

## Texts, Tech, & Humanities (ENGL4374/ENGL5368)

Instructor: Dr. June Oh  
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Class Meeting: 2:30-3:50 MW @ CAS 208  
Office: CAS (College of Arts and Sciences) 240  
Office Hours: W 12-2pm & F 11:15-12:15pm; and by appointment

### Course Information

Historical survey of reading and writing technologies that create, transmit, and consume knowledge and information from orality to script, to printing, and to digital production. (Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302)

### Course Description

How does technology influence the way knowledge is created, communicated, and consumed? More specifically, how does technology shape the way we tell a story about our lives and the world around us? This course addresses these questions by engaging with various cultural reading and writing practices from the early modern period to the twenty-first century. We will explore oral storytelling, dig into a diary archive of an eighteenth-century celebrity, probe the audience's reaction to the first English prose pornography, take a new look at Kim Kardashian's Instagram posts, and even create nonsense out of ChatGPT. As we examine the historical evolution of technology, we will consider the various possibilities and constraints that each technological advancement brings to the practices of reading and writing. Ultimately, the goal is 1) to achieve a broader understanding of the history of reading and writing and 2) to come up with students' own ideas about how that history changes how we understand ourselves and the world.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Examine how historical advancements in technology have shaped our understanding of textuality and what it means to read and write amid ever-changing socio-cultural circumstances.
2. Articulate how technology enables new or different ways of creating, communicating, and experiencing knowledge.
3. Engage in multiple methods of "reading" and "writing" texts and navigate through a wide range of technological tools.
4. Propose, revise, and compose digital projects.
5. Learn to be a critical reader and producer of digital technologies and methods.

### Texts

All texts will be provided by the instructor and students. The class will also decide on what texts to engage with for given weeks throughout the semester. Many will be in html format, and students are welcome to purchase books in any form that's most comfortable for each. All digital reading and writing tools we use will be open-access (i.e., free).

## Important Notes Technology

- Students will need access to laptops and internet.
- Students should regularly check Canvas (announcement, course schedule, assignments, modules, etc.) and emails. Contact me as soon as possible if you have issues or anticipate problems with technology.
- For a tutorial on announcements, [click here](#). To manage notifications, click on “Canvas notifications” in the blue box at the top of the page. For help in resetting notifications, click on the help button on the left-hand side of your UTT Canvas home page (the question mark in a circle) and call the “Canvas Support Hotline (Students).”

## Course Grade

Component		Points
Reflections	P/reflection	5 points
	Reflection	10 points
The Basics	Weekly Quizzes	20 points
	Class Facilitation	20 points
Semester Project	“Tech Party Promo”	45 points
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100 points</b>

### Grade Scale

A	90 to	100	points
B	80 to	89	points
C	70 to	79	points
D	60 to	69	points
F	0 to	59	points

### Minimum Requirement to Earn a C in the Class

To earn a C or above in the class, students must earn a C or above **on *all* components**.

### Syllabus Changes

Per the UTT Syllabus Policy: “The information contained in the syllabus, other than the grading criteria and absence and make-up policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students.”

## Course Calendar

[Link to course schedule](#) (external link to Google Doc)

This class will not meet in person after Thanksgiving break.

## Important Dates

8/25	P/reflection due
10/6	Semester Project proposal due
11/17	Semester Project due
11/17	Reflection due

## Major Assignments

All writings done in this class are public and can be publicly shared.

### *REFLECTIONS*

- At the start of the semester, students will complete a pre-survey which will be used as the resource for your final Reflection.
- On the final weeks of the semester, students will write a reflection letter that looks back to their semester informed by their P/reflection answers.

### *THE BASICS*

#### **Weekly Quizzes**

- Each week, students will take quizzes. It will a) measure student's comprehension of the reading material and b) ask students to think critically and analytically. The quiz will cover all reading material assigned for the given week. It will be the ground for students' participation for discussion for the coming week. Quizzes are due **Monday 12 pm**. See course schedule for details.

#### **Class Facilitation**

- Students will sign up to lead and facilitate one week of class session either as a sole facilitator or as a team. Students are free to pursue any class facilitation methods.
- Students will discuss their plans with the instructor **at least a week before** class session and send their materials.
- Carefully read Class Facilitation Guide uploaded on Canvas.
- [Sign up here](#).

### *SEMESTER PROJECT*

Students will conduct a semester project. There are four components to the project: 1) Proposals, 2) Historical Review, 3) Rationale, and 4) the Project. All projects will be publicly shared unless discussed with the instructor beforehand.

#### **“Tech Party Promo”**

- Students will create promotional material that introduces a respective future reading or writing technology in a given period. Students are free to choose the period, the technology, and the audience but will consult with the instructor beforehand.
- Students will turn in a proposal that discusses their project about five weeks prior to the final deadline. This will include a detailed plan for what needs to be researched, acquired, and executed. Upon receiving feedback from the instructor, students will revise and update their posters.
- Students will turn in a historical review and a rationale paper with the project.

