In 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 an independent 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 small play/practice assignments to try out the concepts from your reading followed by a final paper or project. Between class, online work, and preparation, 9 hours per week of dedication is expected.

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION AND UNIT OF CREDIT

“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 ENGL

“The unit of credit is the semester hour, defined as one class meeting per week (or its equivalent) for one semester of 15 weeks. Most courses meet three hours per week and have a credit value of three semester hours. For each hour in class, at least two hours of preparation are expected on the part of the student. Many students should spend more than this amount of time in study.” – See full explanation in the Undergraduate Bulletin Registration page.

In a HYWF (F2F & Online) course, 50-85% of F2F instruction is replaced by online instruction. However, the preparatory hour expectations remain the same. The course schedule at the bottom of this syllabus highlights our designated F2F classes.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Students must maintain access to SFA websites and applications including D2L Brightspace, the library, email, SFA 360, etc. Students must maintain access to readings posted on Brightspace through a personal laptop or handheld device or by printing out texts. Zoom access will be available in the classroom.
ACCOMMODATION INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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/

SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFA Counseling Services  www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices  Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401
SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic  www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp  Human Services, Room 202 936.468.1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

BRIGHTSPACE BY D2L COURSE WEBSITE

SFA uses Brightspace by D2L as its virtual course management system. You can locate our course website through your MySFA login.

Class handouts, reading links, assignment sheets, and important documents such as this syllabus will be posted on D2L Brightspace in the content tab.

We will use the discussion board and other Brightspace features.

Assignments will be submitted electronically. 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.

Dr. Parks will email you from both the Brightspace (for class listserv emails) and the regular Jacks email. So plan to regularly check both!
ATTENDANCE AND LATE WORK

This course requires that we meet regularly, Tuesdays at 12:30 CST. During a global pandemic some flexibility may be required as we possibly move from regular in-person, to mask-to-mask, to online Zoom synchronous meetings and back again. We will expect disruptions.

We will have at least 15% face-to-face meetings. Classroom meetings can be socially distanced meetings; our classroom has adequate space. You may choose to wear a mask or may choose not to, depending on our situation and university procedures. If you are sick but awake, you may Zoom in to class. Please do not push yourself to attend class in person if you are feeling at all unwell. The Zoom link will be posted in our D2L Brightspace.

Please contact Dr. Parks in advance or as soon as possible after you have an extraordinary circumstance that affects your performance in this class. No penalties beyond the natural consequences of missing class meetings will be assigned.

Dr. Parks assigns due dates to keep you on track in the class and to keep herself on schedule in grading. Due dates may be renegotiated. However, do not expect timely grading and feedback on renegotiated submissions.

ONLINE AVAILABILITY

Dr. Parks’ office hours are held during the day – which means some students may not be able to attend office hours. If this is the case, you may request to meet outside of these hours. Dr. Parks will send you a Zoom link if you request this.

Dr. Parks strives to maintain a 24-hour response time for email if you have a relatively simple question. Feel free to email her at any time at Sara.Parks@sfasu.edu.

GRADES

The purpose of grades in this class is to show you have learned ideas, demonstrated skills, as well as internalized and processed that learning and performance. Therefore the “small” assignments as a group are the most important grade in this class.

70% - Small Assignments (includes reading responses and small assignments that provide the opportunity to try out writing in digital environments as well as self-evaluate and reflect on your performance and learning)
10% - Annotated Bibliography (written to support final paper/project)
20% - Final Paper or Project

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Work for any course should be newly generated by you or your assigned team 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!

In a collaborative class such as this, you may not always fully understand what is and is not plagiarism or what type of collaboration outside of class is and is not allowed. If you have questions, 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 cheating and plagiarism.

**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](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 on Brightspace. This is just the required syllabus outline. Every date indicates a class meeting since we will be supplementing our online course with synchronous Zoom support. F2F class days are highlighted. Schedule subject to change.

### Unit Theme: Exploring the Rhetoric of Digital Environments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>Introduction to digital writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>Writing for websites — Designated face-to-face class day. Reading summary and reflection due Aug. 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Practice basic website coding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 14</td>
<td>Writing for interactive data displays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>Practice creating interactive data display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>Writing for games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>Practice creating a game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>Game creation due Oct. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 28</td>
<td>Reading summary and reflection due Oct. 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unit Theme: Developing an annotated bibliography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>Find and read 3 articles or 1 book on your paper/project genre — Designated face-to-face class day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>Find and read 3 articles or 1 book on your paper/project genre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 16</td>
<td>Annotated bibliography due October 26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unit Theme: Final Paper or Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Independent Work class time check-ins to provide support — Designated face-to-face class day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2</td>
<td>Independent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>Status Report Due Nov. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Independent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Paper or project due Nov. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Project Reflection Discussion — Designated face-to-face class day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Exam Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Course Reflection Due - Designated exam time</td>
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</tbody>
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