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Office Hours: 11:30-12:30 M+W

**Narrative Across Media**  
**ENGL A394-001**  
**Spring 2014**  
**Class Meetings:** MWF / 3:30-4:20 / Marquette 406  
**Website:** [http://www.timothyjwelsh.com/courses/14sp394/](http://www.timothyjwelsh.com/courses/14sp394/)

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

The recent push by media scholars toward media-specific methods has come as the modes of narrative media have never been more overdetermined. In a wired culture, this may seem like an effect of the digital— that medium that remediates all others. The history of literature, however, shows us that narratives have always been intertextual, extra-textual, and multi-media. At the same time, the desire for analysis that attends to the specific affordances of individual media types has been a necessary corrective to the expectation that narratives can transition unchanged from one platform to another.

Still, media are converging. A videogame based on a comic book franchise released simultaneously with a big-budget movie; a novel published as iBook with interactive elements and companion websites; specialized film techniques used to make a videogame more like interactive cinema; fan comics about an MMORPG in which comic book characters from other universes make an appearance. These emerging forms of intermedia, pastiche, transmedia, adaptation, and parody still demand media-specific attention, even as they overlap and supersede specific media types.

This will be a course about hybrid cases, and the fuzzy boundaries between media. It focuses on single media objects—a game, a film, a novel, etc—articulated within and articulating a mangle of media forms.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students will be able to:

- Analyze narrative media as a site of contesting media forms.
- Chart correspondences between a narrative and the specific media that supports it.
- Assess and develop models for addressing contemporary trends in intermediality and transmedia storytelling.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Daily Writing: 30%  
Students will bring typed and printed discussion questions to each class meeting. Questions should emerge from course readings and discussion. Occasionally, students may also be assigned short in-class or out of class writing prompts.
Midterm Essay Test: 20%
Students will write an in-class essay comparing the ways in which the narratives from the first half of class draw on multiple media forms and objects. The exam will be Friday.

Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography: 20%
Students will submit a formal paper proposal and annotated bibliography for their term paper project. The proposal will be at most one page and will raise a critical question, offer a methodology for addressing it, and hypothesize how the paper might answer it. The bibliography will cover five or more academic sources related to the proposal.

Final paper: 30%
Students will submit a final research project that makes an argument about the ways multiple media converge and context in the delivery of a narrative not discussed in class. Projects may be completed individually or groups of four or fewer. Creative, transmedia essays are encouraged. Projects are due Wednesday, May 7, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Grading Scale**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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**Required Texts**

Junot Diaz, *Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*  

Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons, *Watchmen*  

Traveller’s Tales, *Lego Star Wars: The Complete Saga*  
Telltale Games XBOX360, PS3, Wii, Nintendo DS, Windows, OSX, iOS [2007] $20

Telltale Games, *The Walking Dead*  
Telltale Games XBOX360, PS3, PSVita, Windows, OSX, iOS, Ouya [2012] $16

Visceral Games, *Dante’s Inferno*  

Mark JP Wolfe, *Building Imaginary Worlds: The Theory and History of Subcreation*  

**Schedule**

- **Week01**  >  Convergence Culture and Intermediality
- **Week02**  >  *Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
Policies and Procedures

Attendance
Attendance will be recorded promptly at the start of class. Students who are not present at that time will be recorded as absent. Should a student arrive late, it is the student’s responsibility to alert the instructor of his or her presence. Missing class meetings will severely inhibit a student’s ability to succeed in this course.

Assignments
All assignments are expected on time at the beginning of the appointed class meeting. They must be typed and printed, appropriate to the requested work, and presented professionally. Assignments that do not meet these minimum requirements may not receive credit.

Students will receive a prompt and rubric for major assignments. Failure to meet the stipulations of the prompt and rubric by the assigned date will result in a loss of credit.

Requests for extension may be granted up 10:30pm the night before they are due. Extensions MUST be confirmed via email and last until the next class meeting (Monday due date extends to Wednesday, and so on). If the assignment is not ready after the extension, it will receive no credit.

Academic Integrity
To uphold the academic integrity of this class and the Loyola community, it is incumbent on all of us to avoid academically dishonest behaviors such as cheating and plagiarism. For more information about plagiarism and how to avoid it, go to http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/. Students who are concerned that they might inadvertently commit plagiarism should talk to one of the instructors, see a WAC lab tutor, or consult one of the reference librarians in Monroe Library. Students are responsible for understanding and avoiding academically dishonest behavior. In accordance with Loyola University policy, students found cheating, plagiarizing, or misrepresenting someone else’s ideas as their own will be reported to their dean and will likely receive a failing grade in the course (not just on the assignment).

Academic Accommodations
If you have a disability and wish to receive accommodations, please contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services at 504-865-2990. If you wish to receive test accommodations (e.g,
extended test time), you will need to give the course instructor an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services is located in Marquette Hall 112.

**In Case of Emergency**
At times, ordinary university operations are interrupted as a result of tropical storms, hurricanes, or other emergencies that require evacuation or suspension of on-campus activities.

To prepare for such emergencies, all students will do the following during the first week of classes:
1. Practice signing on for each course through Blackboard.
2. Provide regular and alternative e-mail address and phone contact information to each instructor.

In the event of an interruption to our course due to the result of an emergency requiring an evacuation or suspension of campus activities, students will:
3. Pack textbooks, assignments, syllabi and any other needed materials for each course and bring during an evacuation/suspension
4. Keep up with course work during the evacuation/suspension as specified on course syllabi and on-line Blackboard courses.
5. Complete any reading and/or writing assignments given by professors before emergency began.

Assuming a power source is available....
6. Log on to university Web site within 48 hours of an evacuation/suspension.
7. Monitor the main university site (www.loyno.edu) for general information.
8. Log on to each course through Blackboard or e-mail within 48 hours of an evacuation/suspension to receive further information regarding contacting course instructors for assignments, etc.
9. Complete Blackboard and/or other online assignments posted by professors (students are required to turn in assignments on time during the evacuation/suspension period and once the university campus has reopened.)
10. Contact professors during an evacuation/suspension (or as soon as classes resume on campus) to explain any emergency circumstances that may have prevented them from completing expected work.

Further information about student responsibilities in emergencies is available on the Academic Affairs web site: http://academicaffairs.loyno.edu/students-emergency-responsibilities