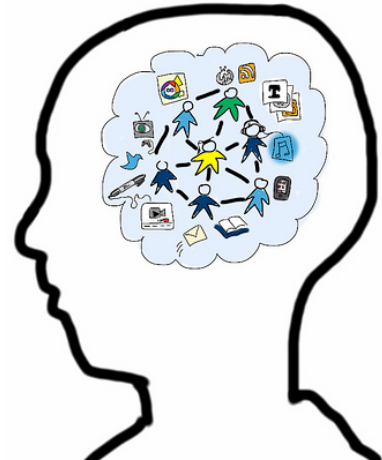**ENGL794/894**: Digital Writing Research
Old Dominion University, Online & Norfolk Campus
Second Summer Session 2013
- July 3-14: Online
- July 15-26: On campus, 2:15pm-3:50pm (location BAL2019)
- July 27- Aug.15: Online
Sections: 33483, 33484, 33485, 33486, 33487, 33488
Course Websites:
- For assignments, instructions and submission of most coursework:
  http://bit.ly/engl894SDIs13
- You will be responsible for using a variety of other technologies and
  websites throughout the course!

Instructor Information
Instructor Information

Dr. Rochelle (Shelley) Rodrigo	Office Hours & Location:
- Phone: 623-455-6296/757-683-3997	- Location: BAL2008
- E-mail address: rrodrigo@odu.edu	- By Appointment:
- Yahoo, AIM & Skype Instant Message Handle: puptoes74; Google Handle: shelley.rodrigo	http://doodle.com/rrodrigo
- Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/shelley.rodrigo	

Course Description
Although we may not agree upon a term to label this growing field of study, we can agree that digital technologies have greatly impacted what we consider "writing" as well as the methods we use to study writing. This course will introduce students to a variety of (adapted) methods used to research both the process and products of (digital) writing (in digital spaces). In short, we will explore the question: What are digital writing research methods and applications?

During the course, we will examine a variety of research methods including more traditional research methods and how they have adapted to digital spaces as well as methods that have emerged to engage with digital texts (including images, audio & video). We will explore research methods that, like usability testing and archival research, help analyze both the process and produce of digital texts as well as digital research applications, like corpus and qualitative analysis applications. As with any introductory class, we will not go into enough detail for any one method or application to become an expert; instead, we will explore a variety of digital writing objects of study and the various research questions, methods, and applications that might be applied to them.

Course Outcomes--DRAFT
After participating in this course, students shall be able to:
1. Analyze how theory and personal experience (both researcher and participant) is already in a digital writing site.
2. Examine how knowledge and interests of the community (both the researcher's and participants') impinge on what is studied and how it is addressed.
3. Assess how the technology of a site impacts the events and data that researchers observe and collect.
4. Examine how interaction in cyberspace is computer-mediated as well as filtered through traditional screens of researcher, participants, observation tools, etc.

"21st Century Learner" Creative Commons licensed image posted at Flickr by giulia.forsythe

5. Discuss how computers add possibilities for the collection of digital writing data, change the dynamics of some traditional collection approaches, and increase methods of data analysis.
6. Construct and design *critical* methodology out of a particular site and/or project (not simply select from options outside the research context).
7. Design a research study focused on "writing" defined broadly as something verbal, graphic, static, dynamic—as it is produced to exist in print or electronically (p. 34).

Adapted from Sullivan & Porter (1997), p. 34 and pp. 46-7.

Course Materials
Required Materials
*   Patricia Sullivan & James E. Porter's *Opening Spaces: Writing Technologies and Critical Research Practices* (Ablex, 1997)
*   Heidi A. McKee & Danielle Nicole DeVoss's *Digital Writing Research: Technologies, Methodologies, and Ethical Issues* (Hampton Press, 2007)
*   Michael Nentwich & Rene Konig's *Cyberscience 2.0: Research in the Age of Digital Social Networks* (Campus Verlag, 2012)

Course Policies
Statement of Accommodation
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. One element of this legislation requires that all qualified students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. I would like everyone to know that I am willing to make any reasonable accommodation for limitations due to any disability, including learning disabilities. If you have or think you have a disability, including a learning disability, please make an appointment with an advisor at the Office of Educational Accessibility as soon as possible. They can assist you with appropriate accommodations for you in your classes. Please see ODU's Office of Educational Accessibility, and then me, to discuss any special needs you might have. Information about ODU's Office of Educational Accessibility:
*   Web address: http://studentaffairs.odu.edu/educationalaccessibility/
*   Phone number: 757-683-4655

Attendance, Participation, and Withdrawal Policies
Attendance is based on presence. Please take participation seriously; since this class is a community of thinkers who will discuss and collaborate on ideas, your lack of participation hurts others as well as yourself. So please participate in class on time and have your homework completed by the assigned deadline. I will not withdraw you from the course; therefore, if you wish to be withdrawn from the course, you must initiate withdrawal procedures.

