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TCC Final Project Proposal

My question for my final TCC project is: what is the theoretical justification for an inquiry course based in both digital and public writing, and how would one implement such a course within TCU’s current 10803 structure?

I am interested in this question because I will be teaching this course in the spring! The theoretical justification I have done so far mostly consists of mass media research on how younger millennials (or Generation Z) interact with online environments. These sources primarily focus on these individuals’ use of technology and the ensuing behavioral and mental patterns among them. I plan to investigate the conversations in composition studies regarding students and the digital public, particularly in terms of texts, constructions of self, and circulation of knowledge.

Research will be primarily involve published texts, research on both digital and public writing. I will particularly be looking for records of this work being done in classrooms, and how instructors of these courses justify their work. I will also be gathering resources about how to introduce concepts of digital culture, writing, and circulation to my class. This research will hopefully result in the construction of the first unit, in which students will set up their portfolios and start considering what it means to write and publish for online audiences/communities. Some of what we’ve read in TCC lately regarding text and multimodality has already given me ideas, particularly the “Teaching Delivery” chapter of *The St. Martin’s Guide…* and its outline of Selber’s parameters of approaches to computer literacy.

This project will be invaluable in a number of ways. First and most practically, it will help me frame those first few crucial weeks of class, in which students come to understand the tone, pattern, and procedure of the themed course. As I have not taught this class previously, I will need to approach those first weeks with great intentionality. Also, learning about the theory behind this work, rather than just relying on my own experiences for justification, will help me explain the purpose of this course to others. Lastly, this project will help me practice the general skill of finding and providing justification of my work, which I will undoubtedly have to do repeatedly over the course of my career, whether to deans, chairs, fellow faculty, comp colleagues, or students.

I identified some public mass media sources in the cover page to my themed course proposal, and I will use those to convey general research about current students and technology use. I will also be drawing on work done by those in new media or digital writing, as well as potentially looking ats fields outside of composition such as journalism and communication. My research is in the beginning stages, but I am confident I will find the sources I need for the project, resulting in a valuable addition to my digital portfolio and a foundation for my spring 10803 course.