English 1105: for Engineers Molly Scanlon, GTA
Fall 2010 Office: Shanks 203
Pamplin 1008 Office Hours: M 3:30-5:30/by appt.
MWF 1:25-2:15 or 2:30-3:20 mscanlon@vt.edu

Course Materials
   Composition at Virginia Tech: Written, Spoken, and Visual Composition, 6th
      Edition
   Reading Culture: Contexts for Critical Reading and Writing, Diana George
      and John Trimbur, 7th Edition
   They Say/I Say. Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. 2nd Edition

Course Overview:
         As constant communicators, we are experts at code switching—altering the
patterns, tones, and messages of our speech/writing depending on our audience
and the context of the communication. Think of how you speak differently when
you are around friends, professors, your parents, or strangers; every time you
alter your speech to fit that conversation, you are code-switching.
         As writers, we are also presented with many choices when it comes to our
forms of communication. Choosing to write in different genres means you could
present an argument in an academic paper, include images and infographs, or
utilize various audio/visual media. Working with different academic and
popular/media genres demand many skills of us: observation, inference, analysis,
convention, rebellion, revision, and reflection.
         The purpose of this special section of 1105 is two-fold: 1) We will be
utilizing tablet PCs, and a software called ThoughtSwap in order to engage in
discussion using technology; and 2) two of your major assignments will involve
group work. As engineers, you will often be asked to work in teams.
Collaborative writing is not always easy, but preparing you to write with others
will be a key focus this semester and will help you develop your team skills. This
requires cooperation, planning, and often, patience.
         Individually in this class, you will be asked to **follow a topic** of your
choice throughout the semester, the culmination of which will result in **a wiki
page** by the end of the semester. Each week you will be following online forums,
wikis, blogs, and websites in order to get the latest news on your topic. As you
would with any long-term project, a brief 300-word report will be due every
Friday. This can include additions, edits, or corrections.
         Secondly, you will be asked to **read critically and rhetorically** in
preparation for **three major assignments**: a visual analysis, a music project,
and technical instructions for creative digital media software (Photoshop, iMovie,
etc).
         Lastly, this course will focus heavily on helping you get to know yourself as
a writer. To help you keep focus on **your own writing process** this
throughout the semester, you will be completing **writing journal entries** in
your wiki. These will often be in response to the major assignments, but the
journal is also yours to use as you see fit. I will log in to Scholar and check it
periodically.

These assignments, along with the wiki page, are designed to prepare you for writing and communicating in many environments, and will help us to achieve the following outcomes:

- Gain knowledge of composition's rhetorical dimensions
- Use writing as a tool for critical thinking and reflection
- Practice writing as a process via using multiple brainstorming, invention, revision, and editing strategies
- Write in several genres that utilize analysis, reflection, narrative, critique, and argument skill
- Practice using the conventions of written, spoken, and visual composition
- Practice writing and creating in digital environments

Course Breakdown:
Major Assignments: 60%
"This I Believe" Essay...5%
Images Analysis Paper (#1) 10%
My Music Group Project (#2)..10%
Instructions/Usability Study Group Project (#3)...10%
Ten (10) Wiki Updates..15%
Final Wiki Page/Reflection..10%

Participation: 40%
Attendance/Participation..20%
Writing Journal Entries...10%
Reading Assessment...10%

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. You will be allowed three (3) free absences. Any absences after the third will begin to influence your participation grade.
- 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 3:30-5:30 & by appt.). I love to help!
- 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.
- are familiar with the Virginia Tech Principles of Community statement 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.