



ENGL439/539: Writing in Digital Spaces
Old Dominion University, Norfolk Campus
Spring 2012, Tuesdays, 7:10-9:50pm, BAL2019
Sections: 32875/32876
Course Websites:

- For assignments and instructions: <http://bit.ly/engl539>
- For submission of most coursework: Wordpress Blog (<http://wordpress.com/>)
- You will be responsible for using a variety of other technologies and websites throughout the course!

Instructor Information

Name: **Shelley Rodrigo**

- Phone: 623-455-6296
- E-mail address: rrodrigo@odu.edu
- Yahoo, AIM & Skype Instant Message Handle: puptoes74; Google Handle: shelley.rodrigo
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/shelley.rodrigo>

Office Hours:

- Location: BAL2008
- M: 3:00-4:00pm
- T: 6:00-7:00pm
- By Appointment: <https://tungle.me/rrodrigo>

Course Description

Lecture 3 hours; 3 credits. Prerequisites: ENGL 307 and computer literacy or permission of the instructor. This course offers writing practice in critical contemporary electronic writing environments, especially emphasizing Web-based compositions. Readings and discussions provide a history of electronic writing, the Internet, and hypertext theory. Students should expect to construct a variety of Web sites and engage in theoretical discourse around the sites they are building. Specifically, students will spend time composing websites with raw HTML code, WordPress Blogs, as well as using applications like DreamWeaver to develop more robust websites utilizing Cascading Style Sheets. Significant time will also be spent in discussions of various legal issues associated with digital writing, especially those associated with copyright and accessibility.

Course Outcomes

After participating in this course, students shall have improved upon the following skills:

- Develop proficiency with the tools of technology
- Use image editing software
- Use video editing software
- Construct basic hypertext websites
- Build relationships with others to pose and solve problems collaboratively and cross-culturally
- Design and share information for global communities to meet a variety of purposes
- Manage, analyze and synthesize multiple streams of simultaneous information
- Attend to the ethical responsibilities required by these complex environments
- Summarize and compare multimedia scholarship and theory

adapted from: <http://www.ncte.org/positions/statements/21stcentdefinition>



Course Materials

Required Materials

- Austin, Tricia, & Doust, Richard. (2007). *New Media Design*. London: Laurence King Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-85669-431-5.
- Wardrip-Fruin, Noah & Montfort, Nick. (Eds.). (2003). *The New Media Reader*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. ISBN: 978-0-262-23227-2.

Required Technologies

Based on the type of projects you decide to submit, you will use other technologies than those listed below.

- Headphones for BAL2019 computers
- Access to a computer with an internet connection (preferably high-speed).
- My.ODU Account to access Google Apps
- For introduction project: ZooBurst (<http://www.zooburst.com/>)
- For submission of most coursework: Wordpress Blog (<http://wordpress.com/>)

Course Policies

Statement of Accommodation

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. One element of this legislation requires that all qualified students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. I would like everyone to know that I am willing to make any reasonable accommodation for limitations due to any disability, including learning disabilities. If you have or think you have a disability, including a learning disability, please make an appointment with an advisor at the Office of Educational Accessibility as soon as possible. They can assist you with appropriate accommodations for you in your classes. Please see ODU's Office of Educational Accessibility, and then me, to discuss any special needs you might have. Information about ODU's Office of Educational Accessibility:

- Web address: <http://studentaffairs.odu.edu/educationalaccessibility/>
- Phone number: 757-683-4655

Attendance, Participation, and Withdrawal Policies

Attendance is based on presence. Please take participation seriously; since this class is a community of thinkers who will discuss and collaborate on ideas, your lack of participation hurts others as well as yourself. So please participate in class on time and have your homework completed by the assigned deadline. I will not withdraw you from the course; therefore, if you wish to be withdrawn from the course, you must initiate withdrawal procedures.

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. If a student is disruptive, an instructor may ask the student to stop the disruptive behavior and warn the student that such disruptive behavior can result in withdrawal from the course. An instructor may withdraw a student from a course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process

Online Learning Environments

We will be using a variety of technological, mostly web-based, applications (ZooBurst, Google Sites, WordPress Blogs, etc.) for academic use in ENGL439/539, Writing in Digital Spaces, sections 32875 and 32876, Spring semester 2012. By default, many of these technologies are open to the public for the purpose of sharing your work with the larger Internet community.

To use the web-based application responsibly please observe all laws and ODU policies that are incorporated into the Codes of Conduct and Academic Integrity. Some specific aspects of law and policy that might be well to remember are prohibitions against copyright infringement, plagiarism, harassment or interferences with the



underlying technical code of the software. Some resources to remind yourself about ODU's policies as well as a digital document about laws on copyright and fair use:

- ODU's [Monarch Creed](#) and [Honor Code](#)
- [MCCCD Copyright Guidelines](#)

As a student using the web-based applications certain rights accrue to you. Any original work that you make tangible belongs to you as a matter of copyright law. You also have a right to the privacy of your educational records as a matter of federal law and may choose to set your privacy settings to private and only share with the instructor and your classmates. Your contributions to the various web-based applications constitute educational records. By contributing to the web-based applications, and not taking other options available to you in this course equivalent to this assignment that would not be posted publicly on the Internet, you consent to the collaborative use of this material as well as to the disclosure of it in this course and potentially for the use of future courses.

