WRIT 1506

Stroupe

Spring 2017

**Most Answered Questions from the Moodle Forum**

**“The Print Revolution”**

**1. Social and Political Authority**

Ong notes that storing information outside of the mind, especially in print, significantly undermines the information passed down from wise figures (41.5). Does the process of printing devalue the information that had once been passed down for generations orally? - Markie:

**2. Consciousness**

Ong describes Plato's views on writing, as pretending to establish outside the mind that in reality can be only in the mind (78). Did the invention of print, hinder our ability to memorize and to think consciously? - Amar

**3. The Sense of History**

When talking about the homeostatic nature of oral societies, Ong states that oral societies live very much in the present state of mind and can easily slough off memories that no longer have any present relevance to them. How has the invention of print helped and/or hindered this way of thinking, in terms of being able to "look things up" now (Ong 46). - Andrew

**4. Social Anxieties and Religious/Political/Intellectual Authority**

According to Bolter, Victor Hugo's priest was afraid that the printed book would destroy the pictures in the cathedral, equivilantly, are we afraid that the computers' typed word will destroy the book's written ones?

- Lydia

**5. Humanism, Social Cohesion**

Ong has mentioned within his psychodynamics of orality that sound is the most interior of the senses. With this in mind it is a logical conclusion to think that spoken communication is the most effective way to connect with another person. Would the invention of the printing press, which ultimately led to an increase of communication through written word, decrease the ability to truly connect with each other as human beings?

- Zack