ENG 3080J: Writing & Rhetoric II
Digital Literacies

Class Location: Online
Class Time: Monday & Friday (asynchronous)
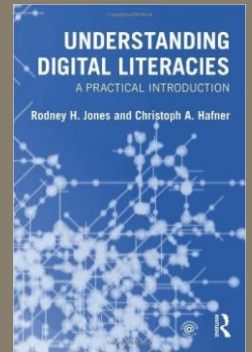Class Dates: Aug. 24-Dec. 12

Class Website

Instructor: Dr. Ryan P. Shepherd

Email: shepherr@ohio.edu
Google Drive: RPShepherd@gmail.com
Office: Ellis Hall, Room 373
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:20-11 AM & 12:30-1:30 PM
Office Phone: (740) 593-2803
Cell Phone: (602) 369-6496 (text messages preferred)

Required Materials

Textbooks: *Understanding Digital Literacies: A Practical Introduction* by Jones and Hafner

Additional Requirements:
- A Schoology Account
- A Google Drive Account
- An email address linked to Schoology
- Daily access to email and class websites
- A willingness to use and learn from digital tools

Course Description

ENG 3080J is a junior-level course in writing and rhetoric. The goal of the course is to build on students' rhetorical knowledge in important areas such as literacy, rhetorical purpose, audience, genre, and discourse. Students in this course will use writing to better understand, to build upon, and to create knowledge. Students are expected to write using both traditional alphabetic text and digital texts (such as hyperlinks, images, video, audio, and code).

This section of ENG 3080J will focus on digital literacies: writing, reading, and making meaning in digital spaces. Students will analyze their own digital writing and the writing of others to build on their understanding of writing in digital spaces. Students will then create writing for these spaces that makes use of the means available to them to make effective and appropriate projects.

Course Outcomes

Based on the [Outcomes for Junior Composition](#)*, students should have knowledge of the following by the end of this course:

- Rhetorical knowledge
- Critical thinking, reading, and writing
- Researching processes
- Composing processes
- Conventions
- Composing in electronic environments

*These outcomes had not yet been updated on the English Department website at the time of this writing

Major Writing Projects and Writing Tasks

There will be three major writing projects and three smaller writing tasks in ENG 3080J. **Students must submit all six of these assignments to pass the course.** All projects and tasks will be submitted electronically through Google Drive.

Writing Projects

Writing projects are longer and more in-depth assignments. They are completed over the course of several weeks. Each assignment will have two required drafts: a first draft commented on by the instructor and your peers, and a final draft that will be graded by the instructor.

Digital Analysis

Writing Project 1 will focus on the analysis of a single digital text, such as a social media post, an online article, a video, or a podcast episode. Students will be asked to analyze the rhetorical content of the text as well as its multimodal affordances and social content.

How to <blank>

Writing Project 2 will focus on the literacy practices within a single online space. Students will be asked to explain how to "do" literacy within that space and provide concrete examples to demonstrate these literacy practices in action. Students will be encouraged to present their findings in multimodal form as a Prezi or short video.

Community Analysis

Writing Project 3 will be a large-scale group analysis of affinity spaces online. Groups will analyze the literacy practices of their community through various interconnected spaces . These spaces are likely to be social media, blogs, online video pages, and so on. Groups will be asked to draw conclusions from observational evidence to support claims about their community such as what they value and how to effectively join and engage with the community.

Major Writing Projects and Writing Tasks (continued)

Writing Tasks

Writing tasks are much shorter and more informal assignments. They are completed over the course of one to two weeks. Writing tasks do not require rough drafts, but rough drafts can be read and commented on if you would like additional feedback.

Constraints & Affordances

Writing Task 1 will be completed before Writing Project 1. Students will be asked to write a short essay explaining both how a single technology of their choosing offers users both advantages and drawbacks to thinking and communication.

