

# English 380, Special Topics

## New Media Creative Writing

Fall 2014      Course & Section: ENGL      T/R 4:00pm-5:15pm  
CRN: 80170      Location: PL 216      Office Hours: 1pm-2:15pm or by  
Appointment

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### The College Mission Statement

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

### The College Core Themes

Liberal Arts, Professional Preparedness, Entrepreneurial Thinking, Sustainability

### Course Description

Just ten years ago, people said that the Internet would make books disappear. Turns out those people were seriously wrong! But the question remains: how has the rise of new technologies affected the work creative writers produce? In this class, we will explore how New Media, from Podcasting to Arduino programming to broken Gifs to novels written on Twitter, has made literature engage with screens, audio technology, and sometimes robotics. We will produce writing intended to engage with a new technologies and new readerships in challenging and inventive ways. The class doesn't require previous experience with programming or other new media, but it does require an ability to think about what reading and writing mean in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### Expectations

Students will be active class participants, showing respect to all members of the class. Students will review student handbook policies on plagiarism and will present only their own work to our community. Students will do their best work, and will communicate with the instructor if having difficulties.

### Technology in the Classroom

This class will be focused on the use of technology, so you can use your devices, though we'll need to talk about distraction...

### Moodle and Turnitin.com

I will be using Moodle to provide you with the syllabus, course assignments, and to send periodic emails to you. Please sign up by the end of the first week of class.

All final drafts of your assignments will be submitted via Turnitin.com, with the exception of online work.

### Required Reading:

*The Silent History*, Horowitz, *Moffet*, *Derby* (available on the iTunes Store)

Course Packet on Moodle

Various Websites

### Grading Policy

Exercises	100 pts
Class Participation	100 pts
Annotated Bibliography	100 pts
Final Presentation	100 pts
Final Project	100 pts

**Total** **500 pts**

### **Seminar Days**

In general, we will focus on reading one or two pieces by published authors, looking primarily at technique but discussing content and subject matter as necessary.

Seminars include short lectures, discussions, in-class work, and demonstrations of technique. Occasionally, some time on seminar days will be online reading time, in which we'll spend time browsing in the web, and reading whatever we find interesting, all for the sake of increasing our sense of what and how we read online.

### **Workshop Days**

We will look at three "drafts" on workshop days. Each piece up for workshop will be assigned a first reader who is responsible for initiating the discussion.

Drafts for workshop will be submitted, via the class blog, the Tuesday before your workshop.

### **Course Evaluation**

#### **Exercises and Drafts, 100pts**

In this course, you'll complete 5 formal exercises worth 20 points each. These exercises will focus on learning about how to use digital media to produce literature – from writing Twitter short stories to writing and producing a brief podcast.

#### **Class Participation, 100pts**

In this class, participation means being prepared for class. There will be occasional seminar days, in which we'll explore the history and themes of a given genre. On seminar days, you must READ and ANNOTATE the poems up for discussion. Thursdays are workshop days: on Thursdays, you must READ and COMMENT upon the drafts up for workshop. This grade may include reading quizzes if you guys stop doing the reading. Don't let it come to this. If you want to write, you have to read, so don't be ignorant, be rad. Please, for the sake of your future readers.

#### **Annotated Bibliography, 100 pts**

The Annotated Bibliography is a way for you to comprehensively review the literature on a specific aspect of digital literature. For example, you might compile a set of articles on Amazon's approach to the conventional book industry, or you might give the reader an overview of online only literary magazines.

#### **Final Presentation, 100pts**

The presentation will be a way to present your work in progress as you complete your final project – the presentation will be 15-20 minutes, including a Q&A session with your classmates.

#### **Final Project , 100pts**

The final project will be a New Media Creative Writing project in a Medium of your choice. This project will be evaluated on the way it integrates Creative Writing into a specifically New Media context. As the culminating work of the semester, I expect this project to be amazing and novel. Can you dig it?

### **Prim Library Resources**

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

## Attendance

Class participation 100 points. If you aren't in class consistently, you will not be available to participate. Needless to say, I expect you to attend class consistently. I take this as a matter of mutual respect. I will always be on time, and I expect the same from you. If you miss more than **THREE** days of class you may be subject to a lower grade or fail the class entirely.

## Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism: The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

## Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** Student is expelled.

## ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu) or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

## The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year. Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

## Tentative Course Schedule

Note: This schedule provides a general plan for this course. Alterations may be necessary and students will be informed when changes in assignments are made. Students are responsible for the material covered and announcements made during all classes.

## Week 1: Introductions, Syllabus, a Little Bit of Uh-Huh and a Whole Lot of Oh Yeah.

*A few ideas about writing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, including a definition of New Media.*

## **Week 2: Writing for Screens**

*What is Print Culture? Alberto Manguel, Eric Havelock, and the history of reading and books*

## **Week 3: Writing for Screens**

*Exercise 1: Review: Online Literary Magazines*

## **Week 4: Writing for Screens**

## **Week 5: Writing for Screens**

*Exercise 2: Just who is the online reader?*

## **Week 6: Writing for Ears**

## **Week 7: Writing for Ears**

*Exercise 3: The Five Minute Podcast*

## **Week 8: Transmedia Weirdos**

*Exercise 4: Working with Maps*

*The Silent History*

## **Week 9: Transmedia Weirdos**

*The Silent History*

## **Week 10: Putting it all Together – Speaking, Power Point, Pecha Kucha: The Persistence of the Human Voice**

*Tan Lin:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfFK3leB9Ww&index=12&list=PL1079252034A21E60>*

*Haraway, The Cyborg Manifesto:*

*<http://www.egs.edu/faculty/donna-haraway/articles/donna-haraway-a-cyborg-manifesto/>*

## **Week 11: Transmedia Weirdos**

*Exercise 5: Multiplatform Worlds / Are Videogames Art?*

## **Week 12: Final Project Workshops**

*In Class work/Critiques*

## **Week 13: Final Project Workshops**

*In Class work/Critiques*

## **Week 14: Final Project Workshops**

*In Class work/Critiques*

## **Week 15: Presentations**

## **Week 16: Presentation**