

# Writing and Editing in Print and Online

## ENG3416-01 – Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Stephen J. McElroy  
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Location: WMS 317  
Meeting Time: TR 9:30 – 10:45 AM

### Course Description

The primary purpose of Writing and Editing in Print and Online includes (1) helping students understand principles of composing, especially as they compare across different composing spaces; (2) writing for each of three spaces—print; screen; and network; (3) editing the texts deployed in each appropriately. To accomplish these goals, we'll engage with multiple kinds of texts—reading some, writing some, talking about some, creating digital forms of some. In all these processes, we'll be *developing a language* that we can use to describe those texts and interactions and to describe what happens to them and to us when we do this work. If we succeed in these efforts, you'll find that you are creating and reading texts differently; that you are much more informed about how others will read your texts; and that you bring a new theory and intentionality to your composing and editing.

### Course Goals/ Objectives

*During this course, you will:*

- Explore and learn theories of composing/designing and the rhetorical principles that guide the composing and designing of texts for different environments (in print and digital media)
- Develop complex understanding of contextual networks & assemblages within which we compose & are composed by texts as well as the networks within which texts, ideas, concepts, conventions, memes, etc. circulate
- Employ these theories and principles to create works appropriate to various media, including print, screen, and network
- Develop a metacognitive awareness of rhetorical principles that enables you to understand how these works can be re-purposed for new environments
- Compose with and against styles conventionalized within different genres

### Course Requirements

This is one of three core courses for the Editing, Writing, and Media English major, and as such, it helps provide a foundation for your major. To develop this foundation, you will read a good bit, and you will practice and reflect even more. You will develop *praxis*—practice informed by theory. You will read and create many kinds of texts and then consider how they are alike and how they are different. The class will allow you to explore many of your own relevant interests and to engage with others in some of those explorations.

## Course materials/things you need

The majority of the texts we read will be found in the course library of our Blackboard site. You'll need those, and you'll also need a laptop, internet connectivity, and frequent/regular email access.

## Major Assignments

You must complete each of the following projects in order to pass the class, and you must complete them using your own original work. More details for each assignment will be provided when the time comes—the element of surprise can a useful pedagogical tool.

### Written

*Review essay:* You will write a 800-word review of a creative work

*Assemblage essay:* 800-word essay; description forthcoming

*Creator/creation profile:* You will write a 3000-word analytical profile of a creative worker or creative work

### Designed/Composed

*Creative design:* You will create a design for a poster, album cover, book cover, or some other creative work

*Remediation:* You will remediate one of the three written works into a new medium

*Electronic portfolio:* You will compile your work and present it in an online setting.

## Minor Assignments (MINAGs)

Minor assignments include reading responses and other short activities; these will not be accepted late.

## Grading Breakdown

Review Essay	10
Assemblage Essay	10
Profile	20
Creative Design	15
Remediation	20
ePortfolio	15
Minor Assignments	10

## Late Work

-- Major assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each day late.

## Attendance

-- Attendance in this class is a requirement.

-- You are allowed two unexcused absences. Each additional absence will result in a three-point deduction from your final grade.

- Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.
- Students with more than four absences will be in danger of failing.
- Three tardies equal one absence.

### Class Participation

Participation in class is a must because not only your experience but also the experiences of everyone else in the class are dependent on it. Engaging in class discussions with civility and what D.F. Wallace calls the 'democratic spirit,' asking informed questions, and being active in group activities are all important measures of participation.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is grounds for suspension from the university as well as for failure in this course. It will not be tolerated. Any instance of plagiarism will be reported to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Plagiarism is a counterproductive, non-writing behavior that is unacceptable in a course intended to aid the growth of individual writers. Plagiarism is included among the violations defined in the Academic Honor Code, section b), paragraph 2, as follows: "Regarding academic assignments, violations of the Academic Honor Code shall include representing another's work or any part thereof, be it published or unpublished, as one's own."

### Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

### Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center  
97 Woodward Avenue, South  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

### **Final Note**

As your instructor, I am committed to helping you achieve the course objectives. As such, I encourage you to see me during office hours, to schedule appointments with me when needed, and to contact me via email with any questions you might have. I am here to help you succeed. I am also here to foster a collaborative learning environment within the classroom, one in which we will work together both to learn the principles of rhetoric, communication, and design and to use those principles to create texts that are reflective of your individual interests and passions. I will bring my curiosity and enthusiasm to the class, and I ask that you do the same.

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.