## Course Policies and Resources

### Attendance

Students are expected to **attend all class sessions**. Students who miss more than two weeks' work (e.g., absence, arriving late or leaving early, missing discussion and/or quiz, etc.) will **automatically fail** the course unless they withdraw by the census date. See "Standard UT Tyler Syllabus Policies" for information on the census date.

Attendance is not a "portion" of your grade in this course but an absolute requirement for you to succeed in this course. If you miss one or two, you will not be penalized.

I understand there will be unforeseen incidents such as illness or family emergencies. If you come across any issue that will impact your attendance, contact me immediately. It would be wise to not miss class at all so that you can be "absent" when it is absolutely necessary. See more information under "The Basics."

### Submitting Written Work

To be counted for a grade, written work must be submitted (unless instructed otherwise) as a **Word** document in the appropriate drop box in Canvas. For a free copy of Microsoft Office, including Word, [click here](#).

### Format

Unless otherwise specified, the format for all assignments is:

- Block format: text left justified, single spaced, no space between paragraphs
- Calibri 12 pt. font
- 1" margins all around
- A header in Calibri 10 pt. font that consists of your last name and the page number
- No title page
- On the top of the first page:
  - Your name
  - Class
  - Date of submission (The date that you submit the assignment)
- Title in 12 pt. centered

Remember to change the date when you submit subsequent drafts.

Assignments that do not follow the above format, that are emailed, that are submitted to the wrong drop box, or that I cannot open (e.g., zipped files, ios files, damaged files) will receive 0 points.

### Academic Dishonesty & Disruptive Behavior

This class has a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in immediate failure of the entire course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention.

For the UTT definition of "academic dishonesty," go to the UT Tyler Syllabus Module in the class Canvas shell. Click on "University Policies and Information." Scroll to the "Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct" section. Click on "Student Conduct and Discipline policy." Read Section 8-802 "Academic Dishonesty."

Disruptive behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention and may result in failing the class and/or University sanction. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- hindering other students from working on the tangible learning activities taking place during face-to-face and online class sessions
- talking when the instructor is talking
- repeatedly arriving late and/or leaving early
- using technology for purposes other than working on the tangible learning activities taking place during the class period
- doing something other than working on the tangible learning activities taking place during the class period
- sleeping during class

For the UTT definition of “disruptive behavior,” go to the UT Tyler Syllabus Module in the class Canvas shell. Click on “University Policies and Information.” Scroll to the “Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct” section. Click on “Student Conduct and Discipline policy.” Scroll to Section 8-804 “Certain Other Offenses.” Read item number four “Disruptive Behavior.”

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USE POLICY

Students are welcome to use AI programs e.g. ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, students should indicate how much and which part of their writing and thinking process are facilitated by such programs. In other words, any unacknowledged AI-facilitated work and acknowledged AI-facilitated work without considerable edition and critical revision process will be considered as cheating and will be directly reported. Students should never submit any work generated or supported by an AI program as their own. It should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference). Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including full revocation of credit for the assignment, and other sanctions.

#### **Class Conduct**

All students are expected to behave in a becoming manner, both in-person and online. Sensitive topics may be addressed during discussion, and passionate opinions are welcome. However, each student should remain respectful and civil throughout, and avoid using inflammatory language or taking insubordinate action by practicing equitable etiquette/netiquette.

Our texts or our discussion of the texts may include offensive, controversial, and/or uncomfortable topics and contents. Violence, suicide, physical and mental illnesses, racism, sexism, explicit sexual content, and political views may be discussed. If you anticipate issues reading such contents, consult with the instructor during the first week of the course.

**A Note on the N-Word and on Safe Spaces:** The N-word won't be used in this class by a person of any race, even if it appears in our texts. This classroom is a safe space. As such, this class will also be free of hate speech regarding sexual orientation, gender expression, race, ability, and socio-economic status or background. Each member of this class is responsible for fostering an environment in which people and their ideas are respected. For the same reasons, students will strive to make remarks that are informed by our material and the history that surrounds it. (Language adapted from Koritha Mitchell's [class covenant](#).)

In general, adhere to these four tenets, and you'll be fine: Be kind. Work hard. Think generously. Write critically.

**Contacting the instructor**

If you have individual questions, you can set up a time to meet either in-person or via Zoom.

To contact me, use UTT email or Canvas messenger. Per the [UTT Email Policy](#), I will not reply to emails sent from non-UTT email addresses.

Emails and Canvas messages should provide a succinct overview of the topic and be written using complete sentences, reasonably correct grammar, and proper structure. In the subject line list the class (ENGL4374), your name, and a topic.

**University Policies and Information**

Go to our class Canvas for information relating University Policies.

**Student Resources**

Go to our class Canvas for information relating University Policies.

This syllabus is a product of many generous educators' hard work and support. I give special thanks to UT Tyler's English department faculties and staff and my former colleagues at MSU.