

# ENG 7970

## New Media Composition in English Studies



**Class Location:** Ellis Hall, Room 019  
**Class Time:** Monday & Wednesday  
3:05 to 4:35 PM  
**Class Dates:** Jan. 11 through Apr. 30



### Dr. Ryan P. Shepherd

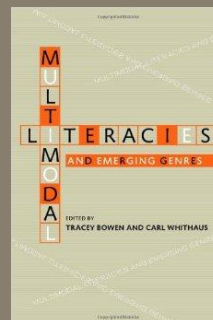
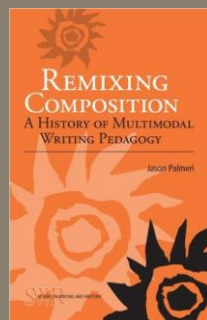


Email: [RPShepherd@gmail.com](mailto:RPShepherd@gmail.com)  
Office: Ellis Hall, Room 373  
(740) 593-2803  
Office Mondays and Wednesdays  
Hours: 1:30 to 3:00 PM  
Cell: (602) 369-6496 (text)

### Required Materials

#### Books:

Multimodal Literacies and Emerging Genres (Palmer)  
Remixing Composition: A History of Multimodal Writing  
Pedagogy (Bowen & Whithaus)



**Other Materials:**  
Schoolology Account  
Google Account  
Headphones  
Cloud Storage  
Daily Email Access

### Course Description

New Media Composition in English Studies will focus on the ways that people make meaning in digital spaces using multiple modes of communication, such as audio, video, images, and hypertext. We will explore the affordances and limitations of composing in multimodal environments and how creating multimodal assignments for English classes may enhance students' understanding of rhetorical concepts and discourse communities.

### Course Outcomes

Students will have a better understanding of the following through this class:

- Affordances and limitations of composing in certain modes.
- How combining modes affects meaning.
- Problems students may face when producing multimodal projects
- How to produce effective multimodal assignments for English classes.
- How to produce professional multimodal scholarship.

## Major Projects, Part 1

Through the course of the semester, you'll do one big final project and four smaller projects.

### Final Project

Depending on your goals for the course, you can take the project one of two days: You can either produce a piece of multimodal scholarship or produce a multimodal assignment for a class you teach or plan to teach.

If you choose to produce scholarship, I expect an article-style paper in the vein of such journals as *Kairos* or *Computers & Composition Online*. The content and presentation of the article will be entirely up to you.

If you choose to produce an assignment, I expect a full *multimodal* “assignment sheet” including readings or other media you would use for the assignment *and* an example of the completed assignment that you have done yourself.

In either case, there will be several smaller steps leading up to completion of the project:

- A bibliography of sources/readings
- A detailed proposal outlining your plans for the assignment
- A rough draft for peer review
- A final presentation in the style of a conferences presentation not only showcasing what you have done but also explaining your reasons for doing so.

### Digital Literacy Narrative

The digital literacy narrative is low stakes assignment designed to simply introduce you to the choices made in multimodal composition. I expect you to explain your own experiences with composing in digital spaces in a short video. Depending on your experience with video production, this may be a simple “talking head” style video or may include video editing and the incorporation of additional modes.

### Audio Analysis

The audio analysis will further expand on the exploration of choices in multimodal texts by asking you to analyze the audio choices of a podcast: you will be expected to listen for editing, inserted silence, music, sound effects, and so on and attempt to explain why you think these choices were made. The analysis will be in the form of an audio essay, using clips from the podcast as demonstration of the points you are making.

## Major Projects, Part 2

### Article Presentation

For the article presentation, I expect you to find a single article that is either multimodal or addresses multimodal issues in your specific area of interest. You will read this article and “present” the issues to the class for discussion. However, you will not present the article in class: you will need to determine a method to present this article digitally. For example, you might create a video, an audio explanation, a website, an automated Prezi or PowerPoint, or a different way that you think will be effective. This presentation will be one of four that we will read/watch/listen to and discuss in class during a class period.

### Final Reflection

The final reflection is a simple assignment in which you explore what you have learned in the class and how you will apply this to your teaching and/or scholarship. This can take any form you feel is appropriate.

## Reading and Other Assignments

Most class periods, you will be asked to complete a reading before class time. It is expected that you will come to class having read the assignment and prepared to discuss it. To help aid with discussion, you will be asked to write a short response to the reading before class: this may include major points you want to discuss, questions you have, or points of contention.

You will also occasionally have other assignment—such as responding to your peers’ work. Please complete these before class time.

## Participation

You are expected to attend and actively participate in all classes. Missing classes or not engaging in class discussion will result in a lower grade for the course. Please do not be late to class or leave early without permission. This is disruptive to class activities.

Please be considerate of other students’ work and opinions.

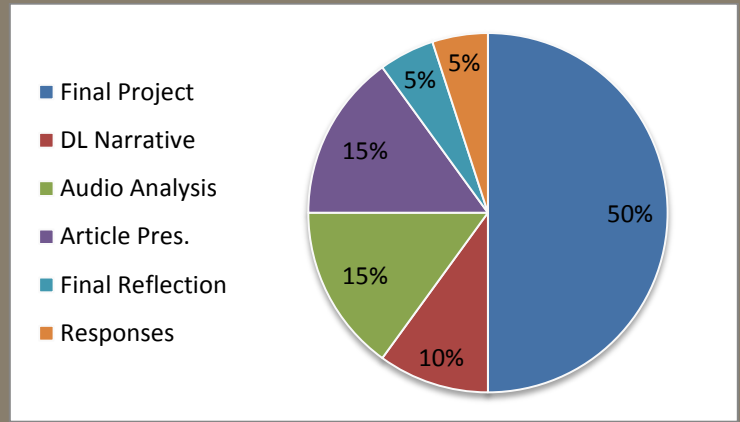
In this class, we encourage the use of technology to learn. Please use technology (including laptops, tablets, phones, and classroom computers) to assist with class activities, not to distract from them.



## Grading

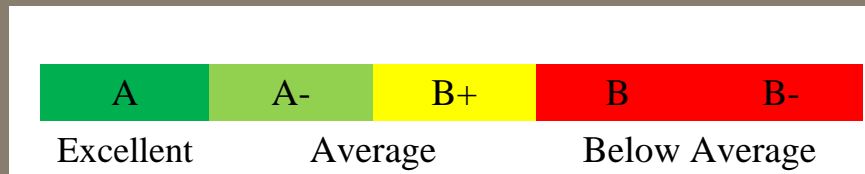
Final Course Grades will be determined by the following:

Final Project and Steps	50%
Digital Literacy Narrative	10%
Audio Analysis	15%
Article Presentation	15%
Final Reflection	5%
Response Assignments	5%



## Grading Scale

Grading for this class will be done on the standard scale for graduate classes:



- A Outstanding graduate work; expectations exceeded for all assignments
- A- Solid graduate work; expectations met for all assignments
- B+ Acceptable graduate work; expectations met with minor problems
- B Minimum expectations for the course
- B- Unacceptable graduate work; one or more assignments did not meet expectations

## Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval.

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.