Class Wikipedia Page

Writing Task 2 will be completed concurrently with Writing Project 3. All students in the class will work on writing and editing a single Wikipedia page. Students will be asked to find a topic that is not covered on Wikipedia. Students will divide up writing responsibilities with their peers: some students researching, some summarizing, some writing early copy, some finding multimedia elements, and some editing the final page.

Reflection & Application

Writing Task 3 will be completed after Writing Project 3 at the very end of the course. Students will be asked to reflect on what they have learned this semester and attempt to apply this knowledge to a discourse community that they are a member of or plan to join (such as their major or a future job).

Homework

Homework includes all work done for class except for the final drafts of the major writing projects and writing tasks. This includes all reading, all first drafts, all peer responses, all discussion posts, and all rewriting/process work.

I do not accept late homework. There will be no make-up assignments if homework is missed. Most homework is simple and easily completed. Don't forget to do it or choose not to do it!

Keep on Top of Homework!

No Late Homework   **No Make-up Homework**   **No Extra Credit**

Attendance

Because this is an asynchronous online class, "attendance" is a bit unusual. You will be counted "present" for class if you complete the class assignments for that day and actively engage with other students in discussion posts. You will be counted "absent" if you do not complete any assignments for that day, do not engage with other students, or engage with other students in a hostile way.
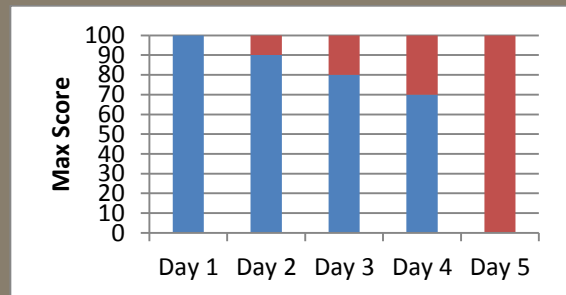
Absence Limit:

If a student is counted absent more than 4 classes during the semester, he or she will lose 1/3 of a letter grade. Each subsequent absence will lower the grade an additional 1/3 of a letter grade.
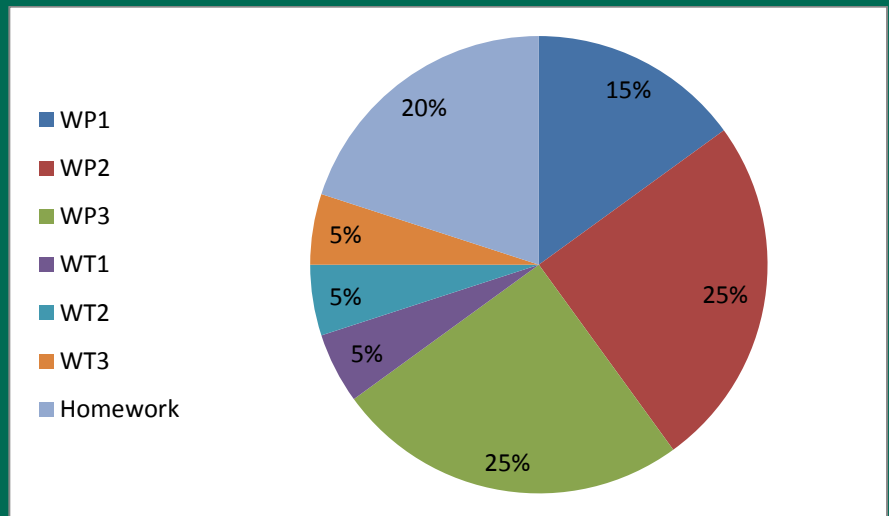
More than 4 equals 1/3 off

Late Final Drafts

Late homework will not be accepted. Late final drafts of writing projects and writing tasks will be accepted but will lose one full letter grade per day. After 5 days, final drafts will receive a 0%.

