TEXAS A&M
U N I V E R S I T Y
C O M M E R C E

ENG 697.01E: Writing with Video
COURSE SYLLABUS: May Mini 2015

Instructor: Shannon Carter, Professor of English
Office Location: HL 209
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COURSE INFORMATION

Required Texts:

Lambert Joe. *Digital Storytelling: Capturing Lives, Creating Community*, 4th Edition. Routledge, 2013.

Goldberg, Natalie. *Old Friend from Far Away: The Practice of Writing Memoir*. Atria Books, 2009.

Course Description:

In this online course, students will learn to compose compelling, personal narratives as video essays. Previous experience with video editing software is not required. This course is designed for students new to video editing and advanced students with video editing experience. Course will focus on elements of effective storytelling, digital media, and creative rights.

Technical Requirements

You needn't have ANY experience with digital tools for video, audio, or image editing. Even if you know how to use little more than MS Word, you'll be in good shape for this class. This class is about LEARNING the technology for the job at hand while creating dynamic, powerful examples of digital storytelling.

Assignments

We'll work together to create an example of digital storytelling based entirely on your own lived experiences, interests, and/or goals. You'll write three sets of reflections (2-5 pages) in preparation for these digital projects, but otherwise our time together will be spent exploring examples of digital storytelling and developing/workshopping your own, original work.

Meets 5/18/2015 through 6/3/2015

		DEADLINE
Participation (30%)	Each week, we will be meeting online to discuss/explore course readings, research, tools, and your developing projects. You'll spend that time (1) developing your digital media projects on your own and (2) joining us online to post in the required "Forum" and/or "Sandbox" (see below).	
	"Forums": We will hold the bulk of our class discussions in the "Forums." You will have several of these throughout the term. The goals for each Forum are to explore the assigned readings, lectures, and other, related elements in meaningful conversation with one another, just as you would in any graduate seminar meeting face-to-face. For that reason, I ask you to keep up with your assigned readings, and post in each assigned forum at least twice—once early in the conversation to get things started and again later in the discussion to keep it moving in meaningful directions. For full credit, post at least 200-350 words to each Forum. Ideally, post more than once to each Forum and engage with your classmates.	Throughout the term.
	"Sandbox" Activities: One of the best ways to learn how to use unfamiliar tools is to play with them. Indeed, "play" is an important--albeit it too often forgotten--aspect of the creative process. For this reason, I have set aside a "sandbox" and prepared a series of activities designed for you to try out new composition and research tools, genres, and materials in a low risk environment before applying them to your major writing assignments for this class. At several points throughout the term, you will be expected to participate in the "sandbox" (to experiment with tools and ideas) and the "forums" (to explore ideas and concepts more directly related to your assigned course readings). Each of these spaces will be helpful to you as you create your major writing assignments and prepare for your final project.	Throughout the term.
Reflections (30%)	You will be asked to submit written reflections three times throughout the term. In developing these, you'll draw heavily from your responses to the Forums and Sandbox Activities (see above). The goal here is to reflect extensively upon what you want your digital storytelling project to say, how you might go about saying it, and why one approach rather than other options you've considered. You'll share frustrations, struggles, and triumphs regarding your experiences with various tools for this digital composition. Basically, this is a behind-the-scenes glimpse into your experiences with this project.	
	R1: Your first set of reflections will concern your initial plans regarding your final project (2-3 pages). You'll submit R1 to the "Reflections" discussion area in Unit One.	Due 5/22 (Friday), before midnight
	R2: For the second set of reflections, you'll share your revised plans and insights, as well as any ongoing questions, challenges, or struggles, in preparation for our midterm conferences (2-3 pages). Reflections should include complete storyboard for final project and rough cut of at least one minute of final project. You'll submit R2 to the "Reflections" discussion area in Unit Two.	Due 5/27 (Wednesday), before midnight
	R3: These final reflections will accompany your final submission for the course, offering a more detailed look at your composing process this term—focusing on what you have learned this term. Questions guiding RP3 might include the following; What inspired your assignment choice/topic? Why did you choose to express yourself using a particular medium? How does that medium facilitate the rhetorical purpose of your text? What thoughts/feelings/insights did	Due 6/3 (Wednesday), before midnight with the final version of your video.

	you have during the process? Now that you have completed the assignment, what are your thoughts on the decisions that you made? In other words, really think through the process and write a substantial reflection that shows the careful consideration that you put into creating your text.	
Final Project (40%)	The final version of your video will be uploaded to YouTube. In the description field at YouTube, include the following information: (Overview)--a short introduction to site contents; (Acknowledgements)-- a complete bibliography of the source materials you included in this video project; (Profile)--a brief profile from the author (you!), including relevant reflections on the experience of creating this project. If you are concerned about privacy, you are welcome to use a pseudonym. Just make certain I know where to find your video (and under what name).	Due Wednesday, 6/3, before midnight

SCHEDULE

This is an online course, which means we will meet entirely online throughout the term. You are invited to complete any of the assignments early. However, the fast pace of the course means I cannot accept any late work. If you find yourself struggling with an assignment and thus feel unable to complete the assignment, simply submit what you have. **Submitting an assignment that feels incomplete or inadequate to you is far better than submitting nothing at all**.

Unit 1	Introductions to one another and digital storytelling; workshop on various "sandbox activities" to introduce relevant tools; begin planning final projects for your Portfolio
	
	Monday, 5/18:
	   o Forum 1: Introductions
	   o Sandbox Activity 1: video editor and YouTube account
	
	Tuesday, 5/19:
	   o Forum 2: Lambert, Chapters 1-5
	   o Sandbox Activity 2: Selections from Goldberg
	
	Wednesday, 5/20:
	   o Sandbox Activity 3: Writing with Images
	   o Forum 3: Lambert, Chapters 6-15
	
	Thursday, 5/21
	   o Sandbox Activity 4: Writing with Sound
	
	Friday, 5/22
	   • Sandbox 5: Writing with Video
	   • **Reflections 1 due before midnight**

Unit 2:	**Monday, 5/25:**
	   • **Memorial Day: Nothing due today. Enjoy yourself, friends!**
	
	Tuesday, 5/26:
	   • Respond to at least two classmates R1 (Reflections) before midnight
	   • Forum 4: Storyboard and Script (Lambert and Goldberg)
	Wednesday, 5/27

Meets 5/18/2015 through 6/3/2015

	• **Reflections 2 due before midnight** **Thursday, 5/28** • Conferences with me regarding final projects begin[1] • Respond to at least two classmates R2 (Reflections) before midnight **Friday, 5/29** • Conferences with me regarding final projects conclude[2] • Forum 5: Credits and Creative Rights (Lecture, Course Home)
Unit 3	**Monday, 6/1 (before midnight)** • Post Rough Cut of final video project with complete Credits and Creative Rights to the "Peer Review: Video" discussion area in Unit 3 **Tuesday, 6/2** ○ Respond to at least one classmate's video project using the "Peer Review Guide" provided ("Peer Review: Video" discussion area) ○ Revise final video to address concerns raised in peer review **Wednesday, 6/3:** ○ Post deeply revised and finalized version of video with your third and final set of **reflections (R3)**. Due before midnight tonight. ○ **Writing with New Media Showcase** (voluntary): For those interested and available, I invite you to share your work with a wider audience at a viewing party to begin at 6:00 in the Auditorium of the Hall of Languages.

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[1] Conferences with instructor by phone or face-to-face about final projects by phone or face-to-face (your choice!)