New Media Theory

Required Texts for History 200C

Lev Manovich, *The Language of New Media* (MIT Press)
Katherine Hayles, *My Mother Was a Computer* (University of Chicago Press)
Thomas Foster, *The Souls of Cyberfolk* (University of Minnesota Press)
Alexander Galloway, *Gaming* (University of Minnesota Press)

Seminar Topics and Reading Assignments

January 8: Introduction to Theories of Digital Culture
Recommended: Mark Poster, *Information Please: Culture and Politics in the Age of Digital Machines*

January 15: Holiday

January 22: *New Media and Old Media:*
Lev Manovich, *The Language of New Media*, Chapters 1, 5, 6
Recommended: Mark Hansen, *New Philosophy for New Media*

January 29: *Digital Networks*
Matthew Fuller, *Media Ecologies*, Chapters 1, 2, 3
Recommended: Alex Galloway, *Protocol*
Alex Galloway and Eugene Thacker, *The Exploit*

February 5: *Mobile Text:*
Katherine Hayles, *My Mother Was a Computer*, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 8
Recommended: Friedrich Kittler, *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*

February 12: *Live/Dead Machines:*
Richard Doyle, *Wetwares*,
Recommended: Félix Guattari, “Machinic Heterogenesis”

February 19: Holiday

February 26: *Race and Cyberspace:*
Thomas Foster, *The Souls of Cyberfolk*
Wendy Chun, *Control and Freedom*, Ch. 3

March 5: *Gender, Sexuality and Networked Computing:*
Lynn Hershberg, “Teknolust”
Wendy Chun, *Control and Freedom*, Ch. 2

March 12: *Games and the Network:*
Alexander Galloway, *Gaming*

**Important Topics not Scheduled:**

1. *File Sharing and Capitalism*
   Michael Strangelove, *The Empire of Mind*
   Steven Weber, *The Success of Open Source*

2. *Body and New Media:*
   Bernadette Wegenstein, *Getting Under the Skin: The Body and Media Theory*
   Eugene Thacker, *Biomedia*
   Mark Hansen, *Bodies in Code*

3. *Comparative Media History*

4. *Globalization and Media*
   Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Empire*
   Lisa Parks, *Cultures in Orbit*

**Writing Assignments**

There will be one paper (15 to 20 typewritten and double spaced pages) due at the end of the quarter in which you will be asked to explore some aspect of the texts we read. This may focus on your own research project when that it appropriate. Papers are due Wednesday of finals week (March 21st), at noon, in my History Department mailbox.