

New Course Proposal

English 269: Digital Media Composing

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NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

English 269 is a writing course that will introduce students to the ways in which textual production is being transformed by digital composing technologies. The course will teach students to analyze digital media texts that combine alphabetic writing, images, video, sound, animation, and interactivity. However, its primary instructional goal is to teach students to compose these texts using digital media technologies. Placing “new” and “old” media in dialogue, students will study the ways in which emergent digital media technologies both draw upon and transform established forms and practices of textual production. Through their production work, students will gain a deeper understanding of the complex rhetorical choices that digital media authors face in diverse contexts. By combining analysis and production, students will be able to participate critically in ongoing public conversations about digital textual practices while learning to situate digital technologies and texts in terms of their social, ethical, and material implications in the contemporary moment.

COURSE RATIONALE

The University and the Department of English have a strong commitment to the use of digital media in teaching and research and to the area of digital media studies. Scholars and students throughout the academy are increasingly reading and composing digital media texts as part of their work. Reflecting this trend, Ohio State recently opened the Digital Union, a digital media production space for faculty and students across the university. The Department of English has benefited greatly from the University’s BETHA and tuition-set-aside grant programs that have allowed us to create exciting technology projects. Furthermore, the Department dedicates significant resources to the Digital Media Project where graduate students and faculty can find instructional support and advanced technologies that will allow them to explore digital media in their work. Digital media have also had an influence on the department’s curriculum. Expanding beyond a sole focus on print texts, GEC courses like English 110 and 367 teach students to write analytically about visual texts, including websites and digital photos. English 569, Digital Media and English Studies, was added to the Department’s course offerings in 2000.

This course will serve our Department well in many ways. An introductory course in digital media composing will complement our already established commitment in this area and will parallel other 200- and 300-level writing courses we already offer (poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, business/professional writing). This course will also allow students to discover and initially explore a focused interest in digital media studies, an area of study that is becoming increasingly significant to them. Our current offering in digital media studies, English 569, is an

upper level seminar that allows faculty and students to examine the theory and praxis of English studies and the emergent technologies that are used to acquire and create knowledge in the discipline. Currently, primarily English majors enroll in this class. English 269 would not necessarily serve as an introduction to English 569. Instead, it is a writing course where the primary concentration is on creating digital texts. We expect to attract students from across the university with this course. Of course, like many of our 200-level classes, we hope that English 269 will attract new majors to the Department and will alert students early in the major to offerings of English 569. Also important to note is that English 569 has, from the start, been an exceptionally popular class, where waiting lists for the course are often as long as the enrollment limits; we expect this 200-level class to be equally popular among students across the curriculum. Once this course is approved, we will submit it to the GEC review committee, proposing that it meet 5.B.2 (Arts and Humanities, Analysis of Texts and Works of Art, Visual/Performing Arts). We will also submit it, along with English 569, to the College of Education for approval to fulfill the pre-ed requirement of “five hours in film/media studies.” Finally, a 200-level course in digital media studies would provide our graduate students an opportunity to teach in an area that is of great interest to them. (Graduate students who complete an English 903 with an English 569 professor have no opportunity to teach the subject matter at the 200 level.)

COURSE OFFERINGS BULLETIN

A writing course where students analyze and compose digital media texts while studying complex forms and practices of textual production.

COURSE SYLLABI

(See attached documents)