

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*3870 DE	Course Title: Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies	Date of Offering: W'19
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Course Instructor: Elaine Chang	Course Format: Distance Ed
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Brief Course Synopsis: **subject to change**

The Cultures and Politics of Reiteration, Simulation, and Reproduction“Referencing is the new originality.” What had been a provocative claim at the turn of the twenty-first century may be truer now and riper for analysis than ever: that popular culture reinvents relations between the old and the new. If so, we might ask, what *has been* the status of originality, how has it changed, what may have taken its place, and why? How do phenomena such as 3-D printing, cloning, postmodern quotation, the nostalgia industries, remakes, covers, cultural reappropriations, and mash-ups—whereby “copies” displace or reorient “originals”—both reflect and contribute to shifts in social-cultural relations and values? This reading-intensive, theory-focused DE course asks you to consider reproduction in multiple senses of the term, and several instances of repetition with, or as, a difference. Units will situate selected works and examples of philosophy and theory, literature, film, TV, and popular culture in particular contexts of production, reception, and interpretation. Topics will include: the mechanical reproducibility of art; issues in visual imaging and reproductive technologies; the art and politics of parody and impersonation; gender, sexual, and racial identifications as performative and/or fluid; and potential challenges to the “real.”

Methods of Evaluation and Weight: **subject to change**

DE Small Group Discussion Entries/Responses (30%); Blog Entries (30%); Final Critical and/or Creative Project (40%: in 3 components).

Please note: I am currently redeveloping this course with OpenEd specialists; course content and assignment structure may be adjusted accordingly before the term begins.

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Cultural materials may include works such as: Ozeki’s *My Year of Meats* and Dick’s *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (novels); *Exit through the Gift Shop* and *Far from Heaven* (documentary and feature films); sci-fi and popular science culture; fashion, food, video gaming, beauty/cosmetic industry trends, advertising, and social media. Theoretical approaches will be rooted in Dialectical Materialist methodology and reflect its influence on cultural studies, feminist theory, and critical studies of race, ethnicity, nation, and sexuality.

Other information that you wish to share about the course (optional):

Fulfils Twentieth-/Twenty-first Century requirement.