WELCOME TO MULTIMEDIA COMPOSITION - SECTIONS E01/E02

ENGLISH3084

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

TERM: FALL 2020

MEETS ONLINE AT HTTP://UCDENVER.INSTRUCTURE.COM

WORK DUE: WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS

PREREQUISITES: ENGL1020 & ENGL2030; JUNIOR STANDING.

CANVAS TECHNICAL HELP: (303) 724-4357

INSTRUCTOR, NICOLE PIASECKI

OFFICE PHONE: 303-315-7828

OFFICE & MAILBOX LOCATION
1015 9TH STREET PARK, AURARIA CAMPUS

OFFICE HOURS: FRIDAYS 8-10 AM
SCHEDULE ONLINE @ http://bit.ly/nsp2020.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This section of ENGL3084 focuses on the study of multimodal composition from the perspective of narrative nonfiction storytelling. Students will analyze a variety of multimodal nonfiction texts to identify the rhetorical affordances and limitations of composition modalities. Students will discuss nonfiction storytelling techniques and issues of ownership, authorship, appropriation, exploitation, ethics, and copyright.

Students will also create multimodal nonfiction texts including infographics, podcasts, video stories, web pages, and essays that purposefully combine multiple modalities for rhetorical purposes. The course utilizes principles of experimentation and reflection to encourage risk taking and individual growth. This is an analysis and production course, which means students will read, analyze, and produce multimodal texts throughout the semester. Students should strive to demonstrate the course objectives in all course communications including reflections and discussion posts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to

1. Work with a range of digital media technologies (audio, image, infographic, video, web texts);
2. Critically analyze and evaluate multimodal texts;
3. Understand graphic design principles and the ways they impact communication;
4. Pursue a multi-week research project related to their interests;
5. Articulate how a particular modality best suits their desired purpose;
6. Understand digital storytelling methodologies, including narrative techniques;
7. Understand ethical responsibilities of digital composing (i.e. understanding story ownership and authorship, avoiding appropriation and exploitation, thinking ethically, and engaging with copyright laws and concerns);
8. Work collaboratively with peers and respect each individual's varying experience;
9. Develop valuable digital and storytelling skills that can be applied in industries such as education, journalism, business, and non-profit management.

During this class, students will engage with materials designed to meet these goals and objectives. Though students may not *master* all of these objectives, they should demonstrate intermediate understanding by the course's end.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- a camera that can capture still images and videos – a high-quality smartphone camera will work for this;
- an inexpensive tripod for your phone or other camera to take more stable video or to record yourself speaking;
- a video editing software program like iMovie, Windows Movie Maker, Wondershare Filmora, or a temporary paid subscription to WeVideo – a list of other video editing programs will be presented in the online classroom. If you have an editor that you already use, you may continue to use it this semester;
- an audio editing software - a list of free or inexpensive software programs will be provided in Canvas;
- a personal (free) YouTube account for uploading videos;
- a personal (free) SoundCloud account for uploading audio;
- a personal (free) Adobe Spark Account;
- an admin login for your computer, just in case you need to install software.
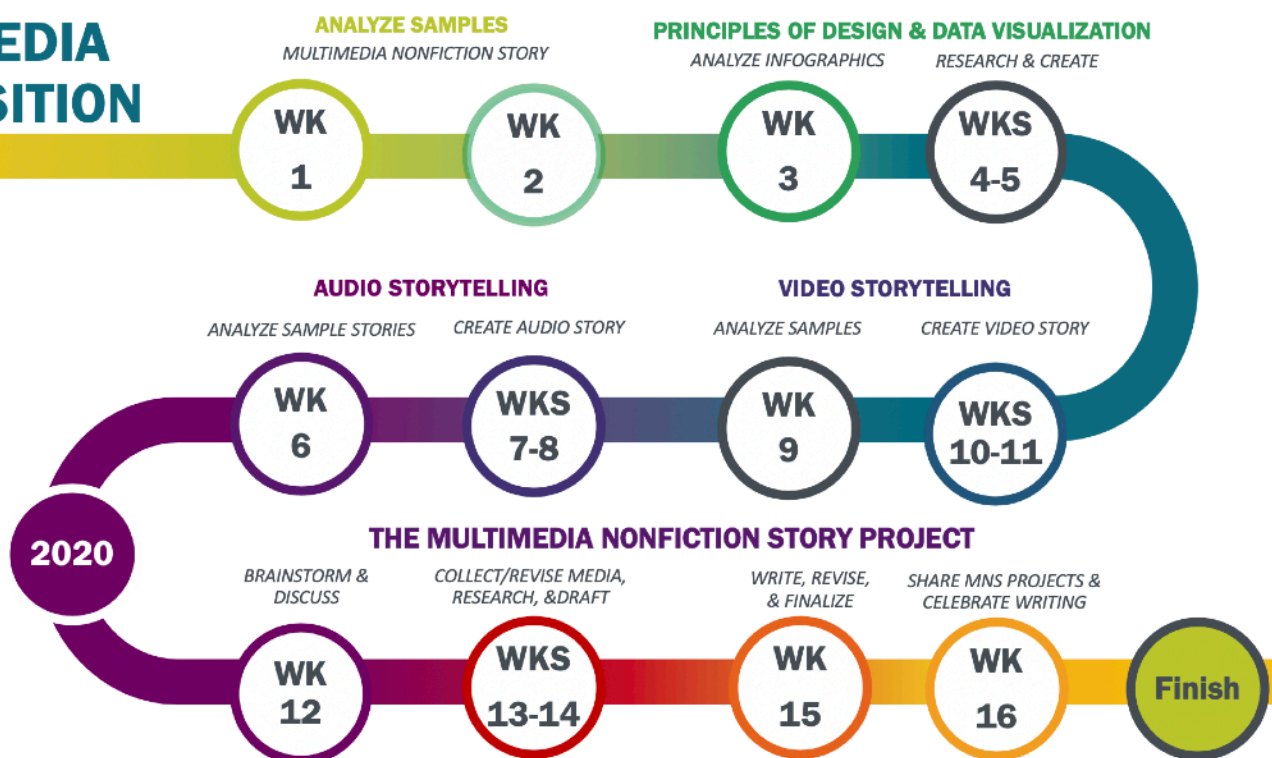
RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

