



ETEC 528 Digital Storytelling Across the Curriculum

(01W CRN 40073)

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER 2026

Summer 1: June 2 – July 3, 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Chris Bigenho, PhD

Office Location: Virtual

Office Hours: Virtual by Appointment

Office Phone: 214-232-9504

University Email Address: bigenhochris@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: University email or cwbigenho@gmail.com

Communication Response Time: 24 hours (Monday – Friday)

COURSE INFORMATION

NOTICE: This syllabus may be adjusted as needed to provide the best possible learning opportunity for all students in the class.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Due to the continuous change in technological innovations, a textbook is not required for this course. Alternatively, you will explore relevant research readings throughout the semester. In addition, you will conduct research related to areas of focus in this course.

Course Description

Course Description: This course will explore the power of capturing and sharing a personal narrative through various approaches using different forms of technology. Students will have the opportunity to learn various techniques for capturing and telling

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stories, a brief understanding of storytelling, and a chance to create and share autobiographical, interview biographical and global stories shared through different mediums.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Learning outcomes are what you are able to do as a result of the activities, readings, instruction, etc. that have occurred in this course. Assignments/activities related to these outcomes are described in the assignments and assessments portion of the syllabus.

The learner will:

1. Understand the elements of what makes a compelling story and create different types of stories using these elements.
2. Learn different forms of technology that can be used to share stories across widely distributed audiences.
3. Maintain a blog that can be used to share their stories.
4. Review literature on the use of storytelling in education and explore ways that they can implement these techniques in the classes they will or do teach.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Instructional Methods

Instructional Methods / Activities / Assessments

Each week we will have a series of readings, activities and interactions. This course is designed to help you develop the skills necessary to learn new skills, software and processes related to capturing, retelling and producing digital stories that can be widely distributed. **It is important that you reach out to your fellow classmates as your first source of help.** We tend to learn more in groups than we do individually. Please use the discussion boards for posting questions on how to use different tools so I can monitor and assist as needed. You will be exploring many different tools and techniques, and we need to draw on the expertise of the group.

WEEKLY CHECK-INS AND PARTICIPATION

Four days per week are minimum. A critical aspect contributing to student success in online courses is the facilitation of an active learning community. In order to interact and participate in ongoing and evolving dialogue, post and respond to questions, contribute to the knowledge base, and remain aware of class dynamics, students must login regularly and be active participants in the class. Regardless of current assignments or activities, every student **MUST** login to the course a minimum of four (4) separate days each academic week. These logins should be utilized as an opportunity to check announcements and threads in the various Discussion threads for valuable information and opportunities to contribute. The courseware automatically tracks all student access.

DISCUSSIONS

Engaging in dialogue with other students to discover critical issues and questions related to the course topic is a critical component of this course. Discussions typically cover content included in the assigned readings provided through supplemental course resources and experiences with the new technologies you are exploring. A typical discussion requires 4-5 posts: one initial response to the discussion prompt, followed by 3-4 responses to other students' posts and replies. Prompts will be available well in advance of the deadline. Please post early so that others may reply. **LATE POSTS WILL RECEIVE ZERO POINTS!**

OTHER GRADE INFORMATION

Timely submission of assignments:

Assignments **MUST** be completed and submitted by the designated due dates, in the designated location. Full credit cannot be earned by late or incomplete assignments. Assignments may lose up to 10% of their possible value each day late if submitted after the posted due date/time. (e.g. Assignments can lose all their value at 10 days past due.) Further, late project submissions may be rejected at

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the instructor's discretion. When a project incorporates peer review activities requiring that all projects be available at the beginning of the review period, one student will not be permitted to hold up the progress of the entire class and may be taken "out of the loop" if necessary, to ensure the forward progress of the class.

Grade Incompletes

Grade of "X" (Incomplete) - In accordance with the Academic Procedures stated in the TAMU-C Catalog, "students, who because of circumstances beyond their control, are unable to attend classes during finals week or the preceding three weeks will, upon approval of their instructor, receive a mark of 'X' (incomplete) in all courses in which they were maintaining passing grades." The mark of "X" will only be considered in strict compliance with the University Policy upon submission of complete medical or other relevant documentation.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- 20% Story Analysis and Rubric Development
- 10% Participation- Discussions
- 40% Completed Story and Story Peer Reviews
- 30% Story Design Documents

Assessments

ETEC ePORTFOLIO for MS/MEd in Educational Technology

Students pursuing the MS/MEd degree in Educational Technology Leadership (ETLD) program are now required to submit an electronic portfolio prior to graduation. Students pursuing the MS/MEd degree in Educational Technology Library Science (ETLS) are strongly encouraged to develop an eportfolio of their work throughout the program as it will benefit the student in obtaining a position in Library or Media Services, and it may become a program requirement in the near future. This requirement does not pertain to students taking ETEC courses as an elective for other programs, including those pursuing only the School Library Certification who have already earned a master's degree.

Many courses in the ETEC program have identified artifact(s) that should be included in the eportfolio to provide evidence of acquired and developing knowledge, skills, and philosophical approaches. In courses where recommended artifacts are not identified, it is the student's responsibility to collect artifacts throughout the course and appropriately select which artifacts to include in the eportfolio. This includes courses from other departments and/or institutions for which the student is receiving credit for the ETEC master's degree. For example, if a student takes courses in ELED, EDAD, MGMT, or

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TDEV and applies credits earned toward their ETEC master's degree, the student should include artifacts from those courses in their ETEC eportfolio.

