

remix

digital creative writing workshop

class: english 389-01
online & wed 5 - 6:15 pm
liberal arts hall (lbr) 3201

contact:
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office hours:
m/w/f 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
(and by appointment)

Course Description

Standard Description: This course is for students who want to explore the techniques of creative writing applied to digital delivery formats. Through reading, discussion, and exercises, students will be exposed to creative writing techniques that they will use to produce born digital writings. While reading/reflection and writing/revision will be emphasized all semester, the class focus will be on the creation of creative works and the learning of stylistic and craft techniques. Ongoing work will be discussed with peer editors, which will not only help students rethink their work but teach them to become better editors. Group critiques will provide the opportunity to give and receive helpful feedback.

Section Specifics: This section of Digital Creative Writing is all about the remix. Like all creative practices, remix asks us to draw from the culture around us and transform it into something new. So, get ready to copy, transform, and combine old creative works into new ones! This class will focus on a range of digital creative practices, including remix videos/vidding, hypertext, and transmedia storytelling. You will also have an opportunity to produce a range of digital genres, including mashup, glitch, uncreative writing, and e-poetry. We'll try out new writing tools, collaborate on digital projects, and rethink what it means to "write" in today's digitized culture.

Texts & Materials

Assigned readings will be uploaded to our RIT MyCourses site (<http://mycourses.rit.edu>). You are free to save the articles and print your own hard copies to read. There may be readings that I expect you to print and bring to class. I will tell you about these ahead of time.

There are two recommended text for this class:

- Miller, Carolyn Handler. *Digital Storytelling: A Creator's Guide to Interactive Entertainment*. New York: Focal Press, 2014.

- Ford, Melissa. *Writing Interactive Fiction with Twine*. Indianapolis, IN: Que Publishing, 2016.

Purchasing these books is entirely optional, however, you will find them helpful and timesaving tools to have at hand when working on your projects.

Our class will also be using computers to screen digital texts, do media analysis, and produce projects. As part of this class you will need access to a computer with an internet connection. There may also be times where you need to print your work and bring multiple copies to class. Plan ahead so that you have budgeted for printing expenses and have the materials you need. You may also need to pay \$30 (est) for software or make arrangements to work in an RIT computer lab that has the software you need. Any media you are assigned in class will be on reserve in the library or available online. You are responsible for making sure that you can view/access the assigned materials. If the assigned materials do not work on the device you are using, you are responsible for finding an alternate way of access them.

Course Expectations & Requirements

Your final grade is calculated in the following way:

- Attendance & Participation (10%)
- Prep Work & MyCourses Discussion Posts (25%)
- Form Analysis Essays (10%)
- Creative Projects & Mini Project (55%)

Attendance & Participation (10%)

Course participation is vital to your success in this class. Your opinions, feedback, and ideas are invaluable to your classmates. We want to hear your voice! Participation is not just about being present in class. Your participation grade takes into account your contributions in class, on MyCourses, and your overall preparation for and engagement in class discussion. It is important that you come prepared and ready to share your questions, ideas and insights. If you are regularly unprepared and/or miss assignments this will seriously impact your grade. Using technology in class for non-class related reasons will also impact your grade.

Class Attendance Policies

This class relies heavily on the active participation and presence of all students. This is a collaborative workshop class. Everyone needs to be present and contributing for the class to function. Since this is a hybrid course, your attendance is split between our weekly online discussions and the face-to-face meetings on Wednesdays. There is a penalty for missing more than 2 weeks of class (2 weeks = 2 online discussions & 2 Wednesday meetings). If you go over this limit your final grade will be reduced one grade level for each absence.

A few key points on attendance:

- I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences. You don't need to tell me why you've missed class; you are simply absent and have a bank of 2 online and 2 Wednesday absences to use. For

students going over the absence limit, extenuating circumstances (a death in the family, serious illness, etc.) are considered on a case-by-case basis. For these exceptional situations, you may be required to provide documentation.

- I take attendance at the start of class. If you miss the attendance/roll-call you are late. Being late twice counts as one absence.
- If you fall asleep in class, this means you are not present and will be marked as absent for the day.

