

Topics in Texts and Technology: Fandom

ENG 6939 – 0001

Dr. Mel Stanfill

Spring 2018

Office: OTC 500, Room 129
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or via Webcourses

Mondays 6-8:50pm
Burnett Honors College, Room 128
3 Units

Course Description

This advanced introduction surveys both canonical and contemporary scholarship in fan studies.
PR: Graduate standing.

Course Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Gain an understanding of key areas of inquiry in fan studies.
- Become familiar with canonical and contemporary scholarship in fan studies.
- Learn to position their own work in relation to scholars engaging similar areas.
- Produce original research engaging the field of fan studies.
- Gain practice in scholarly practices of feedback and revision

Required Texts

Busse, Kristina. 2017. *Framing Fan Fiction: Literary and Social Practices in Fan Fiction Communities*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press.
De Kosnik, Abigail. 2016. *Rogue Archives: Digital Cultural Memory and Media Fandom*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
Stein, Louisa Ellen. 2015. *Millennial Fandom: Television Audiences in the Transmedia Age*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press.

Recommended

Lewis, Lisa A., ed. 1992. *The Adoring Audience: Fan Culture and Popular Media*. London, UK: Routledge.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading Scale

A	=	94-100	B-	=	80-83	D+	=	68-69
A-	=	90-93	C+	=	78-79	D	=	64-67
B+	=	88-89	C	=	74-77	D-	=	60-63
B	=	84-87	C-	=	70-73	F	=	0-59

Assignments

- 100 points** **10x Weekly Questions**
In 10 weeks of their choice, students will submit 3 discussion questions via Webcourses. This is due 3 hours before class time to allow me to review and collate them.
- 25 points** **Research Topic** **January 22**
In no more than 1 double-spaced page, tell me: What object or area of inquiry are you interested in pursuing for this course and why?
- 25 points** **Research Question** **February 5**
In approximately 1 double-spaced page, tell me: What do you want to know about your topic and why?
- 250 points** **Fantasy Conference Panel** **February 19**
Students will choose a conference relevant to their field and put together a mock (or real) submission, writing their own abstract as well as the panel rationale.
- 100 points** **Final Paper Proposal/Background Reading** **March 19**
Submit a proposal (5-7 pages): What do you want to know? What is already known? How are you going to find out? How will you complete the work? To what venue will you submit it when you are done and why is that a good fit?
- 50 points** **Final Paper Outline** **April 2**
In 1-2 pages, provide a working outline. What is your argument (answer to your research question)? What are the subpoints you intend to use to support your argument? What is the evidence you intend to use to support your subpoints?
- 50 points** **Final Paper Draft** **April 16**
Produce a complete draft of your article (ballpark 8,000 words including references, unless your journal has another requirement) for peer review.
- 100 points** **Peer Review** **April 23**
You will receive the papers of two other students to conduct double-blind peer review. You'll tell your colleague what about their paper works, what doesn't work, and what you suggest to remedy whatever weaknesses it may have. You will be graded based upon the quality of your contribution to your classmate.
- 50 points** **Conference Presentation** **April 23**
On the last scheduled day of class, we will have a mini-conference and invite colleagues to attend. You'll be organized into panels, speak, and field questions.
- 250 points** **Final Paper** **April 30**
Based on the feedback of the peer reviewers and on the presentation, submit a revised version of the paper. Your final submission will include a practice letter to the editor of the journal to which you intend to submit, explaining what revisions you have made and why you feel they make the paper stronger.
- 1000 points** **Total**

Assignment Policies

- During the first week, there is a required **Academic Activity Verification**, due January 12 by 11:59pm.
 - Faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. To document that you began this course, please complete the Academic Activity Verification by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.
- **Grades will be reported via Webcourses.**
- **I do not accept late work.** All work must be turned in on time. If you have a situation that prevents you from being able to turn work in on time, you must ask for an extension before the due date.
 - Extension requests must be made in writing, with a clear explanation and documentation of the problem preventing you from making the due date and a clear proposed date for when you will be able to turn in the assignment.
- All work that you submit for this class must be your own, and it must be written exclusively for this course. Also, any sources consulted for your writing must be properly documented. "Rewriting," in which a student consults a source, changes a few words, and presents the ideas as his/her own, is plagiarism. **Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment** and may also lead to an "F" for the entire course. Plagiarism and cheating subjects a student to referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>).
- The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable **accommodations for persons with disabilities**. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons, Bldg. F7, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, sas@ucf.edu, before requesting accommodations.