a USB condenser microphone like a Blue Yeti or Blue Snowball to achieve higher quality sound than earbud mics.

a laptop or desktop computer is preferable to a Chromebook or other tablet device, though not absolutely required, for this course.

MULTIMEDIA COMPOSITION

ANALYZE SAMPLES
MULTIMEDIA NONFICTION STORY

WK 1

WK 2

PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN & DATA VISUALIZATION
ANALYZE INFOGRAPHICS

WK 3

RESEARCH & CREATE

WKS 4-5

COURSE TIMELINE

AUDIO STORYTELLING
ANALYZE SAMPLE STORIES

WK 6

CREATE AUDIO STORY

WKS 7-8

VIDEO STORYTELLING
ANALYZE SAMPLES

WK 9

CREATE VIDEO STORY

WKS 10-11

2020

THE MULTIMEDIA NONFICTION STORY PROJECT
BRAINSTORM & DISCUSS

WK 12

COLLECT/REVISE MEDIA, RESEARCH, &DRAFT

WKS 13-14

WRITE, REVISE, & FINALIZE

WK 15

SHARE MNS PROJECTS & CELEBRATE WRITING

WK 16

Finish

*WK=WEEK

WHAT YOU'LL CREATE*

1. Experiments with Multimedia

Create four experiments with composition modalities and tools, including graphic designs, video clips, audio podcasts, and digital stories.

2. Multimedia Nonfiction Story

Develop a media-rich narrative nonfiction story that explores a problem on campus or in your community or a question of personal interest that concerns your intended audience. Integrate primary and secondary research, at least one infographic, one short video, an audio clip, and about 1000 words of alphabetic text. Deliberately implement design principles and narrative techniques. Preview the full assignment during Unit 1 to begin planning. Experiments can be included as part of the final Multimedia Nonfiction Story project if they serve the rhetorical purpose.

3. Weekly Assignments

Complete supporting weekly assignments according to the instructions in the Canvas classroom. Some examples of supporting assignments include responses to readings, textual analysis, threaded discussions, progress reports, drafts, and peer reviews. Please expect to collaborate regularly and share in-progress works with peers and the instructor.

*Locate all deadlines and details inside our Canvas Classroom.

