future of writing

course information

English 150-02, The Future of Writing
Spring 2017, Tu/Th 11:00am - 12:15pm
Room SUS-3140 (class will also meet in a computer lab)

instructor contact information

Instructor: Katie Morrissey
Office: LBR-A317
Office Hours: W 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (and by appointment)
Email: kemorrissey@rit.edu (Review class Email Policy.)

course description

This First Year Writing Intensive course is designed to develop first-year students' proficiency in analytical writing, rhetorical reading, and critical thinking by focusing on particular uses of narrative. Increasingly, professionals, scholars, artists, and public figures recognize the use of stories across genres. Students will acquire informed practice in using narrative in different disciplines, and become aware of storytelling as one among a number of rhetorical strategies for inquiry. Students will be expected to give presentations as well as write papers both in response to the reading material and in service of their own independent arguments.

learning outcomes

Students completing First Year Writing classes will learn to:
- Revise and improve their writing
- Express themselves effectively in common college-level written forms using standard American English
- Use relevant evidence gathered through accepted scholarly methods and properly acknowledge sources of information (General Education Framework)
- Account for ways communication media and tools impact their research. Students will be familiar with different modes of research, different digital tools and collaborative research practices.
- Account for ways communication media and tools impact their writing. Students will be familiar with different venues for interpretation and analysis, different communication tools and collaborative writing practices.

texts and materials

There is one **recommended text** for this class:

> Hacker, Diana, and Nancy Sommers. *A Pocket Style Manual, 2016 MLA Update Edition*. 7th edition. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016.

Purchasing this is entirely optional, however, you will find it a helpful and timesaving tool to have at hand when finalizing your papers and projects.

Class readings will typically be uploaded to our MyCourses course site (http://mycourses.rit.edu). Feel free to save these articles, print them, or read them online. Any **other media** you are assigned will be uploaded/linked on our MyCourses site, available online, or on reserve in the library.

Please note: You are responsible for testing these files/materials and ensuring that you can open/access them prior to the deadlines. Also, there may be readings that I expect you to print and bring to class. I will tell you about these ahead of time.

Software Alert! In this class we will also be using computers to do our own digital work. If you do not already have access to video editing software and you don't want to utilize an RIT computer lab you may need to pay $30 (estimated) for software.

Important Captioning Note: Our class looks at many different kinds of media texts. These include a variety of interactive digital materials. RIT's captioning service will caption everything they can. However, some of these materials are things that cannot easily be captioned. There may be times when deaf or hard of hearing students need to make arrangements to look at course materials with an interpreter. All of these materials will be flagged so that students know ahead of time and can make arrangements as needed.

assignments & grading criteria

Final Grade Calculation
Your final grade is calculated in the following way:
- Attendance & Participation (15%)
- Weekly & Workshop Assignments (30%)
- Projects (55%)

Grading and Assessment
Here is a breakdown of how grades are assigned in this class:

A: **Excellent work.** Student goes well beyond minimum assignment requirements. Student pushes themselves and their skills, is conscious of their peers, makes strong and useful contributions to class discussions, and makes significant effort to collaborate with peers. Student's work is original, inventive and creative. Work uses clear and focused arguments that are accompanied by careful use of strong evidence and analysis. Work is well organized, clearly written, and communicates its ideas in effective and compelling ways.

B: **Above average work.** Student exceeds minimum assignment requirements. Student pushes themselves and their skills, is conscious of their peers, makes regular contributions to class discussions, and regularly collaborates with their peers. Student's work has clear and focused arguments that are accompanied by strong evidence and analysis. Work is organized and communicates its ideas effectively ways.

C: **Average work.** Student meets minimum assignment requirements and class participation requirements. Student's work is relatively organized and coherent.

D: **Below average work.** Student work does not meet or only meets a few of the minimum assignment requirements and class participation requirements. Student's work may struggle with organization and coherency issues.

F: **Unsatisfactory work.** Student work does not meet minimum assignment requirements and class participation requirements. Student's work may struggle with significant organization and coherency issues.

Real Talk Translation of this Chart: You cannot get an A in this course for doing the bare minimum. If you want an A, you need to be a highly dedicated student and do excellent work. Just managing to show up, stay awake, and to hit the basic assignment requirements will earn you a basic/average grade.

Attendance & Participation (15%)
Discussion, workshops, and peer feedback are central to this class. That means that participation is critical to your success in this course. Participation is not just about being present and awake in class. Your participation grade takes into account all your contributions in class, on MyCourses and during workshops, as well as your overall preparation for/participation in class discussion and activities.

It is important that you come prepared and ready to share your questions, ideas and insights with the rest of the class. We want to hear your voice! If you are regularly unprepared for class, do not participate, and/or miss assignments this will seriously impact your grade. Using technology in class for non-class related reasons will also impact your grade.

→ *Related Information:* Review Class Attendance Policy.

Weekly Assignments (30%)
There are assignments due before nearly every class. These will typically be reading/writing assignments due on MyCourses by 8:00 am the day of class. There will also be times when you are asked to post work on other days of the week (for example, when participating in group projects or preparing for workshops).

