

Anthony T. Atkins, PhD
English 314 Writing & Technology
UNC Wilmington
fall 2008

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| Office: Morton Hall 138 Office Phone: 962-7682 Email: atkinsa@uncw.edu | Office Hours: M & W: 2:30pm-3:30pm <i>And By Appointment</i> |
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Course Description

In this course, we will explore how digital communication technologies have shaped literacy, reading, and writing. We will experiment with numerous computer-based writing spaces, including, but not limited to, web-authoring software, desktop publishing, etc. Students will be exposed to current theories regarding the combination of technology and communication, and be expected to put those theories into practice. Students will complete individual and group projects and presentations that illustrate their knowledge and experience with writing for the paper and screen.

Texts/Materials

Bolter, Jay David and Richard Grusin. *Remediation: Understanding New Media*. Cambridge, MA: MIT P., 2000. [ISBN: 0-262-52279-9 (pb)]

Johnson-Eilola, Johndan. *Datacloud: Toward a Theory of Online Work*. Cresskill, NJ: Hampton P. 2005. [ISBN: 1-57273-635-6]

Electronic Reserve or Handouts

Please purchase a jump/flash drive for storage

Some assignments require you to purchase color hardcopies (not to exceed \$15.00).

Assignments

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| 1) Technology Research Essay | 15% |
| 2) Document Re/design | 15% |
| 3) Remediation Project (group) | 20% |
| 4) E-Portfolio | 20% |
| 5) Quizzes | 15% |
| 6) Homework Professionalism Participation | 15% |

Brief assignment descriptions

(see official assignment sheet for guidelines and further instruction)

- 1) From our readings, class discussions, and the history of communication technology, you will choose a topic/subject of interest to research. You will research, inform, and argue a point (or two) about a specific issue concerning technology and communication. This

- assignment requires your best writing and research skills. Use MLA format, appropriate grammar/punctuation, and develop an argument that displays current and significant research. Do not exceed 6 pages for this assignment (including works cited). You must participate in our peer editing session to receive full credit for this assignment.
- 2) We will work with John Osinski from Randall Library to re/design documents needed for the library and/or our department of English (service learning component).
 - 3) This project will ask you to review a document and “remediate” it using Camtasia Studio III. (group assignment). Your group will also make a formal presentation.
 - 4) You will build an e-portfolio that contains several projects that you have created over the course of being at UNCW. The e-portfolio is similar to a traditional writing portfolio except that you will have an opportunity to learn web pages, navigational structures, etc. All professional writing majors will be required to complete an e-portfolio in Eng 496.
 - 5) There will be Quizzes on our assigned readings and class discussions. I do not allow make-up quizzes; you must be present on the day the quiz is distributed. The quizzes range in format from True/False, Multiple Choice, Short-Answer, and Essay. Quizzes are typically 10 questions. They are simply designed to test your reading and understanding of vocabulary and theoretical concepts.
 - 6) I assign homework, take attendance, and expect you to participate in class discussions. I also expect you to be prepared for class, especially when we schedule class time for projects. Always have your homework. Working on other projects during our class is not permitted. All assignments must be completed and submitted to be eligible for a final course grade higher than a C.

Submitting Assignments

Please consult assignment sheets for proper submission guidelines for each assignment. See online schedule for submission guidelines for each homework assignment. Submit all work in proper format or the assignment will be returned as incomplete and/or will receive an F.

Plagiarism

While many students still take it upon themselves to cut and paste pieces of text/images from web pages and conveniently insert them into their projects, it is a violation to do so without attributing proper credit to the creator of the original text/image. Remember: ideas as well as words/images are covered under the realm of plagiarism. Nothing is wrong with using another’s work- JUST CITE THEM. If you are found to be plagiarizing, I will first wish to

speak with you. If the matter is not resolved between you and me, we will then meet with the department chair for further action. I will prosecute to the highest extent the university will allow if you are found to be plagiarizing materials. At the minimum, you will receive an F for the specific assignment in question.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of UNCW to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law, and the university's commitment to equal educational opportunities. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation, for example, in seating placement or in arrangements for examinations, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services, at 910-962-7555 or TDD 910-962-3853 or Dr. Peggy Turner via email at [turnerm@uncw.edu].

