

ENL-305 Philosophy

ENL-305, "Freelance Writing: Print and Web" is rooted in the idea that each student communicates in a variety of discourse communities that he/she must identify in order to write effectively. The entire course revolves around the dissection, deconstruction, and reconstruction of WIRED Magazine. The goal is to create an online version of WIRED--**UDM REWIRED**--that is sensitive to the contexts of students at the University of Detroit Mercy.



ENL-305 requires a very high level of commitment, persistence, and enthusiasm on the part of the student. Slacking will not be tolerated in this class, and will only lead to failure since success depends on interacting constantly with others, and in taking responsibility for the success of others. **THIS CLASS IS A WORKSHOP**, therefore students are required to engage in extensive peer review both online and in class. The online discussions (e-mail listserv) are essential for developing an understanding of the assignments and course content. Students are also required to maintain an extensive writing portfolio that demonstrates their ability to transform disparate artifacts of their discourse communities into polished, publishable works.

ENL-305 Schedule

The primary text for this course is *Fact and Artifact* by Lynn Z. Bloom (Woodward Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1994). However, the text that is most crucial is WIRED magazine 10.02 (February, 2002). All students must also subscribe to the online "Circuits" section of the New York Times (details in class). Due to the spontaneous nature of this course, materials will also be drawn from current, weekly publications. Students are expected to keep up with readings by paying close attention to directions in class and through e-mail. Note as well that each group will be responsible for teaching a chapter of Bloom's book to the class.

Specific readings for classes are indicated directly beneath the class day below, and contained in >><< symbols.

Tuesday, January 8	INTRODUCTION - What is Creative Nonfiction? Intro to books, e-mail list, web site, <u>class projects</u> .
Thursday, January 10	- Writing In Context >>Bloom, 1-18<<
Tuesday, January 15	- In-Class Writing Assignment - Groups formed - Introduction to HTML
Thursday, January 17	- HTML Continued - FTP - Sending files to the Web.
Tuesday, January 22	GETTING WIRED - Wired Magazine, first impressions. >>WIRED 8.09, Rants and Raves<< - How to write a "Rant" or "Rave" class discussion. In-Class Writing.
Thursday, January 24	- Introduction to Dreamweaver Weekend Assignment: Complete <u>Rant/Rave I</u> .
Tuesday, January 29	- Group Editing of "Rants and Raves." - Class Wokshop: Rant/Rave on the web. - FINAL DRAFT of Rant/Rave I DUE.
Thursday, January 31	STYLE GROUP 1 PRESENTATION - Style and Discourse Communities - >>Bloom, 19-50<< Weekend Assignment: Complete <u>Rant/Rave II</u> .

<p>Tuesday, February 5</p>	<p>RE-VISIONING GROUP 2 PRESENTATION - Revision Issues >>Bloom, 51-82<< - Group Editing for Rant/Rave II</p>
<p>Thursday February 7</p>	<p>- Intro to Fireworks image editing. - FINAL DRAFT of Rant/Rave II DUE.</p>
<p>Tuesday, February 12</p>	<p>PEOPLE GROUP 3 PRESENTATION - Writing about people: The Interview >>Bloom, 83-114<< - <u>Interview</u> assignment presented. Students e-mail interviewee and conduct research. - Interview MUST be completed during week of October 8-12.</p>
<p>Thursday, February 14</p>	<p>The WIRED Interview. What is it? >>WIRED "Must Read" + handouts<< Work on interview questions</p>
<p>Tuesday, February 19</p>	<p>MORE PEOPLE -Interview questions presented to class.</p>
<p>Thursday, February 21</p>	<p>- GROUP 4 PRESENTATION >>Bloom, 115-145<< Interview must be completed. In-class group work on polishing interviews. - Writing about places, events, entertainment - Wired Place Assignment described</p>
<p>Tuesday, February 26</p>	<p>PLACES - IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENT: <u>WIRED Places</u>. Bring notes, photos. - Web design workshop and individual portfolio reviews.</p>
<p>Thursday, February 28</p>	<p>- FINAL DRAFT OF INTERVIEW DUE - Groups present Interview Assignment. - Portfolio Reviews continue.</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 5</p>	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>
<p>Thursday, March 7</p>	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 12</p>	<p>THINGS - Writing about Techno-fetish items. <u>Fetish project</u> assigned. >>WIRED "Fetish" Department<< >>Bloom, 241-270<<</p>
<p>Thursday, March 14</p>	<p>- Group editing of Fetish projects.</p>