For **ETEC 528 Digital Storytelling Across Curriculums**, you will complete several projects that you may decide to include in your program portfolio. As you look at your program portfolio, try to include artifacts that represent all aspects of your journey and one from each class. I would be happy to recommend projects from this class that you may want to include as you make your way through the course.

Newly admitted majors in the program should contact Dr. Mary Jo Dondlinger, coordinator of the ETEC program, for more information on how to get started with the ETEC ePortfolio. If you plan to major in the program, but have not yet applied, you are strongly encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Please contact MaryJo.Dondlinger@tamu-commerce.edu for more information about the program's portfolio requirement.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Timeliness

Because a 5-week term goes by quickly--assignments must be submitted by the designated due dates. Full credit cannot be earned by late or incomplete assignments. Assignments may lose up to 10% of their possible value each day late if submitted after the posted due date/time. (e.g. Assignments can lose all of their value at 10 days past due.) When a project incorporates peer review, it is imperative that all projects be available at the beginning of the review period and that reviews are completed by the end of the review period so that others may incorporate feedback into project revisions. Late work that requires peer review may lose all review points if review period has passed. When you are late with peer review work, you inconvenience your peers.

Neglecting to provide meaningful feedback to peers and/or failing to make an assignment available for peer review will **each** result in 10% reduction in value (20% for both). You will have plenty of notification and time to complete course assignments. If you know you are going to be out of town, involved in a special event/project, or unable to access a computer, please plan ahead. Also ensure that you have a backup plan ready in the event you might lose power, Internet access, or your available technology.

Time Commitment

In a graduate level course, it is a reasonable and accepted expectation that a student will spend between three and four hours outside of class for each hour spent in a class that lasts 15 weeks. This applies to online and web-enhanced courses just as it does to a traditional course. The activities in this course are based on a 5-week instruction schedule, which cuts the number of weeks to only one third, thereby tripling the weekly time expectation. An understanding of this

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expectation can help serve as a gauge of how much time you will need to allow for and devote to each course. The average time commitment range calculation for a three Semester Credit Hour (3 SCH) course, such as this one, is show in the following table:

Average expected time spent on class or class related work.	Minimum expected average time based on 3:1 time ratio.	Maximum expected average time based on 4:1 time ratio.
"In" class per class week	5 hours	5 hours
"Outside" class per class week	15 hours	20 hours
TOTAL Weekly Expectation	20 hours	25 hours
TOTAL Term Expectation	140 hours	175 hours

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Grades will be weighted as follows

- 20% Story Analysis and Rubric Development
- 10% Participation- Discussions
- 40% Completed Story and Story Peer Reviews
- 30% Story Design Documents

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

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LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

All instruction will take place in a distributed fashion through D2L Brightspace and Email. Most of the course will be asynchronous. However, you may be working in groups in which case you will need to coordinate schedules to facilitate group work. Additionally, there will be opportunities for synchronous work with Dr. Bigenho should it be needed. These sessions will be optional and are available to you through prior arrangements. These interactions will use Zoom, which will be accessible through a link that Dr. Bigenho will provide.

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You should use the course site for most communication. When using e-mail, use bigenhochris@tamuc.edu. Monday through Friday, I will return email in 24 hours or less. That being said, it will usually be much less time.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

It is important that you follow the directions of the course carefully as different assignments will require different tools for completion and different methods of submission. It is also important that you keep to the schedule as there are only 7 weeks to the class. Additionally, there may be times when you will need to work with others in the class. **Being late with your work WILL impact your grades negatively as it will also impact the ability of others to do their work. Bottom line, don't be late.**

Discussions: Discussions happen as they happen. Each week you are expected to participate in the discussions. These are NOT places for you to simply answer questions that I post. **I expect** to see a discussion- an exchange of ideas extended over time where there is evidence that you listened to others, reflected on material and offered new ideas/perspectives, provided help to your peers and posed your own questions to the group. There will be a discussion for each week. The only posts that will be considered for the discussion grade for that week **MUST** occur prior to the closing date of that week.

Attendance and Engagement: You need to check into the course on a daily basis (5 days out of 7). Since we will not have any face-to-face meetings, you must remain engaged in the course and with your peers through the myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) learning environment. Engagement is often indicated by regular participation in online discussions. Experience indicates that students who are not engaged regularly in the online environment generally have difficulties completing online courses successfully.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Because this course runs on a compressed, 5-week schedule, we'll be completing the full-semester equivalent of 3 weeks of work each week. There is no time to catch up if you fall behind. Each week will begin on a Monday and end on the following Sunday. Each week will be closed at the start of the class and the current week will open on Monday for that week's work. The schedule of specific assignments will be listed in myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) as they are scheduled. Each week's work is due at the end of that week unless otherwise noted.

Please note that the week runs from Monday through Sunday, except for the last week of class, which ends on **Wednesday**.

Course Schedule

Week/Date	Class Activities
Week 1	Introductions, Discussion Board, Story Analysis, Background Reading and Story Begins
Week 2	Readings, Story Analysis, Discussion Board, Storyboard, Script Writing and Content Collection
Week 3	Readings, Story Analysis, Discussion Board, Content Collection and Story Development
Week 4	Completed Story Due, Completed Design Document Due
Week 5	Peer Review, Celebration of your work

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