

Jonathan Gross, Professor
Department of English
Class Hours Thursday, 6-9, Sept. 12-November 14, 2013
My Office hours are held at 2315 N Kenmore, Room 213-1

471: Bibliography and Literary Research

Objective:

The purpose of this class is to introduce students to issues related to bibliography and literary research. We will explore the history of textual editing from a variety of standpoints, all of which are meant to increase your understanding of the texts you both read and teach. While other classes explore the history of specific texts, this class will be concerned with the process of creating a literary text for public consumption: the subject is actually more interesting than it seems at first.

Examining the classic essay, “The Rationale of Copy-Text”, we will see how decisions made by a few theorists in academia have controlled the entire publishing industry’s dissemination of reading texts at the high school and college level. Bower’s application of Gregg’s theory had an enormous influence on the editing of American literary works. In the 1980s, Jerome McGann’s *A Critique of Modern Textual Criticism* challenged the Gregg-Bowers-Tanselle approach to literary editing, focusing on the fact that single editions of works were no longer tenable or desirable. McGann’s *Radiant Textuality* discusses the implications of the world wide web for editing. He notes how editing specific nineteenth century texts, such as the works of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, challenged him to think in new ways about the field of bibliography. We will consider how editors have struggled with the tasks assigned to them, by reading Alexander Pettit’s collection of essays. We will also look at specific internet sites, such as the Blake Archive, the Rossetti project, Romantic Web Circles, and the Dickens website to conduct research.

Final Paper

1. Create an electronic edition of a poem, play, novel, or memoir. Explain, in a 5-page paper, which you append to the website, the issues and challenges that you faced in considering how to offer this web-based version of a literary text. The bibliography that accompanies the electronic edition should be no less than two pages. The essay itself should engage directly with the readings for the course, showing mastery of more than one approach to scholarly editing, including not just McGann but Tanselle, Bowers, and Gregg.

Electronic editions should include features that make special use of the internet to do what a codex version of the book could not. These features will be explained clearly in McGann’s *Radiant Textuality*, particularly chapter 2, “The Rationale of Hypertext.”

2. Write a 10 page paper on a single aspect of bibliography. For example:

- a. multiple editions of Byron's "The Giaour" and their implications
- b. various editions of Anne Frank's Diary
- c. Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner"
- d. Jefferson's "Notes on the State of Virginia"
- e. State erected to Goethe, in the manner of Apollo (and other statues in Lincoln Park—a provenance with literary explanations for why statues exist to Shakespeare, Schiller, Hamilton, and other figures; this same topic can be applied to other places in Chicago that have a history for which archival information can be found).
- f. Newberry Library: any archival, literary project that involves research at the Newberry

Policies:

Two or more absences will lower your grade by ten points.

A missed oral presentation will lower the grade for the oral report by 10 points.

Grade Distribution

1. Abstract of final project, 25%, due week 3, Jan. 22
2. Rough draft of final project, 25%, due week 8, Feb. 26
3. Electronic version of final project, 25%, due week 9, March 5
4. Final, written version of project, due week 11, 25%, March 19

Books

1. Jerome McGann, *A Critique of Modern Textual Criticism*
2. Jerome McGann's *Radiant Textuality*
3. *Textual Studies and the Common Reader: Essays on Editing Novels and Novelists*, ed. Alexander Pettit (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2000)
4. *Textual Editing and Criticism* Erick Kelemen, foreword by Donald H. Reiman, Elemen, Norton, 978-0-393-92942
5. James Soderholm, ed. *Beauty and the Critic, Aesthetics in an Age of Cultural Studies*, University of Alabama Press, Isbn 0-8173-0891-1

Class Schedule

Week One Thursday, Sept. 12;

Class Discussion:

W W Gregg, **The Rationale of Copy-Text**

<http://etext.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccer-sb?id=sibv003&images=bsuva/sb/images&data=/texts/english/bibliog/SB&tag=public&part=2&division=div>

A. E. Housman, from "The Application of Thought to Textual Criticism" (Norton)

Lyrical Ballads: codex and electronic editions.

<http://www.rc.umd.edu/editions/LB/readtxts.html>

“Rime of the Ancient Mariner”: Two Editions

Week Two Thursday, Sept. 19

Class Discussion:

Blake Archive: Selections from “Songs of Innocence”, “Marriage of Heaven and Hell” and “Milton”
“Declaring Independence”, Jay Fliegelman

Oral Reports:

1. Why Study Textual Editing and Criticism (Norton)
2. Text Technologies and Textual Transmissions (Norton)

Week Three Thursday, Sept. 26;

Class Discussion:

Textual Criticism and Kinds of Editions (Norton)

Oral Reports:

1. Fredson Bowers, **SOME PRINCIPLES FOR SCHOLARLY EDITIONS OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN AUTHORS**
<http://etext.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccer-sb?id=sibv017&images=bsuva/sb/images&data=/texts/english/bibliog/SB&tag=public&part=17&division=div>
2. Alexander Pettit, *Textual Studies and the Common Reader*, Oral Report
3. Lewis Walpole Library as an Electronic Resource
PRESENTATION
4. *Dickens on the Web*; George Landow; PRESENTATION;
<http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/dickens/economicsov.html>

