FYS 101S: Erickson School/Freshman Year Seminar
*Much in common: intergenerational teams create videos
about identity and wisdom*
Tuesdays, 1-4pm

<u>Syllabus</u>

Course Description

This course explores common themes in both adolescence and aging, stages in life that
can transform a person's sense of identity. In intergenerational teams, students will
explore changes in their identities by producing video stories together that will focus on
common threads, shared insights and lessons about growth. The narrative collaboration
will offer opportunities for empathy and broadening of perspective, and participants will
gain wisdom about creating identity in times of change.

Readings & Resources:

There is no required text to purchase for this course. However, a variety of required
readings will be assigned and provided by the instructor. Students may also be asked to
find readings about identity to share with the class.

Representative List of Resources
     Websites:
     Story Corps http://storycorps.org/listen/
     University of Houston, Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling
http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/storyboarding.html
     Center for Digital Storytelling www.storycenter.org
     Media Bistro: How to create video storytelling that actually tells a story
http://www.mediabistro.com/10000words/how-to-create-video-storytelling-that_b389

     Books:
     Isay, Dave. Listening is an act of love. Penguin, 2008
     Lambert, Joe. Digital Storytelling: Capturing Lives, Creating Community. Digital
     Diner Press, 2009

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- Analyze narratives for stories of identity development
- Create digital stories
- Produce a short digital video

- Write about their lives to demonstrate an understanding of identity development
- Interview a person and write a script of their story

Assessments:

- Participation in discussions about narratives of identity
- **Personal Digital Storytelling Exercise** - This is an individual project. Each student will develop a personally reflective digital story following the process detailed in Lambert's *Digital Storytelling: Capturing Lives, Creating Community.*
- **Collaborative Digital Story Exercise** – Students will each be paired with an individual outside of the class to produce a digital story based on the experience of the participant. The participant will be the author of the story while the student will facilitate the production. These stories will be collaborative works. As such, the projects will require ongoing interaction between author and producer.
- **"Story Booth" Video** – Students will produce a video interview shot in UMBC's studio. This will consist of a reflective conversation with their production partner based on themes covered during the semester.

*****

Class Session Outline

1. Sept. 6: Introduction to narratives of identity [Ronch], Introduction to digital storytelling; Seven elements of digital storytelling [Studio staff] ECS336

2. Sept. 13: Story Circle for Personal Digital Story; Final Cut Express tutorial
   Assignment: Essay due, discussion of themes; Personal Digital Story script due
   [Studio staff] ECS336

3. Sept. 20: Final Cut tutorial; record voiceover; working with visual media; Photoshop tutorial
   Assignment: come prepared with images and other media for editing.
   [Studio staff] ECS336

4. Sept: 27: Production Lab, Photoshop Tutorial
   Assignment: Essay due
   [Studio staff] ECS336

5. Oct. 4: Production Lab, Photoshop Tutorial
   Assignment: Complete personal digital story
   [Studio staff] ECS336
6. Oct. 11: Class meeting with Seniors – Introductions and Story Circle
   [Ronch & Studio staff] Charlestown w/ Seniors

7. Oct. 18: Digital storytelling Production Lab, assign production teams, finalize script, Record voiceover
   [Ronch & Studio staff] Charlestown w/ Seniors

8. Oct. 25: Digital storytelling
   Class showing of digital stories, critique, exploration
   [Studio staff] ECS336 w/ Seniors

9. Nov. 1: Narratives and Identity
   De-brief of the digital storytelling show, examination of themes, successes and failures of portrayal.
   Assignment: Critique of another team's digital story
   [Studio staff] ECS336 w/ Seniors

10. Nov. 8: "Story booth" video interviews
    Partner pairs will work on interviewing each other
    Assignment: Come prepared with draft interview questions
    [Ronch & Studio staff] Charlestown w/ Seniors

11. Nov. 15: "Story booth" video interviews
    Storyboard session, sharing planning with class
    Assignment: Come with your storyboard roughed out and prepared to talk class through the flow of your video interview
    [Studio staff] Charlestown w/ Seniors

12. Nov. 22: "Story booth" video interviews
    Production lab 1; editing the interview
    Assignment: TBD
    [Studio staff] Charlestown w/ Seniors

13. Nov. 29: "Story booth" video interviews
    Production lab 2; editing the interview
    Assignment: TBD
    [Studio staff] ECS336

14. Dec. 6: "Story booth" video interviews
    [Studio staff] ECS336

15. Dec 13: Final Presentations