



**ENG 697.01E: Digital Storytelling  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Winter Mini 2014**

**Instructor:** Shannon Carter, Professor of English

**Office Location:** HL 209

**Office Hours:** Mondays, 9-12 (by phone or face-to-face by appointment)

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Required Texts:**

Lambert Joe. *Digital Storytelling: Capturing Lives, Creating Community*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Routledge, 2013.

Goldberg, Natalie. *Old Friend from Far Away: The Practice of Writing Memoir*. Atria Books, 2009.

**Course Description:**

ENG 697.01E (Digital Storytelling) will be a workshop in the history and methods of digital storytelling. Objectives include understanding the fundamentals of dynamic digital storytelling, from seeing the story to assembling and sharing it. Students will demonstrate that understanding by assembling and sharing their own, original examples of digital storytelling.

**Technical Requirements**

You needn't have ANY experience with digital tools for video, audio, or image editing. Even if you know how to use little more than MS Word, you'll be in good shape for this class. This class is about LEARNING the technology for the job at hand while creating dynamic, powerful examples of digital storytelling.

**Assignments**

We'll work together to create an example of digital storytelling based entirely on your own lived experiences, interests, and/or goals. You'll write two response papers (2-5 pages) in preparation for these digital projects, but otherwise our time together will be spent exploring examples of digital storytelling and developing/workshopping your own, original work.

		<b>DEADLINE</b>
<b>Participation (30%)</b>	Each week, we will be meeting face-to-face and online to discuss/explore course readings, research, tools, and your developing projects. Whether we meet online or face-to-face, I will ask you to spend that time (1) developing your digital media projects on your own and (2) joining us online to post in the required “Forum” and/or “Sandbox” for class meeting (see below).	
	“ <b>Forums</b> ”: We will hold the bulk of our class discussions in the “Forums.” You will have several of these throughout the term. The goals for each Forum are to explore the assigned readings, lectures, and other, related elements in meaningful conversation with one another, just as you would in any graduate seminar meeting face-to-face. For that reason, I ask you to keep up with your assigned readings, and post in each assigned forum at least twice—once early in the conversation to get things started and again later in the discussion to keep it moving in meaningful directions.	Throughout the term.
	“ <b>Sandbox</b> ” Activities: One of the best ways to learn how to use unfamiliar tools is to play with them. Indeed, “play” is an important--albeit it too often forgotten--aspect of the creative process. For this reason, I have set aside a “sandbox” and prepared a series of activities designed for you to try out new composition and research tools, genres, and materials in a low risk environment before applying them to your major writing assignments for this class. At several points throughout the term, you will be expected to participate in the “sandbox” (to experiment with tools and ideas) and the “forums” (to explore ideas and concepts more directly related to your assigned course readings). Each of these spaces will be helpful to you as you create your major writing assignments and prepare for your final project.	Throughout the term.
<b>Reflections (30%)</b>	You will be asked to submit written reflections three times throughout the term. In developing these, you’ll draw heavily from your responses to the Forums and Sandbox Activities (see above). The goal here is to reflect extensively upon what you want your digital storytelling project to say, how you might go about saying it, and why one approach rather than other options you’ve considered. You’ll share frustrations, struggles, and triumphs regarding your experiences with various tools for this digital composition. Basically, this is a behind-the-scenes glimpse into your experiences with this project.	
	<b>R1:</b> Your first set of reflections will concern your initial plans regarding your final project (2-3 pages).	Due 12/21 (Sunday), before midnight
	<b>R2:</b> For the second set of reflections, you’ll share your revised plans and insights, as well as any ongoing questions, challenges, or struggles, in preparation for our midterm conferences (2-3 pages).	Due 12/28 (Sunday), before midnight
	<b>R3:</b> These final reflections will accompany your final submission for the course, offering a more detailed look at your composing process this term—focusing on what you have learned this term. Questions guiding RP3 might include the following; What inspired your assignment choice/topic? Why did you choose to express yourself using a particular medium? How does that medium facilitate the rhetorical purpose of your text? What thoughts/feelings/insights did you have during the process? Now that you have completed the	Due 1/7(Wednesday), before midnight with the Digital Storytelling Portfolio (see below)

