



Teaching Writing with Technology

Sponsored by:

Gateway Writing Project
University of Missouri–St. Louis



Course Information:

Mondays & Wednesdays
8:00 a.m. to noon
June 9–July 2, 2008
An additional 15 hours of course will take place online (TBA)

Location:
UM–St. Louis

Instructor:
Gary Ryan
Christian Brothers
College High School

Credit Hours:
3 Graduate or
Undergraduate

Course & Reference Numbers:
ENG 4850 #10767
TCH ED 5850 #11830

Explore how digital tools are changing the nature of teaching writing.

Participants will have the opportunity to investigate, experiment with, and learn to teach writing in an environment where all the participants have computers, their course text is online, and everything happens in a digital environment. Participants will set up their own digital teaching (Web-based) environment in order to effectively exploit presentation software, the Internet, e-mail, discussion boards, Web-authoring software, blogs, and other multimedia programs.

Participants will learn how to design research-tested writing assignments that encourage collaboration with peers, experts, and others to contribute to a content-related knowledge-base by using technology to compile, synthesize, produce, and disseminate information, models, and other creative works, such as digital compositions and storytelling. In essence, they'll learn to navigate teaching in the digital world. (Prerequisite: Basic knowledge of computers and word processing in Mac or PC platforms.)

With these new technologies, participants will:

- Understand how the computer fits into the history of writing technologies, from clay tablets, to codex, to manuscripts, to the printed book, to the electronic page.
- Be familiar with several popular writing software programs and environments and their relationship to the writing process.
- Locate and retrieve information on the Internet, and be able to download and manipulate files from the Internet in order to help them write texts.
- Connect to and interact with a class discussion board for the purpose of writing about their reading and work and getting peer feedback (a kind of electronic reader-response journal).
- Write, design, and publish their own teacher Web site to sustain their own digital community of learners. [This Web site will provide a scaffolding for the rest of their teaching careers, as they annotate their syllabi and expand their abilities to communicate in this digital environment.]
- Create a lesson plan that incorporates the use of technologies, and write a short essay detailing its benefits in the lesson.
- Develop lessons that support student inquiry, by incorporating metacognitive strategies, that follows and models the way the brain constructs meaning.
- Understand how teachers learn technology skills and how to help them use technology in the classroom, so they may help facilitate professional development in their own school systems.
- Assess their own educational environment and develop a written plan for incorporating technology into their curriculums, and training others in their systems to do the same.

For course information, contact Diane Scollay at (314) 516-5578 or via e-mail at dsgateway@umsl.edu.

For registration and fee information, call (314) 516-5974.

College of Arts & Sciences
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