The weekly assignments are designed to a) help you prepare for the day's class and b) to help you draft and develop the class projects. Many of these assignments will be used during class and most are not individually evaluated and commented on. Instead, weekly assignments are marked pass/fail.You recieve credit for doing them and staying on track with your project development. If the work you submitted does not meet the assignment's minimum requirements, you will be given the option to revise and resubmit your work.

→ *Related Information:* Review Work Submission Requirements and Late Work policies.

Class Projects (55%)
Our major class projects will consist of:
1. Interpretive Essay & Blogging Project (Individual)
2. Interpretive Web Project (Group)
3. Interpretive Essay Revision & Wiki Project (Individual)
4. Remix Project (Individual)

These assignments will be discussed in more detail during the semester. See the individual assignment handouts for full details/requirements.

Not tech savvy? Don't panic! We will spend time in class prepping for and working on each of these digital projects. The weekly assignments will help you build your tech skills. Also, I will hold drop-in hours in my office ahead of project deadlines to offer you a space to work and to help with troubleshooting. Each digital assignment is designed to accommodate different levels of technical skill, from the first-timer to the more tech-savvy.

important class & university policies

Class Attendance Policy
Since this class relies heavily on the active participation and presence of all students, attendance is a critical component of the course. **Missing more than 2 weeks of classes will seriously impact your final grade. Missing 3 weeks of classes will result in an automatic failure of this course.** In a T/Th course, 4 classes = 2 weeks and 6 classes = 3 weeks. After your 4th absence, your course grade will be lowered a 1/2 letter grade for each missed class. After your 6th absence, you will fail the class.

Please note: **the first year writing program does not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences.** You do not need to tell me why you missed class. However, if you anticipate exceeding the 2-week absence limit, you should contact me immediately. Extenuating circumstances (a death in the family, serious illness, etc.) are considered on a case-by-case basis. However, they generally require documentation.

If you fall asleep in class, this means you are not present and will be marked as absent for the day. Being regularly late to class will also impact your grade. Two instances of being more than 10 minutes late become one absence.

If you miss a class:
- You are still responsible for turning in work on time while you are out.
- Copies of all assignments are posted on MyCourses. You are responsible for looking up this information and coming prepared to the next class.
- I will not recap missed classes over email. Speak with classmates to collect class notes or news.
- You are welcome to come to my office hours to review the missed material and/or address any questions you have.

Work Submission Requirements
Most of your work this semester will be submitted on MyCourses or via a class Google Drive folder. Feedback may sometimes be given using MyCourses' TurnItIn commenting/grading features. Unless noted otherwise on the assignment, all work in this class should be formatted using the MLA academic style. If you are unfamiliar with the MLA style, consider purchasing [Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers' A Pocket Style Manual, 2016 MLA Update Edition](). Alternatively, you can use the free [Purdue OWL MLA Formatting and Style Guide](). (Be warned, this is free but not as easy to read at the HAcker and Sommers guide).

With the exception of the digital projects, documents are only accepted these formats: .doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf., .odt, or .pages. It is your responsibility to convert your work as needed. If you have questions about converting files or using MyCourses, please see me or ask the IT Help Desk.

Digital Project submissions and file requirements will be discussed in more detail in class.

Late Work
Turning in your assignments on time and completing them in full is vital to your success in this class. In this class, each assignment builds upon the last. It is important that you stay on top of this work. For the weekly assignments and class projects, no late work is accepted. The only exceptions to this are: prearranged extensions and documented family, personal, or health emergencies.

Please Note: Technology needs to be tested and issues dealt with ahead of time. Unless you have clear/documented proof of technology issues, late penalties will generally still apply.

Email
Our relationship is a professional one. When you email me, format your emails accordingly. If you haven't written more formal or professional-style emails before, here's a handy guide: http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor.

During standard working hours (Monday - Friday, 9-5), I generally respond to emails quickly. However, you can expect a response from me in 1-2 working days. If you email outside of standard working hours my reply may take longer. If you do not receive a reply from me in 1-2 working days, email me again. It's rare, but occasionally an email gets lost in the shuffle or stuck in a spam/junk mail filter. Failure to follow-up with me will not excuse you from assignment deadlines.

I will frequently use email to contact the class. Make sure you have access to your rit.edu email address and regularly check it, even on the days we do not have class. Missing an email will not excuse you from missed announcements or assignments.

Technology in the Classroom
Smartphones, tablets, and computers can be helpful tools. We will often use them as part of our work in class. Due to this, you are encouraged to bring technology to class. However, use common sense and make smart choices. Turn off the ringers on your phones and only use these tools for class-related purposes. I reserve the right to ask anyone abusing this policy to put away their devices and/or leave the class. Using technology for non-class related purposes will negatively affect your participation grade.

Course Screenings & Lab Time
In addition to weekly readings and traditional writing assignments, we will also be using computers to produce an array of digital writing assignments. To facilitate this, there may be times when we meet in a campus computer lab instead of our regular classroom. Assignments may be started during lab time, however, many of these will not be finished during class. Instead, you are responsible for completing the work outside of class (either individually or with your group).

Lab time is part of the work we do as a class and your attendance is expected. If you miss these meetings it will be counted as an absence.

