

ENGL 6344 - Rhetoric in Digital Environments – DRAFT

Course Description

If rhetorics are expressions of both self and relationality, and they involve acts to force, produce, or sustain relations, then what are such rhetorics within digitally networked environments? In ENGL 6344, we will survey scholarship in rhetoric and writing studies and science and technology studies that cover a range of critical theories and concerns. Before we study contemporary theories of digital rhetoric, we will historicize how our environment of computation, data, and interactivity came to be. From there, we will engage subfields in critical theories of race, gender, queerness, data, and algorithms, as well as theories of rhetoric at differently studied levels of ecology, activity, circulation, and mediation. Overall, we will identify and discuss prevalent theories that have sustained this field in addition to how digital rhetoricians apply such theories to their objects of inquiry.

Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Craft a historical purview of digital technologies in relationship to rhetoric;
- Articulate multidisciplinary theoretical positions about digital rhetoric;
- Explain and consider multiple methodological approaches to studying digital rhetoric; and
- Apply digital rhetorical theories to design and begin your own study.

(Potential) Texts

Benjamin, R. (2019). *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code*. Polity.

Brown, Jr., J. (2015). *Ethical Programs: Hospitality and the Rhetorics of Software*. University of Michigan Press.

Bucher, T. (2018). *If ... Then: Algorithmic Power and Politics*. Oxford UP.

Daniels, J. (2009). *Cyber Racism: White Supremacy Online and the New Attack on Civil Rights*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Eyman, D. (2015). *Digital Rhetoric: Theory, Method, and Practice*. University of Michigan Press.

Gallagher, J. (2020). *Update Culture and the Afterlife of Digital Writing*. Utah State UP.

Hayles, K. (2005). *My Mother was a Computer*. University of Chicago Press.

Kitchin & Dodge. (2011). *Code/Space*. MIT Press.

McIlwain, C. (2019). *Black Software: The Internet and Racial Justice, from the AfroNet to Black Lives Matter*. Oxford UP.

Wernimont, J. (2019). *Numbered Lives: Life and Death in Quantum Media*. MIT Press.

Selected scholarship yet to be determined.