a scholarly project. It has required renewed reflection on what a text is, how it's shaped by its publication processes, how it preserves or hides its history, and how the text shaped over time by its reception; not to mention, what counts as scholarship and what public(s) we seek to engage. The digital shift has also entailed that we learn new techniques and new skills for working with texts in digital form. These issues will be foregrounded in the course.

Texts and materials. Readings will be delivered via the Canvas website as PDFs or will be accessible online. **You will need to bring a laptop to each class.**

Coursework will include a mix of written work along with participation in the seminar and its workshops. Overall evaluation will be based on:

-- **leading discussion** on one of the course readings: 10%. Briefly present the reading and lead a discussion, with questions for the class.

-- **digital project:** 50%

This includes the following, to be completed collaboratively in your groups and posted to a Google Drive folder:

- * an initial 2-page write-up of your plans, **due 11/4**, including:
 - a description of the text(s) your group has chosen to work on
 - a description of the core issue(s) you'll be addressing with your edition (see the problematics: eg. periodicity, translation, etc...)
 - a preliminary plan for how you'll address the issue(s) in the transcription and design of the edition (afterwards, each group will consult with a designer, Vanessa Cojocaruc)
- * your initial XML document including a modest critical apparatus: a short intro to your text(s), along with at least 5 editorial notes and a bibliography: **due 11/15**
- * a corrected XML document, due **11/22** (revisions based on our joint discussions on 11/18)
- * the final design, also due **11/22** (after consultation with Vanessa Cojocaruc)
- * a *final* XML document, due **at the end of the quarter** (with corrections from mistakes/issues that you'll see after the page is rendered on 12/2)
- * presentations of this work with your teams: 11/4, 11/18 and 12/2

-- **short final research project:** 30%. This is open ended. You can build on your work in your groups, and write a paper that either thematically or methodologically connects with your digital project. Or you can go in a different direction, and explore our course topics in relation to work you're doing in your home program. Aim for 8-10 pages with a bibliography of 5-10 sources.

-- **general participation:** 10%

Syllabus

Sept 30 – Some basics: textual studies, handpress printing, key concepts in bibliography Intro to course project and context

Leah Marcus, “Textual Scholarship” in *Introduction to Scholarship in Modern Languages and Literatures* (2007), 143-159

Greetham, “Introduction” and “Making the Text: Bibliography of Printed Books,” from *Textual Scholarship: An Introduction*, 1-13 and 77-91, 112-151

Watch the following short videos on different aspects of handpress printing:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-Pk_KMRaAA (making type)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CP_Q4NquVTE (setting type)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6ny9oyrJwo> (the press)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATt7OnwUQW0> (how to make a handmade book)

Course Project: Introduction and context

DeJean, selections from *Ancients against Moderns*, 1-3, 42-67

Selections from La Bruyère, *Caractères*, preface and ch. 1 (French or English)

Digital editions and text-encoding: you’ll be working in small teams on marking up and annotating, for digital publication, a selected text (or small set of inter-related texts). Teams will be formed based on the texts and on a set of specific problematics that the texts raise, potentially including the following:

- 1) translation/mobility/adaptation (esp between France and England)
- 2) editions and reeditions/variants/periodicity (books vs. journals)
- 3) automation and scale
- 4) reading and platforms: print vs. digital; attention span
- 5) “keys”: texts and social/cultural history (texts as windows onto the past)

Oct 7 – Debates in Textual Scholarship; La Bruyère editions

Jerome McGann, “The Socialization of Texts,” from *The Textual Condition*, 69-87

DF McKenzie, “The Book as an Expressive Form,” in *Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts*, 9-29

Jeffrey Masten, “Pressing Subjects; Or, The Secret Lives of Shakespeare’s Compositors,” in *Language Machines: Technologies of Literary and Cultural Production*, 75-99

Michelle Warren, “The politics of textual scholarship,” in *Cambridge Companion to Textual Scholarship*, 119-133

Course Project: Our sources and some mechanics

La Bruyère: bibliographies and approaches.

Mechanics: What is XML? And choosing/using a text editor.

“What is XML and Why Should Humanists Care: An Even Gentler Introduction to XML”: <http://dh.obdurodon.org/what-is-xml.xhtml>, read through the section “Is every document really a hierarchy?”