Content Warning
During this semester we will be discussing a variety of subjects and looking at materials that may represent beliefs and life experiences that are different than your own. The materials for this course may contain adult material. You are expected to approach these materials with maturity and to be respectful of other students and their views. If you have any reservations, for whatever reason, about watching, reading, or discussing certain types of content, contact me during the first week of class.

RIT Honor Code & Academic Integrity Policies
As an institution of higher learning, RIT expects students to behave honestly and ethically at all times, especially when submitting work for evaluation in conjunction with any course or degree requirement. The Department of English encourages all students to become familiar with the RIT Honor Code and with RIT's Academic Integrity Policy.
- RIT Honor Code URL:
  http://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/sectionA/honorcode.html
- RIT Academic Integrity Policy URL:
  http://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/d080

Student Accommodations
RIT is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request accommodations such as special seating or testing modifications due to a disability, please contact

the Disability Services Office. It is located in the Student Alumni Union, Room 1150; the Web site is www.rit.edu/dso. After you receive accommodation approval, it is imperative that you see me during office hours so that we can work out whatever arrangement is necessary.

important rit resources

RIT Writing Commons
The UWP Writing Commons provides free writing instruction for all RIT students at any stage of the writing process. Located on the first floor of the Wallace Center, the Writing Commons is staffed by peer and professional writing consultants with diverse backgrounds and from a variety of academic disciplines. Whether you need help getting started, organizing your thoughts, developing ideas, struggle with grammar and mechanical issues, using sources effectively or properly formatting your citations, we help students develop productive writing habits and revision strategies. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, go to: http://www.rit.edu/WritingCommons.

Student Learning, Support & Assessment
Student Learning, Support & Assessment offers a wide range of programs and services to support student success including the Academic Support Center, College Restoration Program, Disabilities Services, English Language Center, Higher Education Opportunity Program, Spectrum Support program, and TRiO Support Services. Students can find out about specific services and programs at www.rit.edu/slsa.

MyCourses Support
If you are having problems with MyCourses, contact the ITS Service Desk:

ITS Service Desk
E-mail: Online@rit.edu
Phone: 585-475-4357
TTY: 585-475-2810
http://www.rit.edu/its/help/

Finally...
Remember that this syllabus and the course calendar are subject to some change over the course of the semester. Always defer to the most recent version of the syllabus and course calendar. These are kept current on our MyCourses site.

Whew! Did you read all that? If so, now you're ready to get started! ☺

course calendar

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1	1/24 – ***Introduction to the class.***	1/26 – ***P1: Interpretive Essay & Class Blog*** READ: Abbott (ch 2 & 4); DUE: A1
Week 2	1/31 – READ: Abbott (ch 5 & 6); DUE: A2	2/2 – READ: Dix & Pollock; DUE: A3
Week 3	2/7 – DUE: A4	2/9 – *In-class workshop.* READ: Klein & Shackelford; DUE: A5
	PROJECT 1 DUE SUN. 2/12 by 11:59pm.	
Week 4	2/14 – ***P2: Interpretive Web Project*** READ: Giles; DUE: A6 & P2 Signups	2/16 – *Begin analysis.* READ: Primary Texts; DUE: B1
Week 5	2/21 – *Project planning/design.* READ: Atkins; DUE: B2	2/23 – DUE: B3
Week 6	2/28 – READ: Web Style Guide; DUE: B4	3/2 – DUE: B5
Week 7	3/6 – 3/10 *Mandatory Group Workshops (No Class)* DUE: Workshop Assignment #1 (Due at your workshop.)	
	PROJECT 2 & REFLECTION DUE SUN. 3/12 by 11:59pm.	
Week 8	SPRING BREAK	
Week 9	3/21– ***P3: Revision & Wiki Project*** READ: Wiki Reading, Dix & Pollock, Abbott; DUE: C1	3/23 – *Work begins on wiki. Class meets online today.* DUE: C2
Week 10	3/28 – DUE: C3	3/30 – READ: Steadman; DUE: C4
Week 11	4/4 – *Wiki wrap-up & revision work.* DUE: C5	4/6 – *Revision work continues.* DUE: C6
Week 12	4/10 – 4/14 *Mandatory Group Workshops (No Class)* DUE: Workshop Assignment #2 (Due at your workshop.)	
Sun. 4/16	**PROJECT 3 & REFLECTION DUE SUN. 4/16 by 11:59 pm.**	
Week 13	4/18 – ***Unit 4: Remix Project*** READ: Lankshear & Knobel; DUE: D1	4/20 – *Begin planning remix project.* DUE: D2
Week 14	4/25 – *Working day.* DUE: D3	4/27 – *Working day.* DUE: D4
Week 15	5/2 – *Concept paper in progress.* DUE: D5	5/6– DUE: D6
Week 16	5/8 – 5/12 *Mandatory Group Workshops (No Class)* DUE: Workshop Assignment #3 (Due at your workshop.)	
FINALS	**PROJECT 4 DUE TUES. 5/16 by 11:59pm. (No final exam.)**	

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to some change. Always defer to current version on MyCourses.