Week Four Thursday, Oct. 3; Draft of proposals due. 2 pages single space;

Class Discussion:

McGann, *A Critique of Modern Textual Criticism*, introduction

Oral Reports:

1. “The Stuff that Don’t Matter” (Pettit);
2. William Shakespeare, from *King Lear* and *Othello* (Norton)
3. “The Issue of a Authority in a Scholarly Edition: Editing Cather”

Week Five Thursday, Oct. 10

Class Discussion:

McGann, *A Critique of Modern Textual Criticism*, chapters 1-3

Oral Reports:

The Novel: "William Faulkner, the Crisis of Masculinity, and Textual Instability";

Poetry: Emily Dickinson, ["Safe in their alabaster chambers"] (Norton)

Week Six Thursday, Oct. 17

Class Discussion:

1. Ralph Hanna, Jr., "Producing Manuscripts and Editions" (Norton)

2. *Gillray, Dr. Syntax*;

http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_object/spd/j/james_gillray,_a_voluptuary_un.aspx

Oral Reports:

1. "The Scholarly Editor as Biographer" (Pettit);

2. *Blake Archives*; Joseph Viscomi

3. McGann, *A Critique of Modern Textual Criticism*, chapter 5, 8, 9 and 10;

4. Essay (your choice) from *Beauty and the Critic*

Week Seven Oct. 24

Class Discussion:

1. Paul Cantor Essay in *Beauty and the Critic* (Soderholm)

2. Charles E. Robinson, "Texts in Search of an Editor: Reflections on *The Frankenstein Notebooks* and on Editorial Authority" (Norton)

Oral Reports:

1. "Conrad in Print and on Disk";

2. *ROMANTICISM ON THE NET*—electronic; **VOICE OF THE SHUTTLE; conferences and literary opportunities;**
<http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=3>

3. *Radiant Textuality, Introduction, part 1*

Week Eight Oct. 31

Class Discussion:

1. "A Future for Editing: Lawrence in Hypertext"; McGann, *A Critique of Modern Textual Criticism*;

Oral Reports:

2. *Radiant Textuality*, part 1;

Week Nine Nov. 7

Class Discussion:

1. Pettit, "In Dreams Begin Responsibility: Novels, Promises, and Electronic Editors"

Oral Reports:

1. *Radiant Textuality*, part 2
2. Presentation from *Hacking the Academy*

Week Ten Nov. 14

Class Discussion:

1. "Whose Work is it Anyway?" (Rivero);

Oral Reports:

1. *Radiant Textuality*, part 3 and conclusion
2. Presentation from *Hacking the Academy*

Oral Reports:

Oral reports should present an electronic website, or a chapter from one of the books we are discussing. Your oral report must fall on the day the work is discussed in class; I will need a confirmation by email that you are presenting and a rough draft or outline of your presentation by 5 on Monday (the night before Tuesday's class). If you would like to share anything with other students in an electronic format, please send me the url or other information electronically and I will post it. If you are absent for any reason, your grade will be lowered for the oral presentation by 10 points. You must still present on another day, so please choose dates carefully and let me know at least 24 hours if there is a change in plans and you cannot give an oral report. Obviously, we cannot have all oral reports on the final day of class. Reports made earlier in the course of the quarter will be graded more leniently than those that occur in week 10, since there is less time to prepare. Your oral report is an important part of the class participation grade.

In your oral report, which should be no more than 20 minutes, present an overview of the website. What did you find useful or not useful? Try to focus on a specific

aspect of the website, an article, an edition, with which you are familiar so you can discuss how the editors have made use of the web to enhance appreciation of the material. The more detail you provide the better. Avoid generalizations or opinions and try to explain in an objective way what the website has to offer: its strengths and limitations.

These are examples of electronic editions that you might find helpful in choosing your own project for an electronic edition (see separate handout taken from the Romantic Web Circles page). Note how the editors make use of the format of the internet to do what could not be done in a codex form. Some of these will be more successful than others. Whether you choose to do your own electronic edition, or to comment on several others and compare and contrast, make sure to make use of McGann and other critics from Pettit's edited volume to discuss issues related to bibliography.

British Library Print Satires

**William Hone. *The Political House that Jack Built* (1820).
Edited by Kyle Grimes.**

Includes diplomatic transcription of the title page and Hone's verse text, as well as the poem "The Clerical Magistrate".
Also offers original illustrations by George Cruikshank, a William Hone chronology, & annotated bibliography.

**John Keats. *A Rediscovered Letter by John Keats* (1818).
Edited by Dearing Lewis.**

Includes introduction, diplomatic transcription, & notes.

**L.E.L.'s 'Verses' and *The Keepsake for 1829*. Edited by
Terence Hoagwood, Kathryn Ledbetter, and Martin M.
Jacobsen.**

Includes introduction, diplomatic transcriptions, facsimile pages, biography, bibliography, & commentary.

**Mary Darby Robinson.
A Letter to the Women of England, on the Injustice of Mental Subordination (1799).
Edited by Adriana Craciun, Anne Irmén Close, Megan Musgrave, & Orianne Smith.**

Includes introduction, transcriptions, reviews, letters to and from Robinson, selected poems, bibliography, & notes.