Attendance Policy (fall/spring policy only)

You may miss 2 days without penalty or excuse. On day 3 your final grade is lowered by 1/3 letter-grade. On day 4 your final grade is lowered by 2/3 letter-grade. On day 5 you fail the course. Missing 5 days is missing more than 2 full weeks of class and unacceptable. I do not accept excuses. Do not bring them to me nor email me about absences. If you miss class please check the website and/or check with a friend to find out what you missed. If you need to know how many days you've missed, etc. Please ask.

Again, allow me to stress that you should not schedule other appointments during our class time. Visiting with advisors, financial aid, doctors, lawyers (court dates), or taking vacations etc. are not excuses to miss class. You have 2 days. Use them at your prudent and careful discretion.

Late Policy

Coming to class late is also unacceptable. When I am ready to begin class you should be in class and in your seat. Once I close and lock the door, anyone coming to class after that is considered late. Every 2 times you are late counts as an absence. When you come to class late please knock gently on the door and I'll allow you to enter. In summary, you may be late once without penalty.

Sign –in Procedure

When you arrive there will be a sign-in sheet close by. You should sign the sheet immediately upon walking in the door. I will not sign a sheet for you nor go back at a later date and allow you to sign it.

Final Note

In this class there will be "assigned" class time for work on significant projects and assignments. You will also be working with each other this semester on a number of projects. You must come to class prepared to work

on *our* projects. Not doing so illustrates disrespect for the teacher and the course. I always expect you to work on *our* projects (not other course projects). I also expect you to take the initiative to learn pieces of software and to carry a respectful attitude toward your classmates, teacher, and yourself. When you come to class unprepared or spend time working on other projects, you are not participating fully. In short, you should be professional and respectful. Not doing so will impact your grade under homework/professionalism/participation. Please know that I am always happy to meet with you, and that I will **always** help you.

Course Policy Statement/s
Special Rules and Guidelines

1. I am quick to respond to email. If you become worried that I have not gotten your message, please remember my delay maybe because I am searching for an answer to your good question, or I maybe consulting with a colleague about how best to solve your problem/question/query, so be patient. Also, be reasonable. Emailing me in the evening may not get a response until the next business day. Maintain copies of important emails. For example, if you claim to have submitted an assignment via email and I do not have it, I will ask you to prove to me that you in fact sent the email. Without proof, by default, I am correct that you did not submit the assignment. Remember to maintain copies of ALL your hard work. If your assignment disappears, it will be your responsibility to re/produce it before the deadline to avoid penalty.
2. I typically take a maximum of two weeks (usually a shorter time period) to evaluate and return projects. However, sometimes this takes a bit longer. In short, be patient. I will keep you updated as I evaluate projects and let you know approximately when I plan to return grades and projects. (**note:** Technology problems, i.e printer problems, disk/saving problems, are not acceptable excuses for turning in late work).
3. I ask that you refrain from using cell phones, PDAs, tape recorders, video cameras, and lap tops during the lecture parts of our class. In other words, do not use a lap top to take notes in class or your picture phone to take pictures (or video/film) of classmates or the teacher. Certainly, when we draft, peer edit, or work on projects in class you are welcome to use them, if appropriate. Cell phones should be turned to vibrate or turned off during class. If you have an emergency situation and must leave your phone on please let me know at the beginning of class. Be reasonably courteous with the use of cell phones and lap tops.
4. Do not bring animals, drugs, or pornography to class (even if academically related). Please refrain from excessive profanity in your speech and written work.
5. Ethical Sensitivity is very important in this class. We all have different points of views on different subjects. I am asking that you be kind to others. As you know, some are shy and some are aggressive in conversation. If you are the aggressive type, please recognize when someone who says very little decides to speak. Additionally, if you are the shy-type, seize the opportunity to speak when you feel ready. Participating in discussion is part of your grade, and being shy does

not excuse you from it. If anyone feels threatened or feels too nervous to speak then notify me of the exact problem and I will rectify it for you in an anonymous way.

6. With regard to statements 3, 4, and 5: If these are violated, I will meet with you to resolve the issue.

Grades/grading

It is your responsibility to keep up with your grades/attendance. If, at anytime, you want to know where you "stand" in the course, simply make an appointment with me and we will discuss your current grades/attendance/participation. Emailing me after the semester about your final grade will not encourage me to change it. If you are unsure about your grades, take care of this business before the semester is over. When you receive a grade for a project please look over the comments and your project. If you ever have any questions about the grade on a specific project, wait 24 hours after receiving the grade then you may email me for an appointment to discuss your grade. I urge you to come to class and do your very best on every assignment. If you've done "sub-par" work then you will receive a "sub-par" grade. **I do enforce all attendance policies.**