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2021

COM 110: Digital Literacy

CUNY School of Professional Studies

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CUNY School of Professional Studies

COM 110: Digital Literacy
3 Credits | General Education
SPS College Option
No pre- or co-requisites

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Exploring new communication technologies and their impact on contemporary understandings of identity and community to discover what it means to inquire, to communicate, to collaborate, and to research online.

REQUIRED COMMON CORE LEARNING OBJECTIVES REINFORCED

Students will:

1. Read and listen critically and analytically, including identifying an argument's major assumptions and assertions and evaluating its supporting evidence.
2. Write clearly and coherently in varied, academic formats (such as formal essays, research papers, and reports) using standard English and appropriate technology to critique and improve one's own and others' texts.
3. Demonstrate research skills using appropriate technology, including gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing primary and secondary sources.
4. Support a thesis with well-reasoned arguments, and communicate persuasively across a variety of contexts, purposes, audiences, and media.
5. Formulate original ideas and relate them to the ideas of others by employing the conventions of ethical attribution and citation.

This course will address all Learning Outcomes

DISCIPLINE –SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

1. Communicate online in various media and genres -- such as wikis, blogs, social networking sites and discussion boards -- evaluating and selecting the appropriate register for the audience and the information being conveyed
2. Use information to provide evidence for a claim, understanding the importance of authority, context, and attribution
3. Create a project or presentation in digital format, integrating appropriate illustrations and/or audio-visual enhancements and links to web sources
4. Analyze trends in digital information
5. Demonstrate an understanding of ethical, legal, and social issues surrounding plagiarism, copyright, and intellectual property
6. Apply principles of academic integrity in the use of visual, textual, and multimedia information
7. Demonstrate ability to use online collaboration tools for academic, professional, and social communication.
8. Locate, evaluate, and differentiate among scholarly, news, and popular sources of information online

REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS

This is a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) course. There is no required textbook, and all required readings will be provided free of charge through the course site. For example, the first reading is a science fiction short story that is freely available online.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

ASSIGNMENTS	Percent
Discussion Board (8 x 5 points)	40
Blog (5 x 5 points)	25
Mini Research Paper	10
Group Wiki Project (breakdown of points below)	25
Total	100%

Discussion Board: Discussions require that students write thoughtful posts on topics ranging from digital reporting to the future of the Internet that specifically reference assigned readings/videos. Students must then also write a substantial response to at least one other student's post. Links should be "nice" links as defined in the Course Information section of the course site. *These assignments assess Common Core LOs 1,2,4,5.*

Blog: Blog posts must thoughtfully and specifically reference assigned readings/videos, if any, and incorporate multimedia as directed in the assignment while addressing the specific directions in the prompt. Links should be "nice" links, and images should be embedded. Comments on others' posts are encouraged, but optional. *These assignments assess Common Core LOs 1,2,4,5.*

Mini Research Paper: This assignment involves completing online research and writing a mini research paper on the findings. In order to complete it successfully, students will need to choose a topic, research that topic; write a 1-2 page essay, including an image as well as text and citing their sources; and post it to the Research Wiki. *This assignment assesses all Common Core LOs.*

Group Wiki Project: Working in a team of 2-5 students, students will research and create a multimedia wiki research project that addresses a research question related to the subject of the course. The steps will include:

- Brainstorming two subtopics and posting on Discussion Board (1 points)
- Writing a proposal that includes a subtopic for each group member (2 points)
- Identifying one scholarly (peer-reviewed) journal article related to your individual subtopic (points for Discussion Board assignments as noted above), locating at least two other reputable sources, and submitting an annotated working bibliography (2 points)
- Submitting the final draft in wiki format with a copy submitted to SafeAssign for plagiarism checking (20 points).

This assignment assesses all Common Core LOs.

GRADING DISTRIBUTION

A	93-100	A-	90-92.9		
B+	87-89.9	B	83-86.9	B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9	C	73-76.9	C-	70-72.9
D	60-69.9	F	Below 60		

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The CUNY School of Professional Studies is firmly committed to making higher education accessible to students with disabilities by removing architectural barriers and providing programs and support services necessary for them to benefit from the instruction and resources of the University. Early planning is essential for many of the resources and accommodations provided. For more information, please see:

[Disability Services on the CUNY SPS Website.](#)

ONLINE ETIQUETTE AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The University strictly prohibits the use of University online resources or facilities, including Blackboard, for the purpose of harassment of any individual or for the posting of any material that is scandalous, libelous, offensive or otherwise against the University's policies. Please see: "[Netiquette in an Online Academic Setting: A Guide for CUNY School of Professional Studies Students.](#)"

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the educational mission of the City University of New York and the students' personal and intellectual growth. Please see:

[Academic Integrity on the CUNY SPS Website.](#)

TUTORING

CUNY SPS offers all students a variety of tutoring services, free of charge, both online and in person. Please see: [Tutoring.](#)

HELP DESK

For assistance with access to CUNY SPS and CUNY computing resources, please see the [Help Desk](#) website for contact details and semester hours.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

If you need any additional help, please visit [Student Support Services](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Assignments are due on Sunday at 11:59 pm EST unless otherwise noted (and highlighted in yellow below)

WEEK	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
1	Introductions; Computer-Mediated Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #1 • Blog #1
2	History of the Internet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #2
3	How We Get News and Information Now	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #3
4	Blogging and Social Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog #2 (due Monday, 9/21)
5	Refining your Online Research Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit: Mini Research Paper (build in Wiki)
6	Intellectual Property and Copyright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog #3
7	Plagiarism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit: Text of your Mini Research Paper (to SafeAssign) • Discussion Board #4
8	Here Comes Everybody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog #4
9	The Internet and Us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #5
10	Games and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #6 • Post two group wiki project subtopic ideas on Group Wiki Project Subtopics Discussion Board

WEEK	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
11	The Future of the Internet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #7 • Finish posting subtopic ideas to Group Wiki Project Subtopics Discussion Board

Group Wiki Projects:

12	Group Wiki Project: Topics and Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With group, submit proposal for group wiki project
13	Group Wiki Project: Annotated Bibliographies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board #8 initial post; response to another student • Annotated Bibliography
14	Group Wiki Project: Writing and Building your Wiki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write, edit, organize, and refine the wiki per tips in Week 14 folder
15	Group Wiki Project Submission; Reflections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize group wiki project in wiki (• Submit your portion of the Wiki Project as a Word document to SafeAssign • Blog #5