non-algorithmic inquiry in the digital age

Christopher Gilman and Jacob Alden Sargent
Occidental College
Oberlin Digital Scholarship Conference 2016
Occidental College, Johnson Hall, Global Crossroads “Media Wall” display
The standard model: syllabus + algorithmic research

Faculty assigned readings

Syllabus ≈ Reading List

Research ≈ Google Search
Conceptual models for course design: the flying broom
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Conceptual models for course design: games
The emergent model: non-algorithmic inquiry

Syllabus ≈ Curated, Designed Activities

Research ≈ Knowledge Production
Conceptual models for course design: games

Pieces ≈ Materials
Field ≈ Constraints
Rules ≈ Methods
Play ≈ Process
Undergraduate research in the curriculum: examples
CSP 57: Liberal Arts at the Brink (Sargent)
Students dating items from the College Archives, Special Collections
“Autoptic reading”

Oil painting on canvas by Rembrandt housed in the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague, the Netherlands. Input by Gilman

CSLC 233 / RUSN 333: Codes, Cultures, and Killing (Gilman)
Semantics of Killing: Analysis of Babel's "A Letter"

In Babel’s A Letter, he makes use of the Russian verb rezat' (to cut). In Peter Constantine’s English translation, he interprets it as both "to slice" and "to hack." (Look for "Semantics of Killing" on the right) The verb "to cut" sees use in non-violent situations in both Russian and English. An simple example of such is "to cut one’s hair." On the other hand, "to hack" is often reserved for violence that is described as passionate and brutal. From the first clause, the audience understands that the father is committing violence on his son, but with the phrase, "hacked away until sundown," the depravity and horror of the act is unleashed. Nothing about the

In these second lines of this letter I hasten to write you about Papa, that he hacked my brother Fyodor Timofeyich Kurdyukov to pieces a year ago now. Our Comrade Pavlichenko’s Red Brigade attacked the town of Rostov, when there was a betrayal in our ranks. And Papa was with the Whites back then as commander of one of Denikin’s companies. All the folks that saw Papa says he was covered in medals like with the old regime. And as we were betrayed, the Whites captured us and threw us all in iron, and Papa caught sight of my brother Fyodor Timofeyich. And Papa began hacking away at Fyodor, saying: you filth you, red dog, son of a bitch, things, and hacked away at him until sundown until Fyodor Timofeyich died. I had started writing you about how your Fyodor is lying buried without a cross, but Papa caught me and said: you are your mother’s bastards, the roots of that whore, I’ve plowed your mother and I’ll keep on plowing her my whole damn life till I don’t have a drop of juice left in me, and other things. I had to bear suffering like our Savior Jesus Christ. I managed
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HIST 355: Indians of Mexico (Sousa)
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Black Paris

Paris of the 1920s and 30s served as a node and turning point for expressions of black identity and self-definition on a global scale.

Thesis

Paris of the 1920s and 30s served as a node and turning point for expressions of black identity and self-definition on a global scale.

One day I realized I was living in a country where I was afraid to be black. It was only a country for white people. Not black. So I left...

My poetry, I should think, has become the way of my giving out what music is within me.
Scenarios and protocol

http://tiny.cc/researchcurriculum