

3225F 650: My Name is URL: Writing for the Web

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theory and practice of digital writing technologies. Topics covered include the production, management, and reception of digital texts; web writing style; hypertext and linking; authorship; copyright. Students

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### Discussion Board Posts and Wiki entries (10%)

This is where we have regular weekly conversations in the course for 10 weeks. Details on posting requirements are given on the next pages.

Two of these will be a collaborative wiki activity in the OWL Wiki space (not to be confused with Wikipedia). Instructions will be provided.

### Wikipedia Edits(5%), Evaluation of an Article (5%), and Article Creation (15%) Final version due November 28 (flexible to the last day of the term, though this date should be a target for you to space out the workload)

For several weeks during the term you will be editing and contributing to Wikipedia. Yes, really. This will involve making 1) small edits to existing articles (5%), evaluating an existing Wikipedia article (5%), entry (part of your discussion board participation) and completing your final article (15%). Ultimately, you will be either creating a new article or making substantial contributions to an existing entry in Wikipedia. Details will be provided.

### Hypertext essay (30%) Due October 17.

Write an essay (with intro, thesis, body, conclusion) on any topic **with a clear connection to the readings and content of the course** and smoothly incorporate hyperlinks to appropriate online content (examples, visuals, articles, etc.). The subject must be in some way related to writing and/or reading (communication) on the Web. Research your subject, provide new insights, explanations, or examples of approximately 4 double-spaced pages (1000 words), though this is a rough guideline. See **Assignments** for detailed instructions.

### Website Development (35%) Due Dec 8

Select a topic of interest to develop a website using software such as Dreamweaver or by using a premade template from a site like Wordpress, Webnode, Wix or Weebly (not Tumblr unless you create multiple pages and customize the template a lot!). If you use a pre-made template, you must sufficiently customize it to make it yours.

Add content to that site- you must have at least 5 pages/subpages (see **Assignments** for details). If not using a template site, you can use the free space allocated to you at Western to post your site (see instructions in **Course Information**), host it elsewhere. Very few if any students have taken this route in the past few years; most people use a template site already online. If you are using a Wordpress, Webnode or Wix site, hosting is provided already. You just make it live on the web.

## Assignment Format

Your essay is to be typed and double-spaced and submitted as .doc, .docx, or .rtf format. If you submit

You are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments submitted in case we need to discuss your writing and if you want to submit it for the annual Marie Smibert Writing Program Student Achievement Prizes in April.

## Attendance/Discussion Board/Wiki Participation



Obviously, we do not meet formally in a Distance Studies course. Therefore, attendance and participation on the Discussion Board (and in our case, Wiki) are intertwined. While online classes are generally asynchronous, they are not correspondence or self-paced. You must attend class (defined as logging into our OWL section and interacting, posting questions and thoughts) **at least once by Thursday** for a total of **two** (or more) separate posts per week (a week is defined as running from Monday to Sunday). **At least one post must be a reply/response to another student and at least one must respond to the main discussion question.** I will assign a weekly number grade from 0-10 based on whether you have fulfilled the posting requirements described in further detail below. 1) **quality of posting**, 2) **engagement** (frequency and number of posts made).

### 1) Quality of Posting

All posts on the Discussion Board must

- Contribute something meaningful to the board.
- Support your opinion with sufficient reasons or evidence.
- Display good grammar and organization.

Postings should not

- Contain disrespectful, insulting, or offensive language.
- Be excessively long (more than one screen length) or excessively short.
- Be unrelated to the forum topic.
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The use of racist or any language that works against the values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will not be tolerated.

### 2) Engagement

Two posts are required. Feel free to post more.

## Absence Policies

Attendance in class is required to improve as a writer. For an online class, attendance is considered and measured as your participation in the discussion forum activities. Here is the Writing Studies attendance policy in this class:

b [ c Á @ Á @ Á @ } á á & á @ Á ^ á ^ á / Á @ Á ^ & á } Á Á á á á | ^ Á Á @ Á & ! • ^ Á @ Á ! ^ Á Á ^ Á @ Á Á minimum posting requirements for three weeks where there is Discussion will result in your final grade in this course being reduced by 10%. Failure to meet the minimum posting requirements for four or more weeks where there is Discussion will result in your final grade being reduced by 15%.

This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. If you have good reasons for waiving an absence of one class meeting \* Á @ Á @ Á [ ~ Á Á á • Á Á @ Á @ Á ! • Á @ Á Á Á Á á • Á Á another class meeting) discuss these reasons with your instructor within one week of that absence. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, who may require documentation. V @ Á @ Á [ Á á @ } Á ] @ Á Á Á [ ~ Á • d ~ & ! • Á Á Á @ Á [ Á Á Á @ Á @ { { [ á @ } Á [ á @ Á [ , É

## Medical Accommodation Policy

Note: the official Western Accommodation Policy appears below. This is in effect but may be modified temporarily by the university during the academic year as conditions change.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive

testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

### **Academic Accommodation and Consideration**

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### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or more of the total grade for the course. The absence must be reported within 48 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

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Week 2 (Sep 20-26) Multimedia Writing

Wiki collaborative writing activity. The differences of writing for the Web (instructions given at start of week) This is participation item 2 of 10  
Think about a potential subject/ article you might

