

ENG 602 - Electronic Research, Writing, and Editing

Meeting Times:

THR, 7:00 – 9:50 p.m.

Meeting Rooms:

McIver 139A

McIver 231

Contact Information

Instructor:

Ted Savides

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(336) 436-8246 (on week days)

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Office Hours:

By arrangement.

Course Description and Goals

This course has a strong interdisciplinary emphasis: We will survey the broad and vital field of cognition studies, examining the parts that both computer technology and the humanities play within those studies. Having established this context, we will go on to explore how the theory and application of computer technology relate to the study of language, rhetoric, composition and literature, and reflect upon ethical, social, and philosophical issues raised by such technologies.

At the conclusion of this course, you should:

- Have an understanding of the part the humanities play in the history and ongoing research involved with cognitive studies and computers.
- Have ideas for applying findings from cognitive and computer research to your own scholarly activities.
- Have ideas for applying findings from cognitive and computer research to your own pedagogic activities.
- Have experience in planning and conducting a panel discussion.
- Have developed a web site for professional promotion and activity.

Required Texts

The Mind's New Science – Gardner.

Cybernetics – Wiener.

The Computer and the Brain – von Neumann.

Godel, Escher, Bach – Hofstadter.

Passions, Pedagogies, and 21st Century Technologies - Hawisher & Selfe.

Macromedia Dreamweaver for Windows & Macintosh – Towers.

Course Requirements & Evaluation Criteria

I will base each student's course grade upon his or her performance on the following tasks and responsibilities. The weight that a requirement holds in my determination of each student's final grade appears in **(bolded parenthetical text)**.

1. Weekly attendance.

- ✓ Class starts at 7:00 p.m. sharp. Any student who is more than ten minutes late for any given class - and does not have a valid excuse - will be marked absent for that day.
- ✓ Students are allowed one unexcused class absence for the semester. Additional absences will result in the student's final grade being lowered ½ grade per additional absence.

2. Commitment to the seminar process (30%).

I evaluate student participation by the following criteria:

- ✓ The degree of energy & enthusiasm with which the student participates in the seminar process.
- ✓ The degree to which a student actively, openly, and supportively listens to the ideas of his or her colleagues.
- ✓ The degree to which a student avoids behavior that bullies, alienates, or silences other seminar participants.

I expect that you will keep up with assigned readings, and come to class ready to participate. Consequently, be prepared for me to call on you during class discussions.

3. Weekly response paper & question for discussion (30%).

- ✓ I expect each of you to submit a paper that responds in some way to the previous week's readings.
- ✓ This paper should be 2-3 three typed & double-spaced pages long.
- ✓ Along with the response paper, I want each of you to submit at least one question, relative to the previous week's readings, that you want the class to discuss.

4. A web page (15%).

I expect that each of you will develop a web page that contains the following:

- ✓ A link to the student's curriculum vita.
- ✓ A link to a list of the student's publications-to-date.
- ✓ A link to a list of the student's conference presentations to date.
- ✓ A link to a list & description of the student's research interests.
- ✓ An attractive, professional site format.
- ✓ Presentation of your site to the class on a prearranged class day.

5. Panel discussion (15%).

- ✓ I expect that each of you will work with three or four colleagues to examine one of the four sections in *Passions, Pedagogies, and 21st Century Technologies*.
- ✓ I encourage you to use a variety of theoretical and pedagogical approaches (even within the same panel).
- ✓ Two hours of class time will be allotted for your panel & any ancillary activities that you may have planned for the class.
- ✓ Panel participants will be evaluated according to the criteria described under "Commitment to the seminar process".

6. Comprehensive final exam (10%).

- ✓ The exam will be open book & note. Otherwise, it will be analogous to the "Comp" exam that English graduate students at UNCG take.
- ✓ You will be given the opportunity to suggest exam questions two weeks before the exam.
- ✓ The exam will consist of five questions. You will be asked to write on two of them.

I will evaluate your answers according one or both of the following criteria (depending on the question being answered):

- ✓ Demonstration that you have a general understanding of the ideas that we studied and discussed during the semester.
- ✓ Demonstration of interdisciplinarity - relating ideas studied during the semester with your own scholarly and pedagogical concerns.

Tentative Course Schedule**January**

- 16** Introductions.
23 *Gardner*, Chapters 1 – 5.
30 *Gardner*, Chapters 6 – 9.

February

- 06** *Gardner*, Chapters 10 -14.
13 *Wiener*.
20 *von Neumann*.
27 *Hofstadter*, chapters Intro. – 4.

March

- 06** *Hofstadter*, chapters 5 – 9.
13 Spring Break.
20 *Hofstadter*, chapters 10 – 14.

27 *Hofstadter*, chapters 15 – 18.

April

03 *Hofstadter*, chapters 19 – 20.

10 *Hawisher & Selfe*, Intro. and Part 1.
Panel discussion #1.
Web page presentations.

17 *Hawisher & Selfe*, Part 2.
Panel discussion #2.
Web page presentations.

24 *Hawisher & Selfe*, Part 3.
Panel discussion #3.
Web page presentations.

May

01 *Hawisher & Selfe*, Part 4.
Panel discussion #4.
Web page presentations.
Turn in suggested final exam question (optional).

08 No class.

13 Final exam.