**English 605**

**Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies**

**Terry Oggel**

Fall 2017 TTh 5:30-6:45; Hibbs 308 Office: 345 Hibbs

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**FIVE IMPORTANT NOTICES**

**The Americans with Disabilities Act** requires Virginia Commonwealth University to provide “reasonable accommodation” to any individual with medical advice about a physical or mental disability. To receive an accommodation, follow the process outlined

at the Disability Support Services webpage, <http://www.students.vcu.edu/dss/>.

**VCU Honor System: Plagiarism and Academic Integrity** Students are expected to adhere to VCU’s Honor System, which makes explicit the university’s principles regarding truth and honesty in academic matters. Details about the Honor System are available at <http://www.provost.vcu.edu/pdfs/Honor_system_policy.pdf>.

**Student Conduct**: Students are expected to adhere to VCU’s Student Conduct in Instructional Settings policy, online at <http://www.assurance.vcu.edu/Policy%20Library/Faculty%20Guide%20to%20Student%20Conduct%20in%20Instructional%20Settings.pdf>.

**VCU e-mail** is an official method of university communication. Students are responsible for information transmitted this way and should check their accounts daily. VCU’s email policy can be viewed at <http://www.ts.vcu.edu/kb/3407.html>.

**What to Know and Do to be Prepared for Emergencies at VCU** 1. Sign up to receive VCU text messaging alerts (<http://www.vcu.edu/alert/notify>). Keep your information up-to-date. 2. Know the safe evacuation route from each of your classrooms. Emergency evacuation routes are posted in on-campus classrooms. 3. Listen for and follow instructions from VCU or other designated authorities. 4. Know where to go for additional emergency information (<http://www.vcu.edu/alert>). 5. Know the emergency phone number for the VCU Police (828-1234). Report suspicious activities and objects.

**ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT NOTICES PROVIDED ON WEBSITE**

### Texts

Print Required: Williams and Abbott, An Introduction to Bibliographical and Textual Studies. 4th ed. MLA, 2009.

 Donovan, Torn from the Sun. Red Hen Press, 1915.

Online: *Literary Research Guide*, [http://search.library.vcu.edu/VCU:all\_scope:VCU\_ALMA51464739800001101](http://search.library.vcu.edu/VCU%3Aall_scope%3AVCU_ALMA51464739800001101)

Recommended: MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing. 3rd ed. MLA, 2008.

# Course Description

For Books are not absolutely dead things, but doe contain a potencie of life in them to be as active as that soule was whose progeny they are; nay they do preserve as in a voill the purest efficacie and extraction of that living intellect that bred them.

 -- John Milton, Areopagitica (1644)

This course introduces students to strategies, methods, and materials for research in literary and some media studies as well as to fundamentals of textual studies. It emphasizes techniques of conducting original research and of assessing the quality of others’ research; it stresses both analytic and synthetic aspects of research-based argumentation. Students acquire knowledge of and expertise in using a wide variety of research tools (electronic and print), broadening their imaginations in employing research materials and methods in the development of their own scholarship.  In the final project, students prepare a critical edition of a literary work.  Several papers are required, from 2 to 15 pages in length.

Class participation, and therefore attendance, is required. This is a seminar. The quality of the class depends on the give and take of discussion, with all students involved. Missed classes must always be explained, beforehand when possible or promptly afterwards when not (not orally; please provide a note with dates, or use e-mail). As a policy, missed work cannot be made up. Electronic submissions are not allowed.

Special features of the course will include demonstrated or mediated electronic resource searching; visit to Cabell’s book preservation department; presentation on the function of research in undergraduate composition pedagogy; and discussion with the author as part of the project in textual criticism. Details about these will be provided later.