

Intro to Texts and Technology

ENG 6800 – 0001

Dr. Mel Stanfill

Fall 2017

Office: OTC 500, Room 129

Office Hours: M 10-12

W 12-2

Th 2-4

and by appointment

Contact: mel.stanfill@ucf.edu

or via Webcourses

Mondays 6-8:50pm

Visual Arts Building, Room 107

3 Units

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the PhD in Texts and Technology. Emphasis on interdisciplinarity, understanding academic fields and their relationships to each other, developing an academic identity, and fundamentals of success for both graduate school and academia. PR: Graduate standing or C.I.

Course Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Explore the five tracks (digital humanities, digital media, public history, rhetoric and composition, scientific and technical communication) of Texts & Technology through analysis and discussion of core texts.
- Learn about the numerous interdisciplinary fields that inform and influence the field of texts and technology.
- Become familiar with some core concepts that will recur throughout the T&T program, and which form the theoretical basis and backbone of the program.
- Be introduced to some of the basic concerns, concepts, and methods in the emerging interdisciplinary scholarship of Texts and Technology.
- Engage in scholarly conversation about the course texts and concepts they take up, in the process improving interpretation, writing, design, and argumentation skills.
- Become more familiar with program policies and expectations as well as professional presentation and publication strategies.

Required Texts

Bogost, Ian *Persuasive Games: The Expressive Power of Video Games*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2007.

Bolter, J. David *Writing Space: Computers, Hypertext, and the Remediation of Print*. 2nd ed. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 2001.

Gold, Matthew K., Lauren Klein (eds.) *Debates in the Digital Humanities*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016 .

Klein, Julie Thompson *Interdisciplining Digital Humanities: Boundary Work in an Emerging Field*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2015.

Kuhn, Thomas S. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Selber, Stuart *Multiliteracies for a Digital Age*. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2004.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading Scale

A	=	94-100	B-	=	80-83	D+	=	68-69
A-	=	90-93	C+	=	78-79	D	=	64-67
B+	=	88-89	C	=	74-77	D-	=	60-63
B	=	84-87	C-	=	70-73	F	=	0-59

Assignments

100 points 10x Weekly Exams Summary

In 10 weeks of their choice, students will write a 1-page memo summarizing the required readings as if for a candidacy exam. This is due 3 hours before class time to allow me to review them.

300 points Twine Literature Review Due September 25

Using Twine (<https://twinery.org/>) you will produce a project that summarizes thought in a particular field and shows connections between scholars. This could be starting from a key text and following citation forward and backward; it could be tracing a concept through different thinkers; there are many possible formats, but the project must use at least 7 scholarly articles.

150 points Funding Search Due October 30

Students will use the PIVOT database to find 3-5 funding opportunities that might be applicable to a proposed project of their choice and submit a list annotated with a brief description of how their research applies.

150 points Sample Grant Proposal Due October 30

Using Dr. Karen's Foolproof Grant Template (<https://theprofessorisin.com/2011/07/05/dr-karens-foolproof-grant-template/>), students will write a 5-page sample grant proposal that locates a proposed project of their choice in a scholarly context, explains what they will do and why it matters, and attempts to persuade the reader that funding them will advance knowledge.

300 points Mock Candidacy Examination Due December 4

During the final class meeting (November 27), students will receive two mock exam questions which they will have a week to answer in 6 pages each. These questions are to be answered on the basis of readings from this course and other courses; students should not undertake new reading.

1000 points Total

Assignment Policies

- During the first week, there is a required **Academic Activity Verification**, due August 25 by 11:59pm.
 - Faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. To document that you began this course, please complete the Academic Activity Verification by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.
- **Grades will be reported via Webcourses.**
- **I do not accept late work.** All work must be turned in on time. If you have a situation that prevents you from being able to turn work in on time, you must ask for an extension before the due date.
 - Extension requests must be made in writing, with a clear explanation and documentation of the problem preventing you from making the due date and a clear proposed date for when you will be able to turn in the assignment.
- All work that you submit for this class must be your own, and it must be written exclusively for this course. Also, any sources consulted for your writing must be properly documented. "Rewriting," in which a student consults a source, changes a few words, and presents the ideas as his/her own, is plagiarism. **Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment** and may also lead to an "F" for the entire course. Plagiarism and cheating subjects a student to referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>).
- The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable **accommodations for persons with disabilities**. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons, Bldg. F7, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, sas@ucf.edu, before requesting accommodations.

Weekly Schedule

Week	Date	Reading	Assignment
1	August 21	1. Klein Intro, 1, 2 2. Gold and Klein Intro, 5, 38, 50	Academic Activity Verification
2	August 28	1. Kuhn pp. 1-91 2. Gold and Klein 1 John Venecek visit	
3	September 4	Labor Day	
4	September 11	1. Kuhn pp: 92-172 2. Gold and Klein 8, 23	
5	September 18	1. Selber Part 1 2. Other TBD	
6	September 25	1. Selber Part 2 2. Other TBD Josh Roney visit	Twine Literature Review
7	October 2	1. Bolter Part 1 2. Other TBD	

8	October 9	1. Bolter Part 2 2. Other TBD	
9	October 16	1. Bogost 1 2. Other TBD	
10	October 23	1. Bogost 2 2. Other TBD Faculty Panel #1: Digital Humanities	
11	October 30	1. TBD Faculty Panel #2: Rhetoric and Composition	Funding Search and Grant Proposal
12	November 6	1. TBD Faculty Panel #3: Digital Media	
13	November 13	1. TBD Faculty Panel #4: Public History	
14	November 20	1. TBD Faculty Panel #5: Scientific and Technical Communication	
15	November 27	1. Klein 3-6 2. Other TBD	
16	December 4	No class meeting	Mock Exam