FS 102
Academic Discourse II: Virtual Pen, Virtual Paper
Spring 2016
Bob Roos

http://cs.allegheny.edu/sites/rroos/fs102s2016

Syllabus

Instructor: Bob Roos
Office: Alden Hall 106

Office Hours:
Mon. 10–11:30 a.m.; 2:30–4 p.m.
Tues. 9–10:30 a.m.
Weds. 10–11:30 a.m.; 2:30–4 p.m.
Thur. 9–10:30 a.m.
and by appointment (use e-mail to request times outside my normal office hours)

Go to http://cs.allegheny.edu/sites/rroos/schedule.html to schedule office hour appointments. To schedule an appointment outside my regular office hours, please email me with your request.

Office phone: 814-332-2883 (on campus: extension 2883).
Email: rroos@allegheny.edu

Time and Place:
MWF 1:30–2:20 p.m., Alden 109

Textbook: Writing on the Wall: Social Media—The First 2,000 Years by Tom Standage. Bloomsbury, 2013.

Course Description.

An exploration of writing and reading with digital tools and media. We use Web design tools and related technologies to develop a professional-quality blog, compare and critique examples of online and print writing, and examine the effects of tools on form and content. Students lead discussions on these and other topics, write about their experiences in their blogs and in more traditional formal papers, and deliver several talks on issues related to digital texts and tools. This seminar develops written and oral communication skills with an emphasis on persuasive communication in an academic context.
Learning Objectives: The first four objectives are taken directly from the Allegheny College “First-Year/Sophomore (FS) Program” Web site at [http://sites.allegheny.edu/facultyresources/fsprogram/]

- To participate in a sustained conversation with other academic writers and speakers
- To generate a thesis that addresses a clearly defined problem
- To support a thesis with appropriate reading and evidence
- To communicate in progressively complex and nuanced ways

In addition, by the end of this course you should:

- understand the mechanics and art of creating a simple blog
- understand some of the underlying technologies of blogs (and the Web), including basic concepts of HTML, CSS, and at least one common blogging platform
- understand some of the implications of the shift from manual to digital reading and writing tools

Grading: (All percentages are approximate!)

- Participation (class discussions, in-class exercises, etc.) approx. 25%
- Informal writing and speaking assignments (blogging, Slack, group presentations, etc.) approx. 25%
- Formal writing assignments (three papers) approx. 30% (10% each)
- Formal speaking (two 6- to 8-minute prepared speeches) approx. 20% (10% each)

Attendance:

If you miss class for any reason (yes, even sleeping in or forgetting what day it is!), please explain your absence to me in writing (e.g., an email) as soon as you are able. Frequent or prolonged absences due to illness should be documented by the Health Center, the Dean of Students’ Office, or the office of Student Disability Services. If other circumstances arise that are beyond your control, please contact the Dean of Students office and explain the situation to them so that they can notify the instructors of your courses. Even if your reason for missing class would not be considered a justifiable excuse, please write to me and explain any absences.

Late Policy: Every assignment has a due date and time. Failure to hand in an assignment by the deadline will result in a late submission penalty. Assignments handed in within one week after the deadline will receive automatic grade reductions of 15% (in addition to any points deducted for errors). Assignments handed in within two weeks after the deadline, but not within one week, will receive automatic grade reductions of 30% (in addition to any points deducted for errors). Assignments will not be accepted more than two weeks past the deadline unless you can provide clear evidence of extenuating circumstances.
Late submission of assignments creates serious fairness issues for the members of the class who hand in their work on time; it is not fair or reasonable for someone to receive a non-zero grade on an assignment that is handed in weeks after everyone else has submitted their work. Any extenuating circumstances must be documented through the Learning Commons, Counseling Center, Dean of Students office, Health Center, or other appropriate source.

**Email:**

“The use of email is a primary method of communication on campus. ... All students are provided with a campus email account and address while enrolled at Allegheny and are expected to check the account on a regular basis.” [p. 9, *The Compass Student Handbook 2015–2016*]

I will sometimes need to send out announcements to the class with things such as clarifications, changes in the schedule, or other matters. I will use your Allegheny College email account to do this. It is your responsibility to check your email (I suggest at least once a day) and to make certain that your email is working correctly (able to send and receive messages).

**Special Needs and Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at (814) 332-2898. SDS is part of the Learning Commons and is located in Pelletier Library. Please do this as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

**Honor Code:**

All students enrolled at Allegheny College are bound by the Honor Code. It is expected that your behavior will reflect that commitment.

On all documents handed in for a grade, whether submitted in hard copy or electronically, you must have your name at the beginning of the document, followed by the words:

This work is mine unless otherwise cited.

If the document is submitted in hard-copy form, you should also include a hand-written signature after the honor code pledge.

If your document does not include both your name and the Honor Code pledge, it will be returned to you ungraded and you will need to resubmit it (most likely incurring a late penalty).
### Important Dates

Note: only the due dates for *final* versions of major assignments are given; however, various components of these (drafts, bibliographies, revisions, practice speeches, etc.) will be due at various times during the semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment/Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 5 February</td>
<td>First paper due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of 8 February</td>
<td>Informal speaking assignment (3–4 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 4 March</td>
<td>Second paper due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of 7 March</td>
<td>First formal speech (5–7 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 5 April</td>
<td>Gator Day (there will likely be a Gator Day-related assignment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 15 April</td>
<td>Third paper due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of 25 April</td>
<td>Second formal speech (5–7 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 2 May</td>
<td>Participation self-evaluation due</td>
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Handout 1

*Handed out on 20 January 2016*