Weekly Schedule

January 8 – Foundations

- Coppa, Francesca. "Women, 'Star Trek,' and the Early Development of Fannish Vidding." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 1 (2008): n.p. <http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/viewArticle/44>
- Fiske, John. 1992. "The Cultural Economy of Fandom." In *The Adoring Audience: Fan Culture and Popular Media*, edited by Lisa A. Lewis, 30–49. London, UK: Routledge.
- Gray, Jonathan, Cornel Sandvoss, and C. Lee Harrington. 2007. "Introduction: Why Study Fans?" In *Fandom: Identities and Communities in a Mediated World*, edited by Jonathan Gray, Cornel Sandvoss, and C. Lee Harrington, 1–16. New York, NY: New York University Press.
- Jenkins, Henry. 1988. "Star Trek Rerun, Reread, Rewritten: Fan Writing as Textual Poaching." *Critical Studies in Mass Communication* 5 (2): 85–107. doi:10.1080/15295038809366691. (on Webcourses)
- Jensen, Joli. 1992. "Fandom as Pathology: The Consequences of Characterization." In *The Adoring Audience: Fan Culture and Popular Media*, edited by Lisa A. Lewis, 9–29. London, UK: Routledge.

January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No class

January 22 – Gender and Sexuality

- Green, Shoshanna, Cynthia Jenkins, and Henry Jenkins. 1998. "Normal Female Interest in Men Bonking: Selections from the Terra Nostra Underground and Strange Bedfellows." In *Theorizing Fandom: Fans, Subculture and Identity*, edited by Cheryl Harris and Alison Alexander, 9–38. Creskill, NJ: Hampton Press.
- Johnson, Derek. 2014. "May the Force Be with Katie': Pink Media Franchising and the Postfeminist Politics of HerUniverse." *Feminist Media Studies* 14 (6): 895–911. doi:10.1080/14680777.2014.882856.
- Kohnen, Melanie. 2014. "'The Power of Geek': Fandom as Gendered Commodity at Comic-Con." *Creative Industries Journal* 7 (1): 75–78. doi:10.1080/17510694.2014.892295.
- Lothian, Alexis, Kristina Busse, and Robin Anne Reid. 2007. "'Yearning Void and Infinite Potential': Online Slash Fandom as Queer Female Space." *English Language Notes* 45 (2): 103–11.
- Ng, Eve. 2017. "Between Text, Paratext, and Context: Queerbaiting and the Contemporary Media Landscape." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 24. <http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/917>.
- Russo, Julie Levin. 2013. "Textual Orientation: Queer Female Fandom Online." In *The Routledge Companion to Media & Gender*, edited by Cynthia Carter, Linda Steiner, and Lisa McLaughlin, 450–60. Routledge.
- Stanfill, Mel. 2016. "Straighten up and Fly White: Whiteness, Heteronormativity, and the Representation of Happy Endings for Fans." In *Seeing Fans: Representations of Fandom in Media and Popular Culture*, edited by Lucy Bennett and Paul Booth. New York: Bloomsbury Academic.

Research Topic Due by 11:59pm

January 29 - Race

- Gatson, Sarah N., and Robin Anne Reid. 2011. "Editorial: Race and Ethnicity in Fandom." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 8: n.p. <http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/392/252>
- Navar-Gill, Annemarie, and Mel Stanfill. 2018. "We shouldn't have to trend to make you listen": Queer fan hashtag campaigns as production interventions." *Journal of Film and Video*. 70 (3-4).
- Sperb, Jason. 2010. "Reassuring Convergence: Online Fandom, Race, and Disney's Notorious Song of the South." *Cinema Journal* 49 (4): 25–45. doi:10.1353/cj.2010.0016.
- Wanzo, Rebecca. 2015. "African American Acafandom and Other Strangers: New Genealogies of Fan Studies." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 20: n.p. <http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/699/538>
- Warner, Kristen J. 2015. "ABC's Scandal and Black Women's Fandom." In *Cupcakes, Pinterest, and Ladyporn: Feminized Popular Culture in the Early Twenty-First Century*, edited by Elana Levine, 32–50. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Young, Helen. 2014. "Race in Online Fantasy Fandom: Whiteness on Westeros.Org." *Continuum* 28 (5): 737–47. doi:10.1080/10304312.2014.941331.

February 5 – Fan Practices

- Brough, Melissa, and Sangita Shresthova. 2012. "Fandom Meets Activism: Rethinking Civic and Political Participation." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 10: n.p. doi:10.3983/twc.2012.0303. <http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/303/265>
- Flegel, Monica, and Jenny Roth. 2010. "Annihilating Love and Heterosexuality without Women: Romance, Generic Difference, and Queer Politics in Supernatural Fan Fiction."

