

Spring 2023 ENG 202 Descriptions

Research Methodologies in Visual and Multimodal Rhetoric: How Images, Words, and Sounds Persuade

Amy Anderson

This course will explore a range of research methodologies in English Studies, with a primary focus on visual and multimodal texts. We'll draw on cultural studies, interdisciplinary studies, and rhetorical concepts like ambient rhetoric and rhetorical velocity to analyze primary texts ranging from carefully composed environments to advertisements, comics, and infographics.

Parody and Fake News in a “Post-Fact” Society

Vicki Tischio

The prevalence of fake, false and/or misleading information constitutes a kind of crisis in education and in society. Reports suggest that the raid on the Capitol on Jan. 6 was, at least partly, fueled by fake and misleading information. How do faculty help their students navigate this new world of (mis)information? In this ENG202 course, students will dive into this question alongside the professor, who is currently working on a book on this topic. Students will study and critique actual events that were inspired by fake news, such as Pizzagate, will identify fake or false information through internet research. The course will also highlight critical literacy and information literacy pedagogy and practices through existing scholarship, such as “The Citation Project,” which studies students’ research and citation of sources habits. Students will also approach this course from a literary critical perspective, looking at theories of parody and examples of political parody. Parody is a duplicitous and double-voiced discourse, similar to fake news. Parody, as a literary genre, invites readers into a world where facts are bent and distorted and can help students better understand the strategies that go into producing truly dishonest discourse.