Read More

Read more about all course requirements on Canvas at http://ucdenver.instructure.com.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Weekly Assignments - 30%
- Experiments with Multimedia - 40%
- Multimedia Nonfiction Story - 30%

Pie chart: 30% (Weekly Assignments), 40% (Experiments with Multimedia), 30% (Multimedia Nonfiction Story)
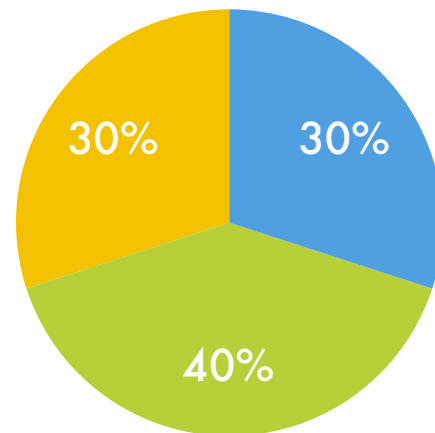
GRADING STANDARDS

The following criteria, which reflects the University of Colorado grading system, will be applied to both major assignments and final course grades:

A (4.0) = Superior or excellent performance
B (3.0) = Good or better than average performance
C (2.0) = Competent or average performance
D (1.0) = Minimum passing performance

A plus/minus grading system will be used in accordance with the University of Colorado and CLAS Grading Policies. All grades are final.

A: 94-100	B-: 80-83	D+: 67-69
A-: 90-93	C+: 77-79	D: 64-66
B+: 87-89	C: 74-78	D-: 60-63
B: 84-86	C-: 70-73	F: 59-0

Grading rubrics will be used for most assignments and will be provided to students in advance of the due dates.
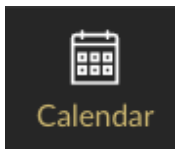
COURSE POLICIES

Course Schedule
This is not a self-paced course. Each unit will open on the Monday that it begins. Most units last from Monday through Sunday. Plan for mid-week deadlines as you would in a traditional class.

Please pre-plan if you will be out of town or have limited access to the Internet at any point during the course.

Online Attendance Policy
Log in and participate in our online class on at least two days per week. Students are not required to attend class at a specific time each day but are expected to participate in the course discussions and meet deadlines. Assignments will commonly have **Wednesday and Sunday evening deadlines.** You are welcome to submit your work ahead of the deadlines when needed.

Late Work Policy
Late work is unacceptable and will interfere with successful completion of subsequent assignments. Plan ahead and leave extra time to troubleshoot technology issues. Assignment deadlines refer to Mountain Time.

To account for emergencies, each student may submit one assignment up to 48 hours late for full credit. After the courtesy extension is used, all subsequent late assignments will earn zero credit. Discussion contributions are time sensitive and may not be submitted late for credit.

Major Emergencies: The instructor will determine reasonable accommodations for extreme emergencies (i.e., death in family or student hospitalization). Extreme emergencies must be communicated within 72 hours to access accommodations. Evidence may be requested.

Syllabus and Schedule Changes
If I need to make changes to this syllabus in order to meet the dynamic needs of our class, *I will always notify students promptly.*

Please be sure to enable Canvas notifications so that you receive course announcements via Email.

Canvas Notifications
To enable Canvas notifications, navigate to your Canvas account profile to customize your preferences. Select "notifications," and choose "notify me right away" for **course announcements and submission comments.**
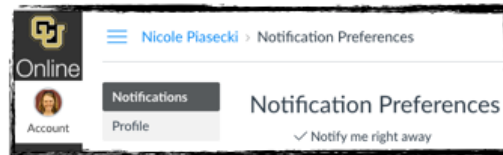
Research and Library Skills
Be prepared to use the Auraria Library to conduct academic research and the Internet to conduct popular culture research. Primary research, including interviews, will also be necessary.

Conflict Resolution Policy
I don't believe that asynchronous communication is the most productive tool to solve conflict. Please schedule a face-to-face or real-time conversation with me to resolve disputes. If you attempt to discuss a conflict via email, you will receive a meeting request instead of a full email response.

Email Policy
Please approach all communication with kindness and care. By paying attention to tone, organization, and grammar and mechanics, you can practice great writing and show your audience you took the time to communicate clearly.

Please use the Canvas Inbox to contact me to ensure I receive your message. I prioritize Canvas Inbox messages over those in my Webmail inbox.

Disability Inclusion
I will design a learning environment in which all students can succeed. If your needs are not being met, please communicate with me, regardless of your official eligibility for accommodations.

If you have a disability, I encourage you to contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS). They can determine the most suitable accommodations for you. All instructors will be required to follow the DRS accommodations. Visit the DRS Website: http://bit.ly/2YUh5BR.