Grading

Final Course Grades will be determined by the following:

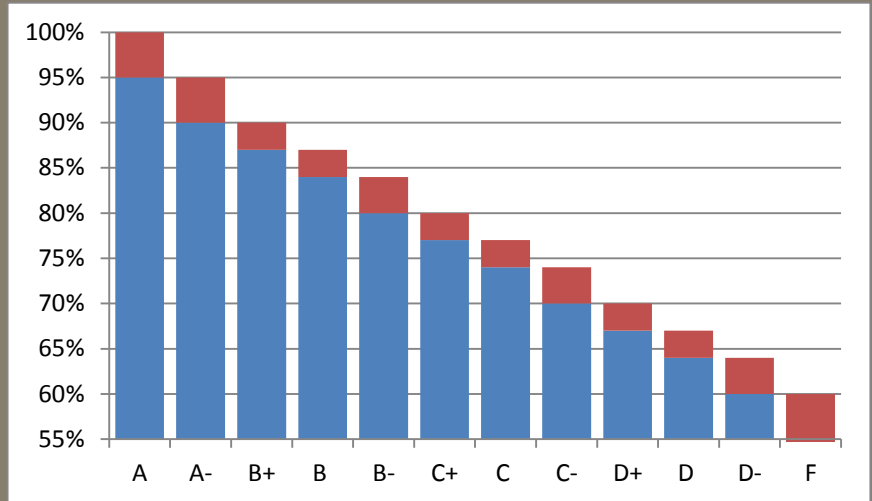|	
Writing Project 1	15%
Writing Project 2	25%
Writing Project 3	25%
Writing Task 1	5%
Writing Task 2	5%
Writing Task 3	5%
Homework	20%

Grading Scale

Homework grades will be on a point scale, generally full points for completion and no points for non-completion.

Final drafts of writing projects and the final course grade will be on the following scale:

A	100-95%	C	74-76.99%
A-	90-94.99%	C-	70-73.99%
B+	87-89.99%	D+	67-69.99%
B	84-86.99%	D	64-66.99%
B-	80-83.99%	D-	60-63.99%
C+	77-79.99%	F	0-59.99%

Class Environment

Some class material may be sensitive. Please be considerate of other people's work and opinions. When disagreeing or giving feedback, make every effort to be polite.

Being a Jerk

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offense in college writing. Plagiarism may include but is not limited to:

- Copying all or part of an assignment from an outside source, such as a website or book.
- Presenting work that you did not write as your own. This may include purchasing an assignment or getting another person to write an assignment for you.
- Allowing another person to substantially change your assignment.
- Presenting work done for another class for a grade in this class.
- Copying words, media, or ideas from another person without giving credit.

Note: Making superficial changes to a document is still plagiarism. If you are unclear whether or not something is plagiarism, please ask in advance.

Intentional, extensive, or flagrant plagiarism will result in failure of the course. Unintentional plagiarism will result in a failure of that assignment.

Keys to Success

This class is a writing-intensive class. This means that there will be a lot of writing done on your own time. That said, it is not difficult to pass the class if you keep up with the work: complete assignments, participate in class activities, and do all work to the best of your ability. If you do so, the minimum grade you will receive is a C-.

To do well in this class, I suggest the following:

- Take feedback seriously. I will ask you to make changes. If you do not make them, your grade will reflect that. Your peers will also offer feedback. Most peer feedback is constructive and will help you improve.
- Do class activities and homework. Most activities are designed to make larger assignment easier. If you keep up with them, success in this class is *much* easier.
- Ask for help. I'm available during office hours, by email, on Skype or Google Hangouts, and by phone. If you have a question or have hit a roadblock, I'm happy to help. If something is unclear, always ask!
- Take revisions seriously. Sometimes early drafts need only minor tweaks, but very often, a first draft will need major changes. Changing a word here or there or adding a sentence or two is not likely to lead to success. Be open to bigger changes when necessary!
- Check your email regularly. I often send messages with updates or tips.

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change with notification. Changes will be posted in Schoology and notification will be sent by email. If changes are made, please review them carefully.