<p>Tuesday, March 19</p>	<p>CRITICAL THINKING >>Bloom, 277-308<< - Submit FIRST DRAFT of Fetish Project. - Group editing of Fetish.</p>
<p>Thursday, March 21</p>	<p>- Discussion of Final Project, "<u>Electronic Critique.</u>" - Fetish Web page design workshop.</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 26</p>	<p>- Fetish project critique. - Submit FINAL DRAFT of Fetish project.</p>
<p>Thursday, March 28</p>	<p>- Fetish project critique.</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 2</p>	<p>- Group brainstorming on final electronic critique project.</p>
<p>Thursday, April 4</p>	<p>- Electronic Critique Workshop - Group editing of E-Crit Project.</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 9</p>	<p>- Submit FIRST DRAFT of Electronic Critique Project.</p>
<p>Thursday, April 11</p>	<p>- <u>UDM REWIRED</u> Task Assignment/Brainstorming.</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 16</p>	<p>- UDM REWIRED - Submit FINAL DRAFT of Electronic Critique Project.</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 18</p>	<p>- UDM REWIRED</p>
<p>Thursday, March 7 & EXAM WEEK</p>	<p>- UDM REWIRED</p>

ENL-305 Assignments

The assignments below are a combination of individual and group work. All of these assignments will be submitted in print AND on the Web. Note that **15%** should be added to the total points below (90) to account for **PARTICIPATION and QUIZZES**. This grade includes online discussion, class participation, attendance, and group work (you will be peer reviewed by those in your group). Quizzes will take the form of a journal, in which you will write about an article from the *NY Times* "Circuits" section. Students are also expected to keep a **WRITING PORTFOLIO** that will be reviewed in conference with the professor. You must not ignore the value of online discussion. Not only will this help improve your participation grade, but it will also provide you with valuable information on how to complete the assignments. Most importantly, by contributing regularly to online discussion, you demonstrate that the course is more than just a means to a university credit--it is a force in the shaping of your creative and intellectual life.

Rants and Raves I - 5 points - Tuesday, January 29 (first draft - submit final draft with Rant/Rave II)

Write a short (1-3 paragraph) rant or rave to WIRED Magazine regarding anything at all in Issue 9.09 that you think deserves commentary. Remember that the rant or rave must be in first person, and must express something about your own experience in relation to the subject you are covering. This assignment tests your understanding of content in WIRED, and asks you to address the WIRED readers as peers in a digital culture.

Rants and Raves II - 5 points - Thursday, February 7

Write another rant or rave that expresses the exact opposite of the opinion in your first rant or rave. This tests your ability to view issues from another perspective, and may force you to put yourself into a persona that is much unlike yourself.

N.B.: When the assignment has been completed, peer reviewed, and edited, you will submit one of your rants or raves to WIRED Magazine via e-mail (rants@wired.com). **Note: You must include Professor O'Gorman (marcel@e-crit.com) in the cc: line of the message in order for the assignment to be graded.**

WIRED Places - 5 points (in-class assignment) - Tuesday, February 26

Select a place on campus that you consider "wired" and write about it from a personal perspective drawing on all of your senses. As ridiculous as it may sound, ask the following questions: What is your first impression? What color are the walls? How are the acoustics? Does the room have a certain odor? What is the temperature? Evidently, you will have to visit the wired place before writing the piece in class. This assignment tests your ability to note details and recreate them as vividly as possible for the reader. This will also be used as pre-writing for the final assignment.

The WIRED Interview - 15 points (group grade) - Thursday, February 28 (Final Draft)

Each group of students will be assigned to a "wired" person on campus who you will contact, schedule an appointment with, and visit in order to conduct a personal interview. For this assignment, it is essential that you conduct background research on the person and compose a list of questions to ask him or her. Questions and research results will be submitted to Prof. O'Gorman before the interview takes place.

