

English 1105
Fall 2009
McBryde 316
MW 2:30-3:45

Molly Scanlon, GTA
Office: Shanks 203
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:30
mollyjscanlon@vt.edu

Course Materials

Composition at Virginia Tech: Written, Spoken, and Visual Composition, 5th Edition
Reading Culture: Contexts for Critical Reading and Writing, Diana George and John Trimbur, 7th Edition
Understanding Comics. Scott McCloud. New York: Harper Perennial, 1993.

Course Focus: Audience Awareness

As constant communicators, we are experts at code switching—altering the patterns, tones, and messages of our speech/writing depending on our audience. Different academic and popular/new media genres demand many skills of us: observation, inference, analysis, convention, rebellion, revision, and reflection.

In writing, we are both the creator and the editor/censor. The creator might be referred to as “left-brained,” our creative, limitless imaginations. The editor/censor might be referred to as “right-brained,” always following the rules. Each genre or type of writing we do will require a different balance of the two. But, we’re never totally in the dark about what to be saying and when. Our best clues to code switching can be observed by learning to read our audience, a skill you may already be familiar with and which you will sharpen throughout the course of this semester. I’ll wrap this up now, because I’m guessing my audience doesn’t want to read a paragraph much longer than this one.

Course Breakdown:






Major Assignments: 60%

Literacy Narrative Paper (#1).....	15%
Images Analysis/Position Paper (#2)	15%
Group Walkthrough/Usability Study (#3).....	15%
Visual Narrative Comics Assignment (#4).....	15%

Participation: 40%

Journal Entries (10).....	20%
Attendance/Participation (Incl. <u>one</u> office visit)	20%

Course Policies:

-  Good students come to class: prepared, on time, and drama-free.
-  Participate often and thoughtfully; the nature of this class requires your daily participation.
-  Turn in assignments on time unless you’ve spoken to me prior to the due date.
-  Check Scholar regularly.
-  Come see me. I have three office hours set aside weekly for the sole purpose of working with you on your writing: Shanks Hall 203 (MW 1:00-2:30). I love to

- help! During the semester, make sure you come to see me at least once during the drafting process. This visit will count toward your participation grade.
- ☞ Help foster an atmosphere of learning and respect; you are now a member of the Hokie Nation. This includes doing your best to limit distractions like using electronics (cell phones, laptops) in a manner unrelated to class work.
 - ☞ Virginia Tech Principles of Community statement is printed on the inside cover of *Composition at Virginia Tech*.

Writing Center:

You have very helpful resources available to you, so don't be afraid to ask for help. In addition to my office hours in Shanks Hall 203 (MW 1:00-2:30), the Virginia Tech Writing Center is on the third floor of Shanks Hall, in 340 (M-F 9:00-5:00). They accept walk-ins in addition to regularly scheduled appointments. For more information, visit http://www.composition.english.vt.edu/wc/WC_Home.html.

Honor Code:

The Virginia Tech Honor Code states that “every student has the right to live in an academic environment that is free from the injustices caused by any form of intellectual dishonesty.” Certain forms of intellectual dishonesty will subject you to course failure.

All students are expected to abide by VT's Honor System. The Honor Code reads as follows: “I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment.” By turning in an assignment in this class, you are pledging this as true. If you have questions about what “unauthorized assistance” means for a particular assignment, please don't hesitate to ask. See www.honorsystem.vt.edu for more information.

Disability Statement:

Please notify me if you need accommodations because of a disability (learning disability, attention deficit disorder, psychological, physical, etc.) or medical condition. Students with disabilities should also contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office in 150 Henderson Hall, <http://www.ssd.vt.edu>.

All course requirements, policies, and schedules may be changed (with notice) if circumstances require it.