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. If a student is disruptive, an instructor may ask the student to stop the disruptive behavior and warn the student that such disruptive behavior can result in withdrawal from the course. An instructor may withdraw a student from a course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process

Online Learning Environments
We will be using a variety of technological, mostly web-based, applications for academic use in ENGL794/894, Digital Writing Research (sections 33483, 33484, 33485, 33486, 33487 & 33488) Summer semester 2013. By default, many of these technologies are open to the public for the purpose of sharing your work with the larger Internet community.

To use the web-based application responsibly please observe all laws and ODU policies that are incorporated into the Codes of Conduct and Academic Integrity. Some specific aspects of law and policy that might be well to remember are prohibitions against copyright infringement, plagiarism, harassment or interferences with the underlying technical code of the software. Some resources to remind yourself about ODU's policies as well as a digital document about laws on copyright and fair use:

- ODU's Monarch Creed and Honor Code
- MCCCD Copyright Guidelines

As a student using the web-based applications certain rights accrue to you. Any original work that you make tangible belongs to you as a matter of copyright law. You also have a right to the privacy of your educational records as a matter of federal law and may choose to set your privacy settings to private and only share with the instructor and your classmates. Your contributions to the various web-based applications constitute educational records. By contributing to the web-based applications, and not taking other options available to you in this course equivalent to this assignment that would not be posted publicly on the Internet, you consent to the collaborative use of this material as well as to the disclosure of it in this course and potentially for the use of future courses.

Grading Policies
Assignment Distribution

Project #1: Research Resources Database	15%
Project #2: Focused Digital Research Method Report	20%
Project #3: Final Project Research Proposal	30%
Homework and Reflection Activities	20%
Attendance and Participation	15%
TOTAL	**100%**

Grading Scale
Grades are determined according to the following scale:
- A (95-100%)
- A- (90-94.9%)
- B+ (87-89.9%)
- B (83-86.9%)
- B- (80-82.9%)
- C+ (77-79.9%)
- C (73-76.9%)
- C- (70-72.9%)
- D+ (67-69.9%)
- D (63-69.9%)
- D- (60-62.9%)
- F (59% or below)

Incomplete Grades
A course grade of "Incomplete" will be given only in extreme situations because the sad story is that most students who request incompletes never finish the course. Please visit the following website for more information: http://www.odu.edu/ao/registrar/grades/incompletes/igrades.shtml.

Course Schedule/Calendar
http://bit.ly/DWRs13schedule
Please have all homework completed before class. This schedule is an outline of the course and will change. All changes will be posted in the course website under "schedule."

Syllabus Contract Form

Student Responsibilities
You are expected to contribute positively to the learning environment of the classroom by:
- taking responsibility for your own success in class;
- reading, reviewing, and referring to the course handbook/syllabus for all pertinent information;
- reading, reviewing, and referring to the ODU College Catalog for college policies (http://catalog.odu.edu/);
- actively asking questions and seeking out help from the instructor;
- participating regularly in this course in the various virtual environments;
- keeping a copy of all assignments until the end of the semester; and
- immediately reporting all e-mail/computer problems to the professor and it is your responsibility to complete the course assignment and activities even in the face of computer failure.

Instructor Responsibilities:
- The instructor reserves the right to require proctoring or validation of students' academic work at the instructor's discretion.
- The instructor reserves the right to change or modify course policies, materials, or deadlines in response to student feedback or unforeseen circumstances. Students will be notified by the instructor of any changes in course requirements or policies.
- The instructor requests that students allow the instructor **48 hours** to respond to student emails or other forms of contact.
- The instructor will attempt to be available during weekdays, however, as balance between family and work is important in everyone's lives, the instructor reserves the right to be unavailable on weekends.
- The instructor requests that students allow the instructor three week days from the date of submission (original deadline, not if the assignment is turned in late), to post a grade, or provide feedback, on any homework assignments, one week for major writing projects. (Note: the instructor will make every effort to provide faster turn around time-however, sometimes faster turn around is not possible)
- The instructor may be "out-of-the-office" for extended periods of time, and requests that students understand that this situation may occur and allow for such inconveniences (however, the instructor will always attempt to email and/or post an announcement to the class about any such circumstances)

Student Agreement
The signature below, as well as attendance and participation in this class, signifies that the student has agreed to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that the instructor may adapt or change this Handbook/syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the class. The instructor may drop a student if the student fails to complete the work; however, it is the student's responsibility to drop the course if they do not wish to continue. If the student does not drop the course by the appropriate date the student will receive an F.

(Be sure to ask the instructor any questions concerning the handbook/syllabus before signing below.)

_____   _____
Student's Name, Printed   Student UIN Number

_____   _____
Student's Signature   Date