If you miss a class:

- You are still responsible for turning in your work on time.
- You are responsible for speaking with your classmates to collect any documents, notes or news. Copies of all assignments will be posted on MyCourses. You are responsible for looking up this information. I will not recap missed classes over email. However, you are welcome to come to my office hours to review the missed material and/or address any questions you have.
- You are expected to make up missed material on your time and come prepared for the next class.

Prep Work & MyCourses Posts (25%)

Our week is typically divided into segments: prep for the week's work/discussions, face-to-face meet ups, and online activities.

- *Prep:* You will generally have prep work you need to do before coming to class. Often, you will be preparing materials to bring to class for activities or discussion.
- *Meet-ups:* On Wednesdays, we meet and work through these materials. There are times when we will meet in a computer lab instead of our regular classroom. We have access to the lab all semester and our visits will be determined as needed and on a week-by-week basis.
- *Online Work:* Each week we'll connect online to continue our work and discussion. Typically, you will have discussion posts due Fridays at 11:59pm and reply comments due Saturdays at 11:59pm. Your MyCourses posts are graded high pass, pass, and fail/incomplete. There are minimum requirements that must be met in order for your online work to receive credit. Read each assignment carefully to ensure that you are completing it in full.

Form Analysis Essays (10%)

We will be working on three different modes of remix: hypertext, remix video, and transmedia storytelling. (Plus your 4th project, but you get to pick for that one!) To get started with each type of remix, you will need to analyze the form and a specific example text. These short essays will be due whenever we start a new mode of remix. Information about each essay will be available on MyCourses and will be reviewed in detail in class.

Creative Projects (55%)

You will be producing four creative remix projects this semester (three individual and one group project). Information about each project will be available on MyCourses and will be reviewed in detail in class.

At the end of the semester, you have the option of revising and resubmitting one of your creative projects. Your project will be evaluated again and a new grade will be assigned. If you choose this option, you are required to meet with me to discuss your project and your revision plans. I will not accept revisions from students who have not met with me outside of class to discuss this work.

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 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. Work is organized and communicates its ideas fairly effectively.
- 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.

Work Submission Requirements

Given the nature of our class work, many of the projects will not be turned in on MyCourses. Read the assignments carefully to determine where and how materials need to be submitted. It is your responsibility to convert your work as needed, to check to make sure files have uploaded correctly, and to test to make sure uploaded files work as needed. If you have questions about converting files on your computer or submitting assignments, please see me or ask the IT Help Desk.

Email	<p>I will frequently use email to contact the class. Make sure you have access to your rit.edu email address and be careful to regularly check your email, even on the days we do not have class. Missing an email will not excuse you from missed assignments or late work.</p> <p>You are welcome to email me with any questions and concerns you have about the class or your work. I generally respond to email quickly and you can expect a response in 24 hours. If you do not receive a response from me in 1-2 days, please email me again. I do receive a lot of email daily and occasionally someone gets lost in the shuffle or inexplicably stuck in a spam/junk mail filter. Failure to follow-up with me regarding emails or questions asked in class will not excuse you from missed assignments or late work.</p> <p>Our relationship is a professional one and I expect our email exchanges to be professional as well. Take the time to look into questions and check the syllabus before you contact me. When you email me, be careful to explain the issue carefully and be clear about your questions. If you are unsure how to structure a professional email please contact me for additional information.</p>
Technology in the Classroom	<p>Smartphones and computers can be helpful tools and we will often use them as part of our work in class. Due to this, you are encouraged to bring technology to class. However, it is expected that you will 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.</p>
Course Screenings	<p>As this is a digital writing workshop, we will be reading and discussion a range of media texts nearly every week of class. Course materials will sometimes be looked at during class time, however many of these materials are things you will also need to view from home. You are responsible for screening these texts outside of class. You will often be given assignments that depend on your completion of the screening. If the assigned materials do not work on the device you are using, you are responsible for finding an alternate way of access them.</p>
Content Warning	<p>During this semester we will be discussing different subjects, watching films, and reading texts that may represent beliefs and life experiences that are different than your own. The readings and screenings for this course may contain adult material. This includes nudity, violence, harsh language, drug use, sexual violence, and sexual content that ranges from suggestive to explicit. 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.</p>

