

"Turing" | August 30<sup>th</sup> — September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Assignment 1: Turing Test Assignment

This assignment complements Part I of the course, "The Cybercultural Imaginary: History, Philosophy, and Politics." Students will learn how to devise their own version of the Turing Test, carry it out, and analyze the results for the ways in which their version of the test sheds light on identity and on the human / machine interface. Students will also begin to build their research and library skills. The steps are as follows (please see below for due dates):

- 1.1: Retrieve, research and test one AI Turing program; document your findings. There are numerous online versions of the Turing Test that you can "play;" you will be instructed how to find and participate in one of these. Do so, and then write about your experience. Deliverable: 100-word email narrative of your Turing experience: Which questions did the experience leave you with?
- 1.2: Find a secondary source discussing the Turing Test, read it and summarize it. You will be shown how to find secondary source materials on a particular topic. Deliverable: Brief description or documentation of your library search path, and 100 word summary/discussion of one paper analyzing the Turing Test, submitted by email to your GSI.
- 1.3: Devise your own version of the Turing Test. Decide what you would like to test for, and devise the game. The possible parameters will be explained in section. Deliverable: 100 word description of your game plan including objective, strategy and planned answers: What do you want your tester to think of you and how do you think you might achieve this?
- 1.4: Turing Test performance during Friday section or weekend. You will be aided in implementing your Turing Test. Deliverable: Complete record of Turing test questions and answers.
- 1.5: Analysis of your results in the form of a discussion of what your test suggests about identity, about the machine / human interface, and about the nature of the game space itself. Deliverable: 250-word analysis of your results.

### ***Schedule of Classes:***

#### **Introduction:**

**Monday, August 30:** Introduction to class organization, class goals, each other, pragmatics. Assign groups. Class walking trip to course locations (74 Barrows; Moffitt; Kroeber; Dwinelle).

**Tutorial, week 1:** Description and instructions for Assignment 1, including introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) Turing programs

**Discussion section, week 1:** No discussion sections

**Part 1: The Cyber-cultural Imaginary: History, Philosophy, and Politics**

**Wednesday, September 1:** Lecture: A History of the Invention of Computers (Niemeyer)

Reading: *The New Media Reader*, pp. 49-64. This classic paper by Alan Turing is also widely available online. (Original publication details: Turing, Alan, 1950. "Computing Machinery and Intelligence," MIND 59, October 1950).

**Monday, September 6:** no class: Labor Day holiday

**Wednesday, September 8:** Lecture: Introduction to the Human / Machine Imaginary of the Classic Papers, including their Gender(s) and Sexualities and Race or Ethnicity, and the Mind / Body Relation (Thompson)

Reading: *The New Media Reader*, pp. 35-48; 93-108. Both these readings are also widely available online. (Engelbart, Doug, 1962. "Augmenting Human Intellect: A Conceptual Framework," and Bush, Vannevar, 1945. "As We May Think.")

**Tutorial, week 2:** Discussion of Turing paper, including instruction in how to read for meaning and context.

**Discussion section, week 2:** Introductions; Play Turing games

**Monday, September 13:** Lecture: "Screening the Machine" guest lecture and screening of DVD, Dr. Gary Handman.

Reading: *The New Media Reader*, pp. 65-72. (Wiener, Norbert, 1954. "Men, Machines, and the World About.")

Peruse the following site: <http://www2.english.uiuc.edu/cybercinema>

**Tutorial, week 3:** Basic library research skills for assignment 1.2, and for final paper.

**Discussion section, week 3:** Discuss readings; extra library sessions if needed (depending on final enrollment).

*Assignment 1.1 (documentation and discussion of a TT) due in class*

**Wednesday, September 15:** Lecture: Introduction to the Politics of New Media (Thompson)

Reading: *The New Media Reader*, pp. 203-209; (McLuhan, Marshall, "The Medium is the Message.") and "Table 12. Summary" on p.269.

**Monday, September 20:** Lecture: Origin and Potential of the World Wide Web (Niemeyer)

Reading: *The New Media Reader*, pp. 289-290; 792-798.

*Assignment 1.2 (summary of an article from a different disciplinary perspective about TT)*

**Tutorial, week 4:** Learn ping, tracer and other net tools

**Discussion section, week 4:** *Assignment 1.4 (Turing interviews) should be carried out in discussion section*

**Wednesday September 22:** Lecture: Networks and Protocols of the World Wide Web (Niemeyer)

Reading: Begin "Networks and Netwars":  
<http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1382/>

*Assignment 1.3 (your TT plan) due*

**Monday September 27:** Lecture: Perception, Image and Stereotype (Niemeyer and Thompson)

Reading: <http://credibility.stanford.edu/> and  
[http://www.consumerwebwatch.org/news/report3\\_credibilityresearch/stanfordPTL\\_TOC.htm](http://www.consumerwebwatch.org/news/report3_credibilityresearch/stanfordPTL_TOC.htm)

**Tutorial, week 5:** How to "read" for gender, race, and other parameters of identity

**Discussion section, week 5:** Discussion of Turing Test results and what it all means.

**Wednesday September 29:** Lecture: Review Turing Test Statistics: networks and the "digital we" (Niemeyer and Thompson)

Reading: Berman, Joshua, and Amy Bruckman, 2001. "The Turing Game: Exploring Identity in an Online Environment," *Convergence*, 7(3): 83-102, available as  
[www.cc.gatech.edu/~asb/papers/convergence-tg-01.pdf](http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~asb/papers/convergence-tg-01.pdf)

*Assignment 1.5 (Turing Test analysis) due*