	assignment, what are your thoughts on the decisions that you made? In other words, really think through the process and write a substantial reflection that shows the careful consideration that you put into creating your text.	
<b>Final Project (40%)</b>	<b>Digital Storytelling Portfolio:</b> Your final, digital storytelling project will be a website featuring your significant multimodal text (video). This site should include the following components: (Overview)--a short introduction to site contents; (Featured Text)--the five-minute video sample of digital storytelling you've been working toward throughout the course; (Acknowledgements)-- a complete bibliography of the source materials you included in this project; (Profile)--a brief profile from the author (you!), including relevant reflections on the experience of creating this project; (Free Zone)--any additional, relevant contributions that might enhance the website's overall goals and purposes.	Due Wednesday, 1/7, before midnight
	<b>Celebration of Digital Storytelling:</b> A 7-10 minute presentation of your video and digital storytelling portfolio to a wider audience. We will be inviting the campus and community to join us, and I urge you to invite family and friends as well.	Celebration of Digital Storytelling will take place Thursday, 1/8, from 12-3, in the Sam Rayburn Student Center

## SCHEDULE

*This is a web-enhanced course, which means we will be meeting online as well as face-to-face. Class meets Monday, 12/15 through Thursday, 1/8. We will meet face-to-face on two days: Wednesday, 12/17, and Thursday, 1/8, from 12:00-3:00 pm. The rest of the time, we'll be meeting online. See schedule below for details.*

<b>Week 1</b>	<p>Introductions to one another and digital storytelling; workshop on various “sandbox activities” to introduce relevant tools; showcase “one-minute” examples of digital storytelling; begin planning final projects for Celebration of Digital Storytelling</p> <p><b>Monday, 12/15:</b>  <i>Location: Online/eCollege</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forum 1: Introductions</li> <li>○ Sandbox Activity 1</li> </ul> </p> <p><b>Tuesday, 12/16:</b>  <i>Location: Online/eCollege</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forum 2: Lambert, Chapters 1-5</li> <li>○ Sandbox Activity 2</li> </ul> </p> <p><b>Wednesday, 12/17:</b>  <i>Location: face-to-face, SS 311</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forum 3: Lambert, Chapters 6-11</li> <li>○ Sandbox Activity 3</li> </ul> </p> <p><b>Thursday, 12/18</b>  <i>Location: Online/eCollege</i></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forum 4: Lambert, Chapters 12-15</li> <li>○ Sandbox Activity 4</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2:</b>	<p>Meet online in eCollege; Reflections 1 due before midnight 12/21 (Sunday)</p> <p><b>Monday, 12/22:</b>  <i>Location: Online/eCollege</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forum 5: Goldberg, selections</li> <li>○ Sandbox Activity 5</li> </ul> <p><b>Tuesday, 12/23-Thursday, 12/25:</b>  <i>Location: Online/eCollege</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continue working toward final project and Reflections 2 and enjoying your holidays!</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b>	<p>Meet online in eCollege; Reflections 2 due before midnight 12/28 (Sunday); Conferences with Instructor by phone or face-to-face about final projects</p> <p><b>Monday, 12/29-Tuesday, 12/30</b>  <i>Location: By phone or face-to-face</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conferences with me regarding final projects. You'll select your preferred choice from a number of options I'll provide.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b>	<p>Final projects are due this week.</p> <p><b>Monday, 1/5-Tuesday, 1/6</b>  <i>Location: Online/eCollege</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continue working on revisions of final projects</li> </ul> <p><b>Wednesday, 1/7:</b>  <i>Location: OPTIONAL face-to-face meeting, SS 311</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If you would like to practice your presentations before sharing them with a wider audience, please come join us for a “dry run” performance of what will happen the following day. This is a good day to workshop your Digital Storytelling Portfolios as well, which are due before midnight tonight.</li> </ul> <p><b>Thursday, 12/18</b>  <i>Location: Sam Rayburn Student Center</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Celebration of Digital Storytelling!</li> </ul>