RIT Honor Code	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>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.</p>
Writing Commons Resource Information	<p>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.</p>

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 Schedule

Week	Assignments	P1	P2	P3	P4
Week 1: 8/22 – 8/26	What is Remix? Wed: Introduction to Class Fri: Read Lessig (ch 1, 3, 4) Optional reads: What is Remix, exactly?, Remix Timeline Begin developing mini project. Discussion post due. Sat: Comment posts due.				
Week 2: 8/29 - 9/2	What is Authorship? W: Read Guertin & Goldsmith. F: Mini project due. Discussion post due. S: Comment posts due.				
Week 3: 9/5 – 9/9	Develop Best Practices W: Read Aufderheide, Copyright Overview: Fair Use, Fair Use FAQ, and sample best practices docs. Prep for best practices discussion. F: Discussion post due. S: Comment posts due.				
Week 4: 9/12-9/16	Hypertext Project W: Read Miller (ch 1) & Ford (ch 1). P2 Form Analysis due. Prep for practice exercise. <i>Meet in lab.</i> F: Project Proposals Due. S: Comment posts due.				
Week 5: 9/19 – 9/23	W: Read Ford (ch 2&3). Project Materials Compiled In-class Troubleshooting F: Online Workshopping Session S: Comment posts due.				
Week 6: 9/26 – 9/30	W: Reading TBA. Group Workshop Session. F: Individual Workshopping Session. S: Comment posts due.				
	M: Hypertext Projects Due				
Week 7: 10/3 – 10/7	Video Project W: Read McIntosh, “A history of subversive remix...” P1 Form Analysis Due. Optional artist statement readings. Prep for Practice Exercise. <i>Meet In Lab.</i> F: Project Proposals Due. S: Comment posts due.				



Week	Assignments	P1	P2	P3	P4
Week 8: 10/10 – 10/14	<p>W: Read artist/vidder statements. Project Materials Compiled. In-class Troubleshooting.</p> <p>F: Online Workshopping Session S: Comment posts due.</p>				
Week 9: 10/17 – 10/21	<p>W: Reading TBA. Group Workshop Session.</p> <p>F: Individual Workshopping Session. S: Comment posts due.</p> <p>M: Video Projects Due</p>				
Week 10: 10/24 – 10/28	<p>Transmedia Project</p> <p>W: Read Miller (ch 9) & Jenkins. P3 Form Analysis Due Prep Project Ideas</p> <p>F: Project Proposals Due. S: Comment posts due.</p>				
Week 11: 10/31 – 11/4	<p>W: Read Giovagnoli (ch 1&2) Optional read: Miller (ch 10) P3 Groups Assigned Prep for Group Work</p> <p>F: Project Outlines & Group Contracts Due. S: Comment posts due.</p>				
Week 12: 11/7 – 11/11	<p>Individual Projects</p> <p>W: Project Proposal Drafts Due</p> <p>F: Project Outlines Due. S: Comment posts due.</p>				
Week 13: 11/14 – 11/18	<p>W: WIP <i>Meet in Lab.</i></p> <p>F: WIP. Check in post due.</p>				
Week 14: 11/21 – 11/23	M: Transmedia Projects Begin Running				
Week 15: 11/28 – 12/2	<p>W: Transmedia Project Check-Ins.</p> <p>F: Individual Workshopping Session S: Comment posts due.</p>				
Week 16: 12/5 – 12/9	<p>W: Transmedia Project Check-Ins.</p> <p>F: Individual Workshopping Session S: Comment posts due.</p> <p>Transmedia Projects End</p>				
<p>Finals Week*</p> <p><i>There is no formal final exam in this class.</i></p>	<p>Transmedia Project Archive Due</p> <p>Individual Projects Due</p> <p>Revised Projects Due</p>				

