

# ENGL 4344: Digital Culture and Media

Instructor: Dr. Marcos J. Del Hierro

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Office Hours (Classroom Hall 314c):

\* Thursdays: 2-5 pm

## Course Description

This course will look at how people and communities use digital technology in cultural production. It will also look at how digital technologies are defined by culture. Finally, this course will look at how digital culture impacts media.

## Student Learning Outcomes

This course will enhance your abilities to:

- 👉 Use rhetorical knowledge to analyze digital culture and media;
- 👉 Try using digital technologies to produce content;
- 👉 Consider ethical and critical concerns dealing with digital culture and media; and
- 👉 Understand the role of shifting technologies, in digital studies.

## Required Texts

📖 All readings are available on our Blackboard site.

## Grade Distribution

Grades will be calculated using the following scale:

- 📖 90-100= A
- 📖 80-89= B
- 📖 70-79= C
- 📖 60-69= D
- 📖 59-0= F

## Assignments (Additional guidelines to follow)

- ▶ Semester Plan (25% of total grade): To begin the semester, you will create a plan to meet your goals for the semester.
- ▶ Daily Writing (25% of total grade): Effective writing requires consistent practice. You will be required to write daily.
- ▶ Mapping San Antonio (25% of total grade): Using GIS, you will create a digital mapping project that highlights an important issue in San Antonio.
- ▶ Final Project (25% of total grade): Using a digital technology, you will create a project focused on an issue in digital studies.

## Expectations for Class Meetings

**Readings:** Please keep up with the readings and focus on engaging with them. Ask questions, make comments, and note things you might want to discuss.

**Attendance and Late Policy:** I will take attendance and provide deadlines to keep you on track to finish the course. If you are having trouble attending class and/or meeting deadlines, please talk to me.

## University and System Policies

**Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance:** According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which includes class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving Federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have his/her aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of his/her federal aid.

**The Six-Drop Rule:** Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

**Student Misconduct:** Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic

misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in The Student Handbook and The Student Code of Conduct.

**Academic Misconduct Policy:** Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Misconduct Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

## Campus Resources

**Jaguar Writing Center:** The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. The Writing Center is currently holding all appointments digitally. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at [www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center](http://www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

**Counseling Resources:** As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Office of Student

Counseling & Wellness Services (SC&WS) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM. All mental health services provided by SC&WS are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record.

SC&WS provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC&WS) office will primarily offer services via phone and/or Webex. Any students interested in scheduling an appointment should call (210) 784-1331 Monday through Friday, 8:00AM – 5:00PM. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

**Disability Services:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in room 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dsupport@tamusa.edu](mailto:dsupport@tamusa.edu).

**Mays Center of Experiential Learning and Community Engagement:** The Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement (Mays Center) provides enhanced learning opportunities and access to resources and relationships in order to develop students into career-ready and community-minded graduates. Programs and services provided by the Mays Center include: Career Services, Career Clothes Closet, Civic Engagement, Community Service, Experience Transcript, Externships, the General's Store, Internships and more. Science and Technology Building, Suite 111 | (210) 784-1356  
| [mays@tamusa.edu](mailto:mays@tamusa.edu) | <http://www.tamusa.edu/mays>

**General's Store:** General's Store is an on-campus food pantry to serve members of the campus community who need food assistance. Located in Patriot's Casa room 110, this service is available Wednesdays (2-6 p.m.), and by appointment. For more information email [foodpantry@tamusa.edu](mailto:foodpantry@tamusa.edu) or visit <http://www.tamusa.edu/mays/generals-store/>

Dates	Week	Content
1/19-1/25	1	<b>Introductions</b>
<b>Planning for Success</b>		
1/26-2/1	2	Submit your Semester Plan by 2/1
<b>Digital Theory and Literacies</b>		
2/2-2/8	3	How the “digital” is defined
2/9-2/15	4	Perspectives on digital literacies
<b>Hip hop Studies</b>		
2/16-2/22	5	The art of Deejaying
2/23-3/1	6	Hip hop technical communication
<b>Video Game Studies</b>		
3/2-3/8	7	World building
3/9-3/15	8	<b>Spring Break</b>
3/16-3/22	9	Gaming cultures
<b>The Digital Humanities</b>		
3/23-3/29	10	Theory and practice of archives
3/30-4/5	11	Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
4/6-4/12	12	4/9-4/12: 2025 Conference on College Composition and Communication (No Class)
<b>Cyberculture</b>		
4/13-4/19	13	Online communities
4/20-4/26	14	The current digital moment
4/27-5-3	15	TBA
5/4-5/10	16	5/5: Last Day of Classes 5/6: Study Day 5/7-5/13: Finals
5/11-5/17	16	5/16: <i>Grades due by noon.</i>