Occupying Digital Space: Engaging the Literature Classroom

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AMICAL 2022
Process

Identify Specific Learning Outcome

Propose a New Tool

Share a Specific Example

Discuss Best Practices
Specific Learning Outcome

- Engage literature students in research for a purpose.
Comparative Literature in the Age of Globalization

• Comparative literature today might best be described through its tendency to favor encounter and relation – with other texts, culture, and disciplines

• World literature contributed to its ‘renewed commitment to a more global scholarship’ – Saussy, 2006
Propose a New Tool: Wiki Edu

“A better Wikipedia means a better world for all”

Wiki Education envisions a world in which students, scholars, scientists, archivists, librarians, and other members of academic and cultural institutions are actively engaged in sharing their knowledge with the general public through Wikipedia, Wikidata, and other open collaboration projects on the web.
Propose a New Tool: Wiki Edu

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## Our Course Contribution

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Literary hope theory is a framework for the critical analysis of hope and despair as themes in literature. This approach to literary criticism concerns itself with the viability, validity, and verity of hope, or the lack thereof, on the individual, societal, and global level. For this reason, literary hope theory questions whether hope is a reasonable mindset or emotion, and whether people are entitled to experience it, given all the problems of the world, and humanity's role in creating or exacerbating them. Some perspectives view hope as a natural, healthy reaction to anxieties about the future, others view it as a product of privilege and ignorance, and still others view it as a moral imperative for the betterment of the world.

Narratives of hope and despair often fall somewhere on a spectrum of perspectives. On one end of the spectrum is optimistic perception of hope in literature, which emphasizes a reason for empowerment and courage, as well as a pride in the strength and endurance of the human spirit. This perspective is often criticized, justly or unjustly, for its promotion of naïveté, delusional insistence on forgoing facts and logic, and encouragement of blind trust in a hopeful future which results in ignorant complacency.

On the other hand, pessimistic interpretations regarding narratives of hope define themselves as being disillusioned with the world, negative, but knowing, and unapposed. Pessimistic perceptions of literature often depict suffering as pain without deeper meaning or greater purpose, without silver lining. However, while negative interpretations of circumstances are typically seen as more realistic and factual, which is still a matter of debate, they often lead to a greater sense that the world is inherently broken, and that nothing can or will be done to fix it. This defeatism can create a parallel
Week 3 (01/30 - 02/05)

Meetings: Monday (01/31), Wednesday (02/02), Friday (02/04)

Introduction to the Wikipedia assignment

Welcome to your Wikipedia assignment’s course timeline. This page guides you through the steps you’ll need to complete for your Wikipedia assignment, with links to training modules and your classmates’ work spaces.

Your course has been assigned a Wikipedia Expert. You can reach them through the Get Help button at the top of this page.

Resources:

- Editing Wikipedia, pages 1-5
- Evaluating Wikipedia

Get started on Wikipedia

Training

Wikipedia policies
This training module covers plagiarism and copyright violation in the context of Wikipedia articles.
Another example… Content Gap

Questions to consider

Now that you are thinking about the problem of content gaps, consider some additional questions:

- Wikipedians often talk about "content gaps." What do you think a content gap is, and what are some possible ways to identify them?
- What are some reasons that a content gap might arise? What are some of the consequences of content gaps?
- What are some ways to remedy them?
- What is the relationship between content gaps and Wikipedia’s “notability” and “neutrality” policies? When do these issues conflict? When do they complement one another? Explain.
- If "anyone" can edit Wikipedia, does it matter who "does" edit Wikipedia?
- What does it mean to be "unbiased" on Wikipedia? How is that different, or similar, to your own definition of "bias"? In your discussion be sure to address how bias and notability affect each other.
- What is the relationship between Wikipedia’s sourcing policies and content gaps?
Best Practices/Lessons Learned

- Divide Load
- Clarify Guidelines
- Diversify Topics
- Ensure Fairness
How To Join: https://wikiedu.org/

Wiki Education engages students and academics to improve Wikipedia

- College & University Instructors: Teach With Wikipedia
- Scientists, Scholars & other professionals: Take a Wikipedia course
- Institutions: Sponsor a Wikipedia Course
Thank You

You can contact me: reine.azzi@lau.edu.lb
Discussion

- How could you use the Wiki Edu platform in your course?
- Any foreseeable challenges?