The Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL) is a service of Columbia University whose mission is to enhance teaching and learning through the purposeful use of new media. CCNMTL forms partnerships with faculty, providing them with as much support as they need in everything from the construction of course Web sites to the development of advanced projects. CCNMTL is committed to remaining a leader in its field, engaging with its faculty partners in the reinvention of education for the digital age. CCNMTL is part of Columbia’s Information Services Division.

For more information, please visit our Web site at http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu.

The Evolution of a Multimedia Study Environment (MSE)

Thursday, February 17, 2005
203 Butler Library
3:00pm - 5:00pm
A Multimedia Study Environment (MSE) is an innovative way to facilitate the close reading of a text by incorporating annotations and multimedia references. Today, we will examine the history and evolution of this interactive study environment and highlight how it has been implemented across a range of disciplines. Discussions will feature the latest release, The Autobiography of Malcolm X MSE.

CCNMTL produced the first Multimedia Study Environment (MSE) for Fredric Jameson’s complex monograph, “Postmodernism: The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism,” in 1999. To help students make an informed reading of this challenging text, CCNMTL produced an annotated Web site that would provide access to explanations of the text’s many historical and cultural references. Since this first MSE, we have continued to refine the format, which is customized to the text of each project.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X MSE, produced in collaboration with the Center for Contemporary Black History (CCBH), presents Malcolm X’s memoir with links to critical annotations that provide perspectives beyond the written word. With this MSE, we introduce the concept of “lenses,” or perspectives, that illuminate the political, cultural, global, and faith-based aspects of Malcolm X’s life and legacy. The MSE features a rich multimedia archive of primary sources, including historical documents, images, and videos as well as original interviews with scholars and Malcolm X’s contemporaries.

In addition to presenting the entire text of The Autobiography online, all of the MSE’s annotations and multimedia assets are cross-referenced and fully searchable. The MSE also provides references to additional bibliographic and Web-based resources for further research, making The Autobiography of Malcolm X MSE a significant tool for studying Malcolm X’s life and historical legacy.

Multimedia samples from The Autobiography of Malcolm X MSE.

**PRESENTERS**

**Frank Moretti,** Executive Director of CCNMTL, will provide an historical overview of the pedagogical evolution of the MSE.

**John Frankfurt,** CCNMTL Educational Technologist, will conduct a demonstration of the MSE that highlights some of the innovations implemented with this project.

**Manning Marable,** Director of CCBH, will share his experiences as Executive Editor of The Autobiography of Malcolm X MSE and discuss the value of the MSE as a tool for scholarship.