While you are conducting the interview, pay close attention to details, especially the physical appearance of the person and his/her surroundings (try to meet the person in his/her office space). You should also consider how you are going to record the interview: in writing only? on audio tape? on video? You will be permitted to sign out a digital camera or camcorder for the interview, and it is strongly urged that you photograph your subject.

Once the interview has been completed, you will work with your co-interviewer to craft it into a narrative interview suitable for an audience of your choosing. You must post the entire article on the Web and submit a print version for publication at a UDM or Detroit city newspaper.

WIRED Fetish - 15 points - Tuesday, March 26 (Final Draft)

Drawing on your class "field trip" experience to a place of techno-fetishism, write a brief technology review of a single, digital device. Your audience will be the UDM community and anyone else who might visit the UDM Rewired Web site. This project requires you not only to have a first-hand experience with the fetish object, but also to conduct research on the object through consumer reports, web site descriptions, catalog entries, etc. You may also choose to conduct a separate field trip of your own, and bonus marks will be given for finding techno-fetish items on campus. You might even consider doing a Fetish parody. Present your Fetish idea to Prof. O'Gorman before you begin the project.

Feature Article: Electronic Critique - 25 points - Tuesday, April 16 (Final Draft)

Drawing on all of your experiences of WIRED people, places and things at UDM, write a feature-length article about any aspect of "Wired Culture" with which you have had first-hand experience. The article must be submitted to a magazine or web journal of your choosing. Since this feature will take the form of an argumentative piece, you must come up with a thesis or organizing idea to tie the piece together. In short, what are you being critical about? This doesn't mean, however, that this will not be a creative piece. It just means that you must think about your experience within a larger cultural context.

You must provide dialogue in this article or excerpts from interviews that you conduct. You must also submit images, illustrations, and/or graphs to give your piece a pictorial identity. Finally, as always, you must consider your audience: where are you going to submit the article? What are the guidelines or format requirements for the magazine or web journal? This must be discussed with Prof. O'Gorman.

One way of approaching this article is to let it grow out of your interview. What were some of the issues covered in the interview? Should you conduct another interview to probe the issues more deeply? Another possibility would be to seek out a new "wired" experience and write about it within the context of digital culture. For example, you might ask someone to give you a lesson in server maintenance or digital video, or you might spend some time in a chat room or on a discussion list. You might even ask to spend an hour at the Computing Services help desk. Whatever you do, remember to ask questions, take notes, and conduct background research.

UDM REWIRED - 15 points (Group Grade) - Due Exam Week

In the last weeks of class, the students and professor will engage in a collaborative web project entitled UDM REWIRED. The goal is to update and redesign the current UDM Rewired Web site that focuses on wired people, places, and things on the UDM campus. In collaboration with ENL 491 (E-Crit Majors), groups will organize themselves into Design Units and submit proposals for layout and design. The groups will then decide on a master design for the site and tasks will be assigned for each group member. The grade will be determined according to the conceptual strength of the group's designs, as well as the group's ability to divide tasks efficiently and evenly according to the strengths of its members.

[UDM Rewired 1.0](#) | [UDM Rewired 2.0](#) | [UDM Rewired 3.0](#)

GRADE & GPA TABLE													
Average	0%	60%	63%	67%	70%	73%	77%	80%	83%	87%	90%	93%	97%
Ltr Grade	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
GPA	0.00	0.67	1.00	1.33	1.67	2.00	2.33	2.67	3.00	3.33	3.67	4.00	4.00

Etc. (course policies)

Attendance and Tardiness

Attendance will be taken for all classes. Absence from class or tardiness will result in poor quiz scores, which will have an impact on your final grade.

Due Dates

The due dates indicated on the syllabus should be followed strictly unless other arrangements have been made. The assignment grade will drop by 1 point for each day of tardiness.

Plagiarism

With the availability of essays and other materials online, it is very tempting to "borrow" the work of others for use in class. Remember that if you can find it online, so can your professor. Be sure to use proper citation (quotation marks and source) for all material that you wish to quote.

Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a grade of 0.