



## ENG 30050 COURSE SYLLABUS

**Slightly Revised: 1/20/2019**

### Spring 2019

**First Day of Classes:** January 14, 2019  
**Last Day to Add:** January 20, 2019  
**Last Day to Drop:** January 27, 2019  
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:** January 21, 2019  
**Last Day to Withdraw ("W" grade):** March 24, 2019  
**Midterm Grades Available:** March 6, 2019  
**Spring Break:** March 25-31, 2019  
**Last Day of Classes:** May 5, 2019  
**Final Grades Available:** May 16, 2019

**Dr. Carol L. Robinson**

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**Website:** <http://www.cyberspacerobinson.org/>

**Office Phone:** 330-675-8907

**Office:** Room 128D

**Office Hours:** 11:30am to 1:30pm, Tuesdays

**Appointments for Online Real-time Text Conferences**

**(KSU Google Chat):** Times vary and are strictly by appointment. See the sign-up sheets available online in the course location in Blackboard.

### Required Course Materials

- You *must* have consistent use of a **reliable computer**. **Computer technology issues are not a valid excuse for missed or delayed work.**
- You *must* have reliable **Internet access**. **Internet access issues are not a valid excuse for missed or delayed work.**
- You are not required to purchase any books or software (though you may be encouraged to do a few free trials); all materials have been provided for you (located at the top of each lesson).

### Course Descriptions

**Course Catalog Description:** Writing course with a focus on learning and using a variety of tools available within contemporary digital composing environments. Prerequisite: ENG 21011 or HONR 10297.

**Specific Course Focus:** This writing course focuses on learning and using a variety of digital tools, from desk-top publishing and e-books to merging media online. Tools for the following types of digital media will be explored: document construction, video construction, image construction, audio construction. We will focus on ways that these media converge. We will also address accessibility and copyright issues. Finally, we will explore the ways that written expressions have been affected by the Digital Age. This course is a hybrid: half online, half on-land. There will be five short writing projects and one large project. Creativity will be encouraged but not required. Any writer of the 21st century needs this course.

### Learning Outcomes

- Understand appropriate rhetorical usage and differences for a wide variety of media, as well as combinations of media (multimodal, multimedia).
- Develop basic skills for at least the following:
  - document construction
  - video construction from/with/for writing and rhetoric
  - image construction from/with/for writing and rhetoric
  - audio construction from/with/for writing and rhetoric.



- Develop an appreciation for the variety of formats for the variety of media (e.g., the different formats for documents, such as docx, txt, html, etc.).
- Develop skills for appreciating legal issues, such as the importance of privacy and security, the differences between copyright and fair use, and the dangers of defamation, libel, and slander.
- Develop skills for building a blog.
- Develop skills for building a web site.
- Develop skills for understanding the differences between a static web page and a dynamic web page.
- Develop skills for understanding the basic concepts of content management systems (CMS).
- Explore the ways that digital writing and rhetoric both interact and collide with other digital expressions.
- Gain an understanding for why WYSIWYG is a lie.
- Gain an understanding between: proprietary software, open-source proprietary software, open-source free software.
- Develop an appreciation for the advantages and disadvantages of various social media (Twitter, FaceBook, Blackboard Learn, . . .).
- Appreciate what it means to hold private and public discourse in the World Wide Web.
- Explore creative ways of using digital technology for rhetorical and other writing purposes for larger applications (e.g., the UNICORN Virtual Museum).

## Student Responsibilities

- Read this Course Syllabus and the Course Plan—carefully.
- Follow all directions completely.
- Come prepared for class.
- Complete all lesson follow-up materials, and complete all assignments.
- Manage time wisely, including computer and Internet access.



## Instructor Availability and Response Time

*I'm here for you. If you work hard, I will work hard to help you.*

- Feel free to email me whenever you have questions or concerns (clrobins@kent.edu). As a rule, I respond rather quickly to emails, often within the same hour. If you email me over the weekend (Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon), I am likely to respond less quickly, but will do so by the end of the weekend. **Please allow for at least 72 hours response time.**
- I am frequently available for online conferences (text-chat) via KSU Google Chat. Feel free to sign up for a conference appointment; you do not have to wait for your mandatory conference appointment.
- I am in my office on Tuesdays, 11:30-1:30.



