

ENGL 4200: Early Modern Special Topic

SIMULACRE: the poetics & praxis of adaptation

Winter Quarter, 2017
Wednesdays: 4:00 – 7:50 p.m.
Sturm Hall 496

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Commonplace Book Prompt #5

For our seventh week of class, follow two of these prompts:

- Place Browne's *Urne-Buriall* within context of your choice of topics addressed by Rivers's *Classical and Christian Ideas in English Renaissance Poetry* (chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12).
- Choose two (or more) passages from *The Rings of Saturn*. In those instances, how is Sebald's text engaging with Browne's life and writings?
- Select at least 5 keywords from Browne's *Urne-Buriall* and pay close attention to their etymology during the seventeenth century, using the Oxford English Dictionary via our Library's electronic databases: <http://libguides.du.edu/az.php>. How do the meanings for those words change over time? How does Browne shape their meanings?
- Choose two (or more) passages from Browne's *Urne-Buriall* and create your own adaptations. Or choose two (or more) passages from Sebald's *The Rings of Saturn* and create your own adaptations.
- Place Browne's *Urne-Buriall* and/or Sebald's *The Rings of Saturn* in dialogue with Taussig's *Mimesis and Alterity* plus your choice of related theoretical works.*

Materials:

2/15 Sir Thomas Browne, *Urne-Buriall*
W. G. Sebald, *The Rings of Saturn*
Isabel Rivers, chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12

* Related theoretical works = following your interests (and perhaps Taussig's notes and bibliography) make your own selections and find those texts (online or via our Library's resources). Works on my own list include: Benjamin's "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"; Haraway's "Cyborg Manifesto"; Baudrillard's *Simulations*; Agamben's *The Open: Man and Animal*; and Howe's *Sorting Facts*.