Grading Policies

Assignment Distribution

Image Project*	10%
Hypertext Project*	10%
Video Project*	10%
Course Portfolio*	10%
Major Multimedia Project*	15%
Attendance, Participation and "other" Homework (including the Technology Resource Wiki Page assignment for 500 level students)	25%
Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Posts	20%
TOTAL	100%

***You must submit "final" versions of all major projects to pass the class.**

Grading Scale

Grades are determined according to the following scale:

- A (95-100%)
- A- (90-94.9%)
- B+ (87-89.9%)
- B (83-86.9%)
- B- (80-82.9%)
- C+ (77-79.9%)
- C (73-76.9%)
- C- (70-72.9%)
- D+ (67-69.9%)
- D (63-69.9%)
- D- (60-62.9%)
- F (59% or below)

Incomplete Grades

A course grade of "Incomplete" will be given only in extreme situations because the sad story is that most students who request incompletes never finish the course. Please visit the following website for more information:

<http://www.odu.edu/ao/registrar/grades/incompletes/igrades.shtml>.



Course Schedule/Calendar

Please have all homework completed before class. This schedule is an outline of the course and will change. All changes will be announced in the class announcements.

1/10: Introductions

1/17

- read: NMD: Intro, Chapters 1 & 2
- read: syllabus
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog

1/24

- read: NMC: Chapter 3, 4 & 5
- read: NMR: Front Matter (up to page 3)
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- work: Image Project (due: TBA)

1/31

- read: NMR: Two Introductions
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- work: Image Project (due: TBA)

2/7

- read: NMR Part 1, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- due: final submission, Image Project

2/14

- read: NMR Part 1, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- work: Video Project (due: TBA)

2/21

- read: NMR Part 1, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- work: Video Project (due: TBA)

2/28

- read: NMR Part 2, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- due: final submission, Video Project

3/6 Spring Break

3/13

- read: NMR Part 2, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- work: Hypertext Project (due: TBA)



3/20—No f2f Class, online work due 3/23

- read: NMR Part 2, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- work: Hypertext Project (due: TBA)

3/27

- read: NMR Part 3, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
due: final submission, Hypertext Project

4/3

- read: NMR Part 3, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- work: Major Multimedia Project (due: TBA)

4/10

- read: NMR Part 3, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- work: Major Multimedia Project (due: TBA)
- work: Course Portfolio (due: TBA)

4/17

- read: NMR Part 4, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- work: Major Multimedia Project (due: TBA)
- work: Course Portfolio (due: TBA)

4/24

- read: NMR Part 4, four chapters
- work: Reading, Thinking & Reflecting Blog
- work: Course Portfolio (due: TBA)
- due: final submission, Major Multimedia Project

5/1—Finals Week, no synchronous class

- due: final submission, Course Portfolio



Syllabus Contract Form

Student Responsibilities

You are expected to contribute positively to the learning environment of the classroom by:

- taking responsibility for your own success in class;
- reading, reviewing, and referring to the course handbook/syllabus for all pertinent information;
- reading, reviewing, and referring to the ASU College Catalog and ASU Student Handbook for college policies (<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/students/publications.html>);
- actively asking questions and seeking out help from the instructor;
- participating regularly in this course in the various virtual environments;
- keeping a copy of all assignments until the end of the semester; and
- immediately reporting all e-mail/computer problems to the professor and it is your responsibility to complete the course assignment and activities even in the face of computer failure.

Instructor Responsibilities:

- The instructor reserves the right to require proctoring or validation of students' academic work at the instructor's discretion.
- The instructor reserves the right to change or modify course policies, materials, or deadlines in response to student feedback or unforeseen circumstances. Students will be notified by the instructor of any changes in course requirements or policies.
- The instructor requests that students allow the instructor **48 hours** to respond to student emails or other forms of contact.
- The instructor will attempt to be available during weekdays, however, as balance between family and work is important in everyone's lives, the instructor reserves the right to be unavailable on weekends.
- The instructor requests that students allow the instructor one week from the date of submission (original deadline, not if the assignment is turned in late), to post a grade, or provide feedback, on any homework assignments, two weeks for major writing projects. (Note: the instructor will make every effort to provide faster turn around time-however, sometimes faster turn around is not possible)
- The instructor may be "out-of-the-office" for extended periods of time, and requests that students understand that this situation may occur and allow for such inconveniences (however, the instructor will always attempt to email and/or post an announcement to the class about any such circumstances)

Student Agreement

The signature below, as well as attendance and participation in this class, signifies that the student has agreed to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that the instructor may adapt or change this Handbook/syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the class. The instructor may drop a student if the student fails to complete the work; however, it is the student's responsibility to drop the course if they do not wish to continue. If the student does not drop the course by the appropriate date the student will receive an F.

(Be sure to ask the instructor any questions concerning the handbook/syllabus before signing below.)

Student's Name, Printed

Date