## Course Assignments

### UNICORN Virtual Museum Exhibit Research Project (20%)

- Part I—Proposal (2.5%)
- Part II—Revised Proposal & Annotated Bibliography (2.5%)
- Part III—First Draft Report (5%)
- Part IV—Final Draft Report (10%)

### UNICORN Virtual Museum Exhibit Project (35%)

- Part I—Rough Draft Exhibit Design (2.5%)
- Part II—Final Draft Exhibit Design (2.5%)
- Part III—Rough Draft Built Exhibit (5%)
- Part IV—First Completed Draft Built Exhibit (5%)
- Part V—Final Completed Draft Built Exhibit (10%)
- Part VI—Evaluation of Peer's Work (5%)
- Part VII—Analysis of Own Work: Research into Practice (5%)

### Exercises (35%)

- Digital Documents (2.5%)
- Blogging Tools (5%)
- Web Page Tools (5%)
- Presentation Tools (2.5%)
- Image Tools (2.5%)
- Video Tools (2.5%)
- Audio Tools (2.5%)
- The Multimedia, Multimodal Rhetorical Experience (2.5%)
- Reading Response Paper #1 (5%)
- Reading Response Paper #2 (5%)

### Mandatory Conferences (10%)

Twice during the semester, you will be required to meet with me *in my office*. You may also meet with me to make up a missed conference, or for additional help, but the lost points for failing to meet during that Mandatory Conference Week will not be regained. Each conference is worth 50 points (5%).

### A Note on Due Dates

All forum work for each week must be completed by 11:59pm (U.S. EST) of the Monday of that week. **No forum work for a particular week will be evaluated if it is posted after the Monday deadline.** Late work for essay and research project assignments will be accepted, but for each day that the work is late, the grade for that assignment will go down 3 points (with the lowest grade for submitted work being no lower than an F). **NOTE: This point deduction is regardless of how much the assignment is worth! Any work submitted more than 10 days after the deadline, or any work submitted at any time after the final due date of the semester (even if it is less than 10 days after), will not be counted (will receive a ZERO for the grade).**

### A Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's thoughts, words, drawings,... without giving that person due credit. Even if you use only a tiny part of that person's expression, you must give credit for that expression. Plagiarism carries a variety of sanctions, ranging from lowering of a grade to dismissal from the university. For more information, see Administrative policy regarding student cheating and plagiarism ([http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel\\_datapageid\\_1976529=2037779](http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel_datapageid_1976529=2037779)).

## Students with Disabilities

University policy 3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit [www.kent.edu/sas](http://www.kent.edu/sas) for more information on registration procedures).

## Policy on Children in Class and/or Student Conferences

This is not an official university policy; this is a policy for my classes only! While it is preferred that you do not bring your child to class, I understand that childcare arrangements can sometimes be difficult. If you need to bring your child or children to class, this is acceptable. Breastfeeding is permissible. Children should come with toys or something to do, to help them keep from being too distracted. Note: I always have stickers to give out for good behavior. Please sit near the door in case your child needs special attention. If you need to bring your child or children to my office for our mandatory conference, this is also acceptable—and by the way, I have a clean rug and lots of toys in my office. I ask that other students be patient with children being in the class.

## Special Registration and Withdrawal Notices:

The official registration deadline for this course is **January 20, 2019**. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline. The last day to withdraw, receiving a W for a grade, is **March 24, 2019**.

## Course Grades

All assignments will be weighted according to the percentage value. All assignments will be evaluated on a 100 point scale as follows:

LETTER GRADE	100 Point Scale	50 Point Scale	25 Point Scale	FINAL GRADE Conversion
A	100-95	50	25	4.0
A-	94-90	46	---	3.7
B+	89-87	44	---	3.3
B	86-85	42	23	3.0
B-	84-80	41	---	2.7
C+	79-77	39	---	2.3
C	76-75	37	20	2.0
C-	74-70	36	---	1.7
D+	69-67	34	---	1.3
D	66-65	33	17	1.0
D-	64-60	31	---	***
F	55	28	14	0.0

**NOTES:** No grade ever goes above 100; likewise, no graded work ever goes below 55 points; however, if an assignment is never submitted, or is submitted too late to be graded, it will receive ZERO points. **If your final course score is 63 or 62, you will earn a D for the course; if your final course score is 61 or 60, you will earn an F for the course.**

**GRADING RUBRICS will be provided with each set of assignments.**

