

Course Title	Avant-Garde and Experimental Writing				
Course Code	ENS661				
Course Type	Optional				
Level	Master (2 nd Cycle)				
Year / Semester	2 nd Year / 3 rd Semester				
Teacher's Name	TBA				
ECTS	10	Lectures / week	Up to 6 teleconferences	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>This course is designed to account for developments in textual production in the era of late capitalism, with a twin focus on postmodern concepts of the text and an avant-garde fascination with experimentation in writing that leads to the commodification and fetishisation of the visually or generically atypical text. Students will be familiarised with mainstream examples of experimental writing, beginning with Gertrude Stein and William S. Burroughs, then ranging across the Anglo-American tradition of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, including examples of digital texts, multi-modal texts and forms of creative plagiarism. The course builds on students' knowledge of critical theory and introduces an interdisciplinary focus that includes elements such as the history of book production, cognitive psychology, neuroscience and digital media studies.</p>				
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define various theories of textuality • Discuss examples of experimental texts • Judge the theoretical and mimetic implications of the term "experimental writing" • Debate concepts of cybertext, ergodic literature, multimodal reading and uncreative writing • Relate developments in experimental writing to sociopolitical circumstances and technological advances. 				
Prerequisites	None	Co-requisites	None		
Course Content	<p>The course has been designed to provide a broad introduction to the rise of avant-gardism within the Modernist moment, specifically the use of the term avant-garde to cover a wide range of artistic practices and political attitudes as well as a more general bohemian set of behaviours. We will explore the ways that postmodern culture has sought to reincorporate earlier forms of the avant garde as commercial objects, and resistance to such incorporation in the form of practices such as blank books, cut-ups, creative plagiarism and</p>				

	<p>uncreative writings. At the same time, we will investigate the book as a physical and conceptual object, looking at the ways that advances in publishing technologies enabled experimentation with form in the 20th century, just as the rise of digital cultures has enabled the radical decentering of the physical book in the 21st. Particular attention will be paid throughout to the radically liberational potentiality of experimental forms for reconceptualizations of gender, race and disability. Students will be given the opportunity to create experimental work of their own and to thus interrogate experimentalism as practical craft as well as via theories of the text. Students will also be encouraged to relate the specific examples of experimental/avant-garde writing studied to wider developments in the late capitalism of the 20th and early 21st centuries.</p> <p>The examples of experimental writing chosen for the course will depend on the instructor's preference and research (a representative bibliography is included below), but will always include examples of multigenre and multimodal work.</p>						
Teaching Methodology	E-Learning						
Bibliography	<p>Barton, Simon. <i>Visual Devices in Contemporary Prose Fiction: Gaps, Gestures, Images</i>. Palgrave MacMillan, 2016.</p> <p>Bray, Joe, Gibbons, Alison and Brian McHale. <i>The Routledge Companion to Experimental Literature</i>, Routledge 2012.</p> <p>Gibbons, Allison. <i>Multimodality, Cognition, and Experimental Literature</i>. Routledge, 2012</p> <p>Goldsmith, Kenneth. <i>Uncreative Writing: Managing Language in the Digital Age</i>. Columbia UP, 2011.</p> <p>Kaufman, David. <i>Reading Uncreative Writing: Conceptualism, Expression, and the Lyric</i>. Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.</p> <p>Rudrum, David and Nicholas Stavris. <i>Supplanting the Postmodern: An Anthology of Writings on the Arts and Culture of the Early 21st Century</i>. Bloomsbury Academic, 2015.</p>						
Assessment	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Final Examination</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Assignments/On-going evaluation</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">100%</td> </tr> </table>	Final Examination	50%	Assignments/On-going evaluation	50%		100%
Final Examination	50%						
Assignments/On-going evaluation	50%						
	100%						
Language	English						