Literacies, Digital Technologies and Learning
Course Syllabus

READ525_73FA14

Professor: Joe Russo
Learn more about my background here.

Phone: 973-655-5220
Email: russoc@mail.montclair.edu

Office hours: Days prior to in-person class: 3:30 – 4:30, or by appointment. Room 1140 ADP Center.

This semester long hybrid (combination face-to-face and online) course begins on Tuesday September 11th for Section 73 in room 1121 for the first class.

Requirements for the class:


2. Please post a picture of yourself in Canvas. This may be done after the first class, but must be done prior to the second class.

Course Delivery:
This course is delivered by utilizing the Canvas Learning Management System at Montclair State University (MSU), accessible via https://montclair.instructure.com

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide a context in which teachers can explore a range of "new" Literacies and the implications of these “new” Literacies for school-based literacy education. This course comprises a theoretical dimension that focuses on literacy as a social practice, and a practical dimension that includes hands-on use of a range of new digital technologies and new literacy practices. Attention will be paid to developing effective ways of taking up new Literacies in classroom contexts.

Additional information regarding the class and assignments will be posted within the classroom, via the Learning Management System.
Goals:
At the end of this course, students will demonstrate through writing and project-work that they:
(1) are able to define “literacies” in terms of social practices and discourses
(2) understand how sound learning principles grow out of authentic and mature social practices
(3) identify and justify criteria and principles that provide a sound basis for making decisions about the potential relevance of new literacies for formal, school-based teaching and learning
(4) understand and discuss the relationships between tools/technologies, their applications, and cultural practices in which they are involved.

Course Schedule:
As a hybrid (face-to-face and online course), this course will have five face-to-face meetings (see schedule below) with the remainder of course work and communication occurring online. In addition to online discussions, individual and group projects will be assigned throughout the course culminating in a final presentation during our last face-to-face meeting on December 13th.

In person meetings are below.

Tuesday, September 11th: 4:30 – 7:00 pm
During the first class we will go over the syllabus and have a discussion of literacy, going over the discussion question posted on the online course site.

You will get your first assignment during the class on the class website, and have some time to explore it and ask questions.

Thursday September 27th: 4:30 – 7:00 – Room 1121
Thursday October 18th: 4:30 – 7:00 – Room 1121
Thursday November 15th: 4:30 – 7:00 – Room 1121
Thursday November 29th: 4:30 – 7:00 – Room 1121
Thursday December 13th : 4:30 – 7:00 – Room 1121

Assignments:
We will be posting the due dates for the assignments on the class website. These assignments include:

**Forum Discussion Responses** – you will be required to respond to a forum discussion that we post, and respond (or comment) on two other students’ responses.

The forum questions will direct you to read a number of articles and/or respond to videos in a meaningful way. Please refer specifically to points in the readings, linking to any information that is pertinent.

While there are no specific length requirements, a general guideline is anywhere between 300 - 500 words, or at least a paragraph or two. You are also required to comment on two other blogs. These comments can be a paragraph or two, or at least one hundred words.

**Due Dates:**

- First Discussion Forum Response: 9/16 Sunday Midnight
- Response to two other students’ comments: 9/23 Sunday Midnight
- Second Discussion Forum Response: 9/30 Sunday Midnight
- Response to two other students’ comments: 10/7 Sunday Midnight
- Third Discussion Forum Response: 10/14 Sunday Midnight
- Response to two other students’ comments: 10/21 Sunday Midnight
- Fourth Discussion Forum Response: 10/28 Sunday Midnight
- Response to two other students’ comments: 11/4 Sunday Midnight
- Fifth Discussion Forum Response: 11/11 Sunday Midnight
- Response to two other students’ comments: 11/18 Sunday Midnight
- Sixth Discussion Forum Response: 11/25 Sunday Midnight
- Response to two other students’ comments: 12/1 Sunday Midnight
- Seventh Discussion Forum Response: 12/8 Sunday Midnight
- Response to two other students’ comments: 12/15 Sunday Midnight

**Blog Reflections** -- You will be responsible for blog reflections. The blog reflection should build on a concept from a reading that is posted on the course website. Within the blog post, please refer to at least three articles that have been posted on the class website. While there are no specific length requirements, a general guideline is anywhere between 1,000 – 2,000 words.
You are also required to comment on two other blogs. These comments can be a paragraph or two, or at least one hundred words.

