

Course Name: ENG 508: COMPOSING HYPERTEXT

Instructor: Katz Semester Hours: 3

Course Number & Section: 508-01 Room Number: BR 388

Days & Hours: W 6-8:45 PM

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or undergraduates with junior-senior standing or completion of C2 general education requirement or consent of instructor.

Method: Lecture-discussion-workshop

Examinations: three major compositions

Texts:

- Landow, George P. *Hypertext 3.0: Critical Theory and New Media in an Era of Globalization* (Parallax: Re-visions of Culture and Society) (Paperback: 456 pages) The Johns Hopkins University Press; 3rd edition (February 10, 2006) ISBN: 0801882575
- McFedries, Paul. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Creating a Web Page & Blog*, 6th Edition. (Paperback: 416 pages) Alpha; 6th Book&CD-ROM edition (September 7, 2004) ISBN-10: 1592572677; ISBN-13: 978-1592572670

Course Description: The course is a combination of English 101 and rhetorical theory, but in the medium of linked (as opposed to codex or 'book') text.

You will learn to compose hypertext documents from the bottom up: you will learn the basics of the coding that makes web design work, which is called Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). That part is like learning a foreign alphabet before learning the language--everyone picks it up pretty quickly and everyone helps each other. You will then compose three hypertexts: one expressive, one expository, and one argumentative. At the same time, we will also read and discuss a work or works on the topic of hypertext theory: there is a great deal of theorizing, assertion, and argument about the effect of hypertext and how it changes reading, writing, and communication. So while you'll learning to do it, you'll also be reading about, thinking about, and discussing theories of what it is you are doing. And we will be blogging--or perhaps tweeting, or facebooking--I haven't decided yet--about the texts we read and write. We may also work on a collective wiki. I haven't nailed down all the details yet.

Overall, we will be considering what these new, computer based communications media do to writing and reading and communication, and the conventions that have grown up around print culture, such as copyright, citation and bibliographic reference conventions, plagiarism, the character/nature/limits of texts (after all, online, there is effectively no difference between text, sound, still images and moving images) and the physical construction, marketing, and consumption of books/print texts as artifacts (for example, there is no practical limit on the length of an electronic text).