

Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

ENGL 1010: Binary Literature

TR 10-11, W110 Allgreat Hall

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Course Description and Outcomes

This course will introduce you to the finest literary works written by binary programmers in the late 20th century. First, we'll ease into this fascinating genre with popular classics like *01101100* and *0000111100001111*. Later, we'll hone our skills on much more challenging fare, including the experimental but hotly contested *01106011007*, which some scholars insist should be excluded from the genre of binary literature.

By the end of this course, you will be able to (1) identify and discuss the most distinctive features of this genre, (2) read and understand the central themes of important works in the genre (3) analyze and respond to those works effectively in writing, and (4) read substantial passages aloud as a sequence of verbalized beeps to communicate key ideas successfully to a mixed audience of humans and machines.

Pre-Requisites

Students in this course must have completed ENGL 1001: Literature for Beginners, and CSCI 0101: The Magic of Ones and Zeroes. This course required you to synthesize what you learned about literature and binary numbers in those previous courses. Buckle up, it's going to be a wild ride!

Course Materials

The following materials are *required* for this course:

- Will Shakespulator, *0110110* (London: Binary International, 1998).
- Lila Tedious, *000011110000111* (New York: Binary Press, 2008).
- Jacques Radicale, *01106011007* (Paris: Binary Underground, 2011).

The following materials are recommended, but not required:

- Any reliable binary translator
- Hans Alzheimer, "What's a binary number again?" (accessible online via GALILEO)
- Coffee or a comparable stimulant (please do not steal it from the faculty lounge!)

Attendance

You are allowed five (5) absences. An absence occurs whenever you miss 20 minutes or more of class time or show up to class unprepared, without having completed all of the assigned work for that day.

I do not distinguish between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. I trust that all of your absences are legitimate, and expect you to use them wisely. But be warned: If you exceed five without first asking if I will allow more, you will be dropped from the course, which may result in a final grade of WF or F.

Tardiness and early departures accrue as absences. For example, if you arrive 5 minutes late on four separate days, they add up to 20 minutes of missed class time, or one full absence.

Assignments/Grading

Your final grade is based on three short papers (20% each), two quizzes (10% each), and two public readings from binary literary classics (10% each). I do not offer extra credit, but if you invest your “extra” effort into the regularly scheduled assignments, you should do well.

Don't assume that your effort only matters on assignments that affect your final grade. While punctuality, professionalism, and participation do not have a dedicated percentage in your final grade, I certainly do notice and value them. I take them into consideration when deciding whether to round up a final score that falls right between two letter grades, to grant you leniency for late work, or to permit you an additional absence beyond the specified limit. Plus, I'd like to be able to write you a superb letter of recommendation when you need one. In these and other ways, it matters that you conduct yourself in a way that shows good character and a serious commitment to this course.

Late/Incomplete Work

Work is late if not submitted (in person or by e-mail) by the start of class on the day it is due. Incomplete work or work that is submitted by e-mail but does not open and display properly will be considered late, even if submitted by the deadline. If you submit work by e-mail because you cannot be present for class on the day it is due, please print and bring a hard copy to the next class meeting. I use the e-mail submission to confirm that it was completed on time, but still expect to receive a hard copy for grading.

Assignments will be penalized half of a letter grade (5 points) for each day they are late. After one full week (7 days), the assignment will no longer be accepted and will receive a zero.

Other Course Policies

All other aspects of this course will follow the Pamplin Course Policies posted online at this URL: www.augusta.edu/pamplin/documents/coursepolicies.pdf. Please read them carefully, as they include important information about Academic Honesty, Disruptive Behavior, Accommodations for Disabilities, Withdrawals, and other topics. By remaining in this course, you agree to abide by these policies.