Due Dates:

Blog Reflection 1: 9/23 Sunday Midnight
Comments on Two other students’ blog: 9/30 Sunday Midnight

Blog Reflection 2: 10/7 Sunday Midnight
Comments on Two other students’ blog: 10/14 Sunday Midnight

Blog Reflection 3: 10/21 Sunday Midnight
Comments on Two other students’ blog: 10/28 Sunday Midnight

Blog Reflection 4: 11/4 Sunday Midnight
Comments on Two other students’ blog: 11/11 Sunday Midnight

Blog Reflection 5: 11/18 Sunday Midnight
Comments on Two other students’ blog: 11/25 Sunday Midnight

Blog Reflection 6: 12/2 Sunday Midnight
Comments on Two other students’ blog: 12/9 Sunday Midnight

Video Submission: Due by class time on September 27th

Two Choices (you may do more than one, but only one is required, there is an option for extra credit):

1. Please record a screencast of five minutes or less, reflecting upon your concept of Information Overload and post it in the course website. Focus on a tool, or tools that you feel are effective in navigating this explosion of information, or explain why you think the tool is ineffective. No written paper is required. If you have trouble recording the audio, however, please post a blog entry with a script of what goes with the video. Screencasts longer than five minutes will not be accepted.

2. Post a video from TED or Youtube in the course website that reflects and comments on the concept of Information Overload and its impact on education. With this video please write a blog post with your thoughts about the video and how it relates to Information Overload. You may either post the video or embed it in the course website, or link to it directly within your blog post.

Extra Credit:
Create a Google Search Story. You may have seen Google Search Story: Parisian Love on television. Google also allows you to create your own
search story. Please write an accompanying blog post that explains the story behind your search. To create one you need to have a Google or Youtube account. Google owns Youtube, so if you have a Google account, you have a Youtube account.

Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forum Posts and Responses:</td>
<td>The forum questions will direct you to read a number of articles and/or respond to videos in a meaningful way. Please refer specifically to points in the readings, linking to any information that is pertinent.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog Reflections and Comments:</td>
<td>You are responsible for a blog reflection in alternate weeks. The blog reflection should build on a concept from a reading that is posted on the course website. Within the blog post, please refer to at least three articles that have been posted on the class website. While there are no specific length requirements, a general guideline is anywhere between 1,000 – 2,000 words. You are also required to comment on two other blogs. These comments can be a paragraph or two.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Submission – Information Overload - (9/27)</td>
<td>Two Choices: 1. Please record a screencast of five minutes or less, reflecting your concept of Information Overload and post it in the course website. Focus on a tool, or tools that you feel are effective in navigating this explosion of information, or explain why you think the tool is ineffective. No written paper is required. 2. Post a video from TED or Youtube in the course website that reflects and comments on the concept of Information Overload and its impact on education. With this video please write a blog post with your thoughts about the video and how it relates to Information Overload.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Presentation – (10/18)</td>
<td>Group Project – Presentation (To Be Assigned)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Writing</td>
<td>Write a blog post commenting on the topic of your presentation that answers the questions given to you within the task, keeping the role your were assigned in mind.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Presentation – 11/15</td>
<td>Group Project – Presentation (To Be Assigned)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Writing</td>
<td>Write a blog post commenting on the topic of your presentation that answers the questions given to you within the task, keeping the role your were assigned in mind.</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Group Project – Presentation (To Be Assigned)</td>
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<td>15</td>
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Individual Writing  
Write a blog post commenting on the topic of your presentation that answers the questions given to you within the task, keeping the role your were assigned in mind.  

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Final Presentation  
Individual Project/Presentation (To Be Assigned)  

15

Extra Credit (throughout the semester)  
Twitter – Create a twitter account – and post at least one interesting article per week with the #msuread525 – which will publish the article to class website. (a tutorial video will be posted for this)  

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Extra Credit – (9/27)  
Create Google Search Story – with accompanying Blog Post explaining the search.  

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A note on the assignments: if you feel more comfortable write out your responses in Word, and then copy and paste it into the course website. If anything goes wrong technically, you can at least email your work to me to receive credit for the assignments.

A 100 point system is used. At the end of the semester, the numerical grades earned for each written assignment will be averaged and translated into letter grades using the following formula.

70 - 73 (C)  74 -77 (C)  78 - 79 (C+)  80 – 83 (B)  
84 - 87 (B)  88 – 89(B+)  90 – 93 (A)  94-100 (A+)

MSU Protocols & Resources

• Academic Honesty and Integrity: It is very important that you understand Montclair State University’s policy on academic honesty and integrity. The link above provides you with resources to understand what academic standards and plagiarism are and to learn how to take a course responsively and honestly to avoid plagiarism.

• Student Rights and Responsibilities: Find out more about your rights to access the university’s resources as well as your related responsibilities.

• Commitment to Accessibility: Students with disabilities or special circumstances should contact your instructor as soon as possible to ensure that your needs are met in the course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC at 973-655-5431).

Technical Support

• Canvas: To get help troubleshooting problems using Canvas, contact the Canvas Support Hotline at 855-778-9968 or click on the “Help” link in the
upper right corner of the course to contact them via chat or email. You may also find answers to common questions in the Canvas Guides.

• **General Tech Support:** To get general technical support contact the University Help Desk at 973-655-7971 or via email at helpdesk@mail.montclair.edu You may also find answers to your questions on their website: [http://www.montclair.edu/oit/tech-solutions-center/help-desk/](http://www.montclair.edu/oit/tech-solutions-center/help-desk/)