- Transformative Works and Cultures* 4: n.p. doi:10.3983/twc.2010.0133.
<http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/133/147>
- Gray, Jonathan. 2003. "New Audiences, New Textualities." *International Journal of Cultural Studies* 6 (1): 64–81. doi:10.1177/1367877903006001004.
- Hellekson, Karen. 2015. "Making Use Of: The Gift, Commerce, and Fans." *Cinema Journal* 54 (3): 125–31. doi:10.1353/cj.2015.0017.
- Morrissey, Katherine E. 2013. "Fan/Dom: People, Practices, and Networks." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 14. <http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/532>.
- Scott, Suzanne. 2015. "'Cosplay Is Serious Business': Gendering Material Fan Labor on Heroes of Cosplay." *Cinema Journal* 54 (3): 146–54. doi:10.1353/cj.2015.0029.
- Turk, Tisha, and Joshua Johnson. 2011. "Toward an Ecology of Vidding." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 9: n.p. doi:10.3983/twc.v9i0.326.
<http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/326/294>

Research Question Due by 11:59pm

February 12 – Fandom and Industry

- Andrejevic, Mark. 2008. "Watching Television without Pity: The Productivity of Online Fans." *Television and New Media* 9 (1): 24–46. doi:10.1177/1527476407307241.
- Jones, Bethan. 2014. "Fifty Shades of Fan Labor: Exploitation and Fifty Shades of Grey." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 15. doi:10.3983/twc.v15i0.501.
<http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/501/422>
- Leaver, Tama. 2013. "Joss Whedon, Dr. Horrible, and the Future of Web Media." *Popular Communication* 11 (2): 160–73. doi:10.1080/15405702.2013.779510.
- Noppe, Nele. 2015. "Mechanisms of Control in Online Fanwork Sales: A Comparison of Kindle Worlds and Dlsite.Com." *Participations* 12 (2): 218–37. doi:10.3983/twc.2011.0369.
- Savage, Christina. 2014. "Chuck versus the Ratings: Savvy Fans and 'Save Our Show' Campaigns." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 15. doi:10.3983/twc.2014.0497.
<http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/497/427>
- Scott, Suzanne. 2009. "Repackaging Fan Culture: The Regifting Economy of Ancillary Content Models." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 3: n.p.
<http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/150/122>

February 19 – Law

- Fiesler, Casey. 2007. "Everything I Need to Know I Learned from Fandom: How Existing Social Norms Can Help Shape the next Generation of User-Generated Content." *Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law* 10: 729–62.
- Lothian, Alexis. 2009. "Living in a Den of Thieves: Fan Video and Digital Challenges to Ownership." *Cinema Journal* 48 (4): 130–36. doi:10.1353/cj.0.0152.
- Tushnet, Rebecca. 2007. "Payment in Credit: Copyright Law and Subcultural Creativity." *Law and Contemporary Problems* 70 (2): 135–74. doi:10.2307/27592184.
- Tushnet, Rebecca. 2011. "Scary Monsters: Hybrids, Mashups, and Other Illegitimate Children." *Notre Dame Law Review* 86 (5): 2133.

Fantasy Conference Panel Due by 11:59pm

February 26 – No Class

Contemporary Work in Fan Studies

March 5

Stein, Millennial Fandom: Introduction, Ch 3-4, 6-8, Conclusion (Put differently, skip Ch 1, 2, 5).

March 12 - Spring Break

March 19

De Kosnik, Abigail. 2016. *Rogue Archives: Digital Cultural Memory and Media Fandom*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. pp. 1-61, 73-122

Paper Proposal Due

March 26

De Kosnik, *Rogue Archives* pp. 123-191, 315-354

April 2

Busse, Kristina. 2017. *Framing Fan Fiction: Literary and Social Practices in Fan Fiction Communities*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press. Part I

Paper Outline Due by 11:59pm

April 9

Busse, *Framing Fan Fiction* Part II

April 16- *Emerging Voices*

Brown, Stephanie Anne. 2018. "Millennial Fandom and the Failures of Switched at Birth's Sexual Assault Education Campaign." In "Social TV Fandom and the Media Industries," edited by Myles McNutt, special issue, *Transformative Works and Cultures*, no. 26. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3983/twc.2018.1138>.

Gilliland, Elizabeth. 2016. "Racebending Fandoms and Digital Futurism." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 22. <https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2016.0702>. (16)

Gonzalez, Victoria M. 2016. "Swan Queen, Shipping, and Boundary Regulation in Fandom." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 22.

<http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/669>. (14)

Nielsen, E. J. 2017. "Christine de Pizan's *The Book of the City of Ladies* as Reclamatory Fan Work." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 25.

<https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2017.01032>. (10)

Ogonoski, Matthew. 2014. "Cosplaying the Media Mix: Examining Japan's Media Environment, Its Static Forms, and Its Influence on Cosplay." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 16. <https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2014.0526>. (14)

Drafts Due, Peer Review Assigned

April 23 - Last Day of Class, Symposium

April 30 - Papers due