Julia Flanders, Syd Bauman, Sarah Connell, "Text encoding," in *Doing Digital Humanities: Practice, Training, Research*, 104-11 ("Introduction" and "Technical Orientation: Understanding XML")

Oct 14 – Platforms: Defining and debating the “features” of print

Elisabeth Eisenstein, "Defining the Initial Shift: Some Features of Print Culture," 151-164
Randall McLeod, "Spellbound Typography and the Concept of Old-Spelling Editions," *Renaissance and Reformation*, 3 (1979): 50-65
James Wald, "Periodicals and Periodicity," *A Companion to the History of the Book*, 421-432
Peter Stallybrass, "'Little Jobs': Broadside and the Printing Revolution," in *Agent of Change: Print Culture Studies after Elizabeth Eisenstein*, 315-341
Joan DeJean, "The Invention of a Public for Literature," from *Ancients against Moderns*, 57-66
George Hoffmann, "The Montaigne Monopoly: Revising the *Essais* under the French Privilege System," in *PMLA* 108, 2 (Mar 1993): 308-319

Course Project: XML – eXtensible Markup Language

"What is XML and Why Should Humanists Care: An Even Gentler Introduction to XML": <http://dh.obdurodon.org/what-is-xml.xhtml>. Read from "Could I please see some XML already" through "Other Web Standards"
We'll do short introductory exercises in class.

Oct 21 – From print to digital

Jerome McGann, "[The Rationale of Hypertext](#)"
Peter Stallybrass, "Books and Scrolls: Navigating the Bible," in *Books and Readers in Early Modern England*, 42-74
Andrew Stauffer, "The Nineteenth Century Archive in the Digital Age," in *European Romantic Review*, 335-341. And look at Book Traces (<https://booktraces.org>)
Christian Vandendorpe, "[Reading on Screen: The New Media Sphere](#)," in *A Companion to Digital Literary Studies*

Course project: Introduction to the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)

Flanders, Bauman, Connell, "Text encoding," 110-120 ("The Basics of Encoding with TEI" and "Using the TEI")
Lou Burnard, from [What is the Text Encoding Initiative](#)
Read: "[The Structural Organization of a TEI Document](#)" and "[Varieties of Textual Structure](#)"

Some examples of TEI-encoded corpuses:

"The TEI by Example Project": <http://tei.byexample.org>
The [Mercure Galant Project](#) by Obvil
[Molière](#) at Obvil

Les Nouvelles nouvelles

Oct 28 – Print to digital II: “close” vs. “distant,” and other interpretive hermeneutics

Moretti, “Style, Inc: Reflections on 7,000 Titles,” *Critical Inquiry* 36, 1 (Autumn 2009): 134-158

Katherine Hayles, “Close, Hyper, Machine,” in *ADE Bulletin* 150 (2010)
(<https://ade.mla.org/content/download/7915/225678/ade.150.62.pdf>)

Stephen Best and Sharon Marcus, “Surface Reading: An Introduction,” *Representations* 108, 1 (Autumn 2009): 1-21

Course project: TEI, cont’d. And tools and techniques for collaboration and validation.

TEI: handling critical apparatus (bibliographies and annotations), variants, typography (and appearance), images, and metadata (in [Burnard](#), you can look at “Milestones,” “Rendition,” “Figures,” “Bibliographic Descriptions,” “Notes,” and “The TEI Header.” Other useful resources for various encoding issues are www.teibyexample.org and the “[Women Writer’s Project Encoding Guide for Early Printed Books](#)”

XML and TEI Validation: Schemas; Burnard, “[Customizing the TEI](#)” or see “[Customising TEI, ODD, Roma](#)” at teibyexample.org

Guidelines for collaboration in groups

Nov 4 – DH session #1 (videoconferencing with Christophe Schuway’s seminar at Yale) – presentation of the text(s) and the issues your group is addressing.

Afterwards: TEI review, if necessary

Nov 11 – Veterans Day. No class

Nov 18 – DH Session #2 (with Yale group) -- discussion of mark-up and interface design

Submit your group’s text – annotated and marked-up in TEI-XML -- by Friday, Nov 15

Nov 25 – Digital Publication

Very brief intro to digital publishing: HTML, CSS, XSLT, and other platforms

Do Miriam Posner’s [short tutorials in HTML and CSS](#).

“What is XML and Why Should Humanists Care: An Even Gentler Introduction to XML”: <http://dh.obdurodon.org/what-is-xml.xhtml>. Read the section “Practicing what we preach.”

Flanders, Bauman, Connell, “XSLT. Transforming our XML data,” in *Doing Digital Humanities*, 255-272

Dec 2 – DH Session #3 (with Yale group) – discussion of final designs.