Literature and Media

Level/Semester taught: Level 6
Convenor/Teacher: Seb Franklin
Teaching Arrangements: 1-hour seminar, 1-hour lecture weekly
Credit Value: 15 credits
Assessment: 1 x 3,000 word essay (85%), 1x critical portfolio on an object from the history of technical media (15%)

This course investigates the ways in which literary texts and cultural theories have responded to the emergence of multiple new media formats through the twentieth and into the twenty-first centuries. By situating literary and theoretical texts in a broader network of visual, aural and interactive media the course invites students to consider: the social, political and cultural effects of technology; the specificity of written texts as distinct from other forms of technical media; relationships between text, image, and sound; the historical implications of mechanical reproduction; the emergence of networked communication; the cultural and political impact of the computer.

Ideal preparation for this module would include the following reading:


Geoffrey Winthrop-Young, Kittler and the Media (Cambridge: Polity, 2010) - for an overview of Friedrich Kittler’s media theory.

** Denotes texts that should be obtained by students. All other material will be made available through KEATS.

Week 1: No Session

Week 2: Literature and/as Media


Sigmund Freud, ‘A Note upon the “Mystic Writing Pad”’ (1925).

Week 3: Media Networks, 1897.

Bram Stoker, Dracula (1897). **


**Week 4: Telephone**


Franz Kafka, ‘My Neighbour’ (1931). **


**Week 5: Analogue**


Friedrich Kittler, ‘Gramophone’, in *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*.


**Week 6: Photography**


**Week 7: Reading Week**

**Week 8: Film and Psychoanalysis**


**Week 9: Media and War**


**Week 10: Money as Medium**


Karl Marx, *Grundrisse* (excerpt), at [https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1857/grundrisse/ch05.htm](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1857/grundrisse/ch05.htm)
Week 11: Writing Cyberspace


Week 12: Media Networks, 2006-

