

ENGLIT512 (HSS3): Narrative and Technology

Course Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION

Credit hours: 3	Instructor: John Rhym, Ph.D.
Room: Zone 3 – 105	Email: johnrhym@scupi.cn
Prerequisites: None	Office: Zone 3 – 317(B)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the ways in which new technologies impact how we engage with stories. It examines the relationship between traditional literary forms and contemporary media, such as film and video games. As a writing-intensive course, “Narrative and Technology” will ask students to write regularly in response to course texts and class discussions. Students will have opportunities not only to write critically about the relationships among narratives and technologies but also to experiment with new media forms.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

With successful completion of this course, students will:

- demonstrate an understanding of how the relationship between narrative and technology is articulated in and through a wide variety of media texts.
- employ critical reading and listening strategies in academic situations and provide appropriate responses through oral, written, visual, and electronic communication
- understand and employ rhetorical concepts necessary for sound academic reasoning and argumentation

REQUIRED TEXT

All readings will be made available as PDF files in the class’s Blackboard website (<https://pibb.scu.edu.cn>) under the “Content” tab. Being prepared for each class by reading the assigned materials will enable you to do well on your short essays and research paper.

ASSIGNMENTS

Below is a breakdown of the course’s assignments and grading scale. **There will be a detailed prompt for each assignment with instructions about content, format, and submission procedures.** Unless discussed with me previously, late assignments will not be accepted, and the failure to complete your work will result in a failing grade.

Each **unexcused** absence will bear a penalty of a third of a letter grade (e.g., from a B to a B- or from a B- to a C+). More than three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the semester. If you are feeling unwell or need to miss a class, inform the instructor ahead of time by way of email.

In-class Activities	Includes group work, discussions, quizzes, and Blackboard forum posts; will be graded holistically. Instructions will be provided in class.	30%
Weekly Short Essays	Prompts will be provided on Blackboard	40%
Presentation	Prompts will be provided on Blackboard	10%
Final Paper	Prompts will be provided on Blackboard	20%
Total		100%

SCHEDULE

Note: All assigned readings and writing prompts will be provided on Blackboard. This schedule is subject to modification based on university-wide policy changes and the perceived needs of the class at the instructor's discretion. Any modifications will be reflected on Blackboard.

Module 1: Sept. 8	Syllabus Review; Introduction to Course Content and Assignments
Module 2: Sept. 15	Narrative: Character, Story, and Theme
Module 3: Sept. 22	Form: Mise-en-scene, Cinematography, Editing, and Sound
Module 4: Sept. 29	Test
Module 5: Oct. 6	Cinema I: "Technology and the Futures of Man"
Module 6: Oct. 13	Cinema II: "A Utopian View of Technology, Industry, and Culture"
Module 7: Oct. 20	Cinema III: "A Dystopian View of Technology, Industry, and Culture"
Module 8: Oct. 27	Cinema IV: "Technology and Race"
Module 9: Nov. 3	Cinema V: "Technology and Survival/Disaster"
Module 10: Nov. 10	Cinema VI: "Technology and Memory"
Module 11: Nov. 17	Cinema VII: "Technology and Intergenerational Communication"
Module 12: Nov. 24	Cinema VIII: "Technology and Language"
Module 13: Dec. 1	Video Games: New Media Technology and Narrative
Module 14: Dec. 8	Presentations
Module 15: Dec. 15	Presentations
Module 16: Dec. 22	Presentations

Module 17: Dec. 29

Final Paper Workshop

EMAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY

Each student is issued a University email address (student_number@stu.scu.edu.cn) upon admittance. This email address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their university email address to another address (qq.com, 163.com, etc.) do so at their own risk. If email is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University email address. Additionally, when emailing me, include “HSS: Narrative and Technology” in the subject field, and remember to provide your name and student ID number somewhere in the body of your message.

STUDENT USE OF ELECTRONICS

Students must use electronic technology (including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission. Electronic devices are forbidden during quizzes, tests or other in-class graded assignments, unless the instructor has given permission. Technology use in this class is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately.

If you have questions about what this means, please talk to your individual instructor.

RECORDING:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student’s own private study.

SCUPI HONOR CODE

Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. This includes:

- must not get help from anyone to do his/her work without the teacher’s permission.
- must not get help from any outside sources to do his/her work without the teacher’s permission.
- must not copy the words of another and present those words as his/her own work.

Participating in these activities can result in an F. Turning in work that is not your own can result in an F.

PARTICIPATION

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating in class makes you an engaged learner. In this class, participation means:

- arriving to class on time
- staying on task (including appropriate use of technology)
- actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class
- asking questions
- bringing all class materials
- attending class regularly
- completing all homework on time
- actively and constructively participating in class activities
- being prepared to answer questions
- using only English in class