MAKING ENGLISH
ENGLISH 375

Fall 2018   Profs. Bianca Falbo & Chris Phillips
MWF 11-11:50am   falbob@lafayette.edu
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1 Unit   Office hours: TBA

Have you ever wondered how the texts you read in English classes got that way? A huge range of things can happen to a text between a moment of authorial inspiration and a reader's encounter with printed (or digital) text. This course explores such textual mysteries through making a digital edition of a literary work from Lafayette's Special Collections. As we'll see in producing the edition, this kind of text-making provides a perfect occasion for thinking in new ways about literary theory and history, and about our own work as writers and readers. After collaboratively making the edition, students will develop individual projects that relate their own special interests in English studies to our edition. The course thus promises two big takeaways: a literary resource to serve the public for years to come and a new understanding of what excites you about English that can last a lifetime.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with editorial theory and practice as it relates to larger theoretical and critical issues in English studies;

2. Demonstrate informational literacy in the context of scholarly practices and technological developments in the discipline;

3. Create a digital edition of a text following principles of scholarly editing as practiced in English-language literary studies;

4. Critically reflect on the work of editing through an original project in a genre of your choice.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Stephen Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*, Signet edition
Stephen Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*, Norton Critical edition
Neil Fraistat & Julia Flanders, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Textual Scholarship*
Jerome McGann, *Radiant Textuality*
William Proctor Williams and Craig S. Abbott, *An Introduction to Bibliographical and Textual Studies*, 4th ed.

Additional readings available on Moodle. (see schedule below)
It is expected that students will spend at least 2-3 hours preparing for each class period.

The student work in this course is in full compliance with the federal definition of a four credit hour course. Please see the Lafayette College Compliance webpage on the Registrar's site for the full policy and practice statement.

SCHEDULE

Unit 1: Introduction to Editing

Unit 2: Building the Edition

Unit 3: Personal Projects

ASSIGNMENTS

Evaluation of Crane Editions (5% of total grade)
An examination of existing Crane editions, beginning with the ones in Skillman's Special Collections, in order to think critically about how Crane's work has been produced as "literature," and Crane himself as an "author."

Digital Edition (40% of total grade, 2500 wds min)
Our collaborative project this semester will be the design and publication of a digital edition of Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*. This may include collating, imaging, annotating, and other tasks central to editing a text and presenting it in a digital environment. Each of you will work in a team focused on one of these main tasks, and will write an individual essay describing your contributions to the project and reflecting on what you have learned.

Blog/reading responses (20% of total grade)
Throughout the semester you'll share your thoughts on course readings, including each other's work, by posting on the course blog at least twice each week (Wednesdays and Sundays), as well as commenting on other people's posts at least four times each week. Your posts don't have a minimum length, but they should be written engagingly and in ways that can continue our class's conversations beyond what we say in class meetings.

Individual Project (35% of grade, 2500 wds min)
After we complete our digital edition project, you will design and write an individual essay, poem(s), story(s), script, etc. as a way of critically engaging with the edition. As part of your project, write a brief introduction that explains the theoretical and/or craft questions that most shape your project. Final projects are due on the last day of class.

A few words about **grading policy**:

• Late work will be penalized one letter grade for every day beyond the due date. The first day past the due date starts one hour after assignments are due. Late blog postings will count as one-half credit.

• Grades are calculated based on the point system used for GPA on your Lafayette transcript. Thus, an A=4, an A-=3.7, B+=3.3, and so on. F counts as a 0.

• If you wish to contest a grade, you must do the following: 1.) wait 24 hours after you have received the graded assignment, 2.) write and send us a brief argument as to why we should reconsider your grade, and 3.) come see at least one of us in person to discuss what you wrote. Keep in mind that if we decide to reconsider the grade, you may wind up with a lower grade than you had before.

A word about **academic honesty**: All students must read and follow the guidelines of academic honesty as outlined in the section entitled "Principles of Intellectual Honesty" in the Student Handbook of Lafayette College. Any infraction of these principles will be referred immediately to the Office of the Dean of Studies for adjudication.

In compliance with Lafayette College policy and equal access laws, we are available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first two weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students must register with the Office of the Dean of the College for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.

Moodle contains student information that is protected by the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA). Disclosure to unauthorized parties violates federal privacy laws. Courses using Moodle will make student information visible to other students in this class. Please remember that this information is protected by these federal privacy laws and must not be shared with anyone outside the class. Questions can be referred to the Registrar's Office.