In the independent study of Digital Writing and Rhetoric you will study and practice writing electronic genres with consideration of audience, media and technology. We will spend the first few weeks exploring the electronic genres you may be interested in, including games, databases, interactive data displays, websites, etc. Then the independent study project will allow you to focus on issues specific to language, visual rhetoric, composition and publication in the digital environment you choose. This course requires reading, short reflections, and a few small assignments to try out the concepts from your reading and play/practice in digital environments followed by a final paper or project.

**GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Study of and practice in writing electronic genres with consideration of audience, media and technology. The course will focus on issues specific to language, visual rhetoric, composition and publication in digital environments.

**Prerequisite(s):** 6 hours of freshman ENG, ENG 131, ENG 132

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Access to SFA websites and applications including D2L Brightspace, the library, email, SFA 360, etc. Students must maintain access to readings posted on D2L through a personal laptop or handheld device or by printing out texts.

**ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT**

Stephen F. Austin provides students reasonable accessibility accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities or services. Students requiring accommodation to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify Dr. Parks and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided.

The full policy is available at: [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)
BRIGHTSPACE BY D2L COURSE WEBSITE

SFA uses Brightspace by D2L as its virtual course management system. You can locate our course website at https://d2l.sfasu.edu. Class handouts, reading links, assignment sheets, and important documents such as this syllabus will be posted on D2L Brightspace in the content tab.

Look in the assessments tab for submission folders.

Locate the site’s gradebook. You are in charge of checking the gradebook for errors throughout the semester.

Please opt in to receiving emails from D2L so that Dr. Parks can communicate with you outside of class.

ATTENDANCE AND LATE WORK

This independent study requires that you meet with Dr. Parks regularly. The meeting time we have agreed upon is every Monday from 10-11 a.m. This meeting time may be renegotiated within reason.

Please contact Dr. Parks in advance or as soon as possible after you have an extraordinary circumstance occur that affects your performance in this class.

GRADES

Remember: Your most important grade is the final paper or project. However, missing small assignments and reading reflections can still harm your grade.

30% - Small Assignments (includes reading reflections and small assignments that allow you the opportunity to try out writing in digital environments)
10% - Annotated Bibliography (written to support final paper/project)
60% - Final Paper or Project

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Work for any course should be newly generated by you for each assignment.

Plagiarism involves using another’s work, words, or ideas without correctly giving credit to the author. It is just as serious to plagiarize the work of another student as it is to plagiarize the work of a published author.

Use a standard documentation style to credit your source. If you have questions about correct documentation, please ask!

General Policy

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for
Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.
Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

WITHHELD GRADES
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES APPLY
See these links for some other university-wide policies and explanations:
Student athletes and representatives in sponsored events.
What University letter grades mean.
What University credit hours mean.
How to appeal a grade.
How to request a medical withdrawal.
What happens when you don’t follow the SFA rules.
Your professor is a mandatory reporter for Title IX.

GENERAL SCHEDULE
Please refer to our full schedule. This is just the required syllabus outline.
Every date indicates a class meeting.
Unit Theme: Exploring the Rhetoric of Digital Environments
Jan 27 – Introduction to digital writing
   Reading summary and reflection due Feb. 3
Feb. 3 – Writing for websites
   Reading summary and reflection due Feb. 10
Feb. 10 – Practice basic website coding
   Basic website coding practice due Feb. 17
Feb. 17 – Writing for interactive data displays
   Reading summary and reflection due Feb. 24
Feb. 24 – Practice creating interactive data display
Data display practice due March 2
March 2 – Writing for games
  Reading summary and reflection due March 16
Spring Break
March 16 – Practice creating a game
  Game creation due March 23
  Final Paper/Project decision due March 23

**Unit Theme: Developing an annotated bibliography**
March 23 – Find and read 3 articles or 1 book on your paper/project genre
March 30 – Find and read 3 articles or 1 book on your paper/project genre
  Annotated bibliography due April 6

**Unit Theme: Final Paper or Project**
April 6 – Independent Work
April 13 – Independent Work
April 20 – Inform Dr. Parks status report
April 27 – Independent Work
May 4 – Independent Work
  Paper or project due Monday May 11 of exam week
May 11- Exam Week