Privacy Disclosure

All writing that we do in this course is considered "semi-public." This means that you should expect that your writings will be read by other students in the course and by me. You will also be expected to publish some of your compositions for course-wide readership. Please respect your classmates, and *do not share others' work outside of our class without written permission.*

Threatening Words

If you write something that indicates that you might hurt yourself or someone else, I have a responsibility to contact the appropriate authority and report this threat. We must **all** work hard to create and protect safe learning environments. If you hear or see something on campus that alarms you, please contact campus police or **text a tip to 720-593-TIPS (8477).**

Standardized Plagiarism Policy

Please refer to CLAS policies for handling academic dishonesty (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/). Any instance of plagiarism warrants a failing grade in the course. Sometimes students plagiarize when they cannot keep up with coursework. Please talk to me before you reach this point of desperation. We can work together to identify a solution in advance without compromising personal ethics. If you are not sure how to cite your sources, please reach out.

Content Warnings (CW) will be provided when possible. We will be engaging with many types of stories this semester. Out of respect for students who have experienced trauma, I will include Content Warnings when possible for stories that may be triggering. In some cases, student-generated directories and examples may not include such warnings. I encourage all students to take exceptional care of their mental and physical health throughout the term. Please reach out to me with questions or concerns about the course content or the assignments.

We Must Follow the CLAS Incomplete Policy. To access an incomplete for any course, students must complete 75% of the coursework and establish a contract with the original instructor to complete the remaining 25% within one year. Incomplete grades cannot be used as a last-minute escape from poor performance. Advance communication is required. Please do everything in your power to complete the course on time and to the best of your ability.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Log in first thing on Monday morning to prioritize your weekly tasks. Return to the course to participate on a minimum of two days per week and meet designated deadlines.

Be an active participant. I am responsible for providing a safe and intellectually stimulating learning environment. All of us are responsible for participating in discussions with goodwill and basic respect for others' views. You are also responsible for speaking up when you need help. Class participation is essential. This course will be as interesting, valuable, and exciting as we collectively decide to make it.

Keep up with assigned reading. You'll want to be well prepared for each discussion and activity by reading all assignments and jotting down your thoughts and questions in advance. Understand that you cannot do a good job on the writing assignments for this course without having read thoroughly, so make sure that you give yourself adequate time to process the material both carefully and completely.

Complete all writing assignments. Because writing is an ability that grows stronger with regular practice, you are encouraged to write, write, and then write some more. The work required involves carefully sequenced exercises, which provides extra incentive to submit work on time. See late policy.

Back up your work. Since we'll be composing and revising inside and outside of class, you'll need to take special precautions to save and store your work. To prevent potential problems, get in the habit of saving your work to a back-up drive and printing an additional hard copy of each document you produce (if it's printable). I use Dropbox to back up my work. Computer problems will not change the late work policy.

Expect to work in collaborative situations. We will engage in extensive discussion, workshopping, and other group activities throughout the semester, and part of your final grade will depend upon how well you have worked in these situations. Missing a collaborative exercise will result in no credit for that assignment, so please come to class fully prepared and ready to work with your colleagues.

Exhibit professionalism at all times. Consideration for your peers is vital for effective learning. Beyond contributing thoughtfully to class activities, you can exhibit professionalism by respecting your peers' right to learn in a distraction-free environment. Think carefully about the tone of your discussion board postings before you submit. It's easy to misinterpret others' postings when there is no body language to go along with them. Please give each other the benefit of the doubt when reading and responding. Our goal is to root for each other's success and foster an environment of camaraderie and togetherness.

Keep in touch. Please make an appointment to discuss any aspect of the course—your questions, interests, projects, etc. Nothing has to be wrong for you to meet with me.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CU Denver Writing Center
One-on-one and small-group sessions are available in person and online: http://bit.ly/2uaz8RC.

CU Denver Counseling Center
The CU Denver Student and Community Counseling Center provides mental health counseling services to CU Denver students and the Denver community: http://bit.ly/2fg5ZSs.

The CLAS Media Learning Lab
Creative Consultants are on-site to answer questions about equipment and assist with crafting finished projects: 303.315.1932.

The CLAS Student Handbook
Please reference the student handbook (http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/) for more information on CU Denver Policies.

Student Code of Conduct
Carefully read the Student Code of Conduct: http://bit.ly/2MaaUUt.

Academic Calendar Important Dates:

- Last day to add a class or waitlist with UCD Access: **August 23rd, 2020**
- Last day to withdraw without $100.00 penalty: **August 24th, 2020**
- Waitlists are eliminated: **August 24th, 2020**
- Last day to withdraw from the course via UCD Access: **October 25th**
- More important dates can be found on the **academic calendar:** https://www.ucdenver.edu/student/registration-planning/academic-calendars/fall-2020

Syllabus Photo Credits

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