

**ENGL 4650:
Special Topics, 20th Century Literature
HYBRID FORMS, GENRES & MODES**

April 7, 2011

NOTES FOR WEEKS 3 & 4

Week 3 ***Ekphrasis & Remediation: Texts & Para-Texts***
4/6 *Tempest, Such Rich Hour, and The Nonconformist's Memorial*

Week 4 ***Para-Texts & Metafiction***
4/13 *Such Rich Hour, The Nonconformist's Memorial, and
Doubled Flowering*

- As a way of grounding our study of hybrid forms, genres & modes, I've designed the syllabus according to of a sequence of weekly topics and themes. We began w/ ekphrasis to inform our concerns w/ image & text relationships. Now we will make a transition towards three different yet related modal perspectives: remediation; texts & para-texts; and metafiction.
- Two reflections: 1.) "no ideas but in things" . . . looking forward to *Paterson*, when neo-Platonism & eidetic philosophy will come around again, challenged anew. 2.) Lascaux. I have a magic book (and a story) to bring to class next week.
- Continue reading *Such Rich Hour* and *The Nonconformist's Memorial*. Also continue reading the PDFs from Plato, Stafford, and Manovich.
- Vispo. Visit & view these works: the first cluster of four galleries from *Word for/Word*; the second cluster of three, from *Reconfigurations*:
 - <http://www.wordforword.info/vol11/frazer.htm>
 - <http://www.wordforword.info/vol11/rothenberg.htm>
 - <http://www.wordforword.info/vol11/ciccariello.htm>
 - <http://www.wordforword.info/vol11/chiroth.htm>
 - <http://reconfigurations.blogspot.com/2010/11/sheila-murphy-3-poems.html>
 - <http://reconfigurations.blogspot.com/2010/11/nico-vassilakis-5-letter-vispo.html>
 - <http://reconfigurations.blogspot.com/2008/11/nico-vassilakis-rotationally-ours.html>

With *Reconfigurations*, remember to scroll-down the page (beyond the TOC) to find the work.

- Begin reading *Doubled Flowering*.

(continued on p. 2)

- **CONVERSATION TOPIC #3** (due before our next class, 4/13): **What sorts of hybridity are involved in *Such Rich Hour*, *The Nonconformist's Memorial*, and the visual poems selected from *Word for/Word* and *Reconfigurations*? Please write a 500-word conversation-starter: engage directly with *Such Rich Hour*, *The Nonconformist's Memorial*, and with at least one of the visual poems. If you wish, you may also engage w/ your choice of the theoretical texts (i.e. Plato, Stafford, Manovich). Also, if you wish, you may engage w/ the modal perspectives of remediation, texts & para-texts, and metafiction, which we'll discuss during our next class meeting.** You may submit your conversation-starter either on Blackboard (via the Discussion Board forum titled CONVERSATION TOPIC #3), or you may submit your 500-word conversation-starter in hard copy form to my mailbox in the English Dept. before our next meeting.
- You are free to choose the form(s) for your conversation-starters. Please remember: these weekly, dialogic assignments are intended as opportunities to connect, create, and converse.
- Notes on grading (i.e. The 'Check' System). I will reply w/ comments to all of your works submitted for the Invitations. I'll also be grading your work with a 'check system' that will follow these guidelines: 'check plus' on all your Conversation-starters, for example, will translate into a grade of 4.0/A for that percentage of your overall grade in the course. Each 'check' will reduce your grade for that component by -0.5. Each 'check minus', by -1.0; each missing work, by -2.0. Should you ever receive less than a 'check plus', you'll automatically have the option to revise and resubmit the work for a higher grade. Those revisions (accompanying the first draft along w/ my comments) will be due by the beginning of the next class meeting.

Have a great week. Happy reading & writing . . .

Best,
Scott