

## ENGL 212: Topics in Critical Writing

Spring 2018 – Online

Monday, May 14-Saturday, June 30

**Professor:** Dr. Kim Lacey (please, call me Kim!)

**In-person office hours:** Monday, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

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**Office:** B 358

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### Considerations before we begin this course:

- This is a 16-week course crammed into 7 weeks. There will be a lot of work.
- ENGL 212 is a Category 10 course, meaning you will be writing a lot.
- This is an asynchronous course, meaning we will not be “meeting” for a virtual lecture nor will be meeting in person. You are responsible for completing each week’s module on time.
- Please read the course calendar, which is at the end of the syllabus, carefully. Note that some assignments are due at different times throughout the week, but all are due by 11:59 p.m. EST. If you are living in a different time zone, please make sure you take careful note of this requirement. No late assignments will be accepted. If you know there’s a conflict, submit your work early.

**Very important:** Ask yourself this question: “What will happen to my participation in this course if my computer goes down?” If the answer is “I am doomed,” then you should withdraw and register for a face-to-face section another time. You need to have backup technology plans, because a “down” computer will not excuse you from the work in this course. Please use a cloud-based storage system (such as Dropbox, Google Docs, or OneDrive) to save your work and have access to it in multiple locations.

### Technology requirements

To have success in this class, you are expected to access and use Canvas regularly. You should also have access to a cloud-based storage system (as noted above). Additionally, you must have access to a means of creating and posting a video. This could simply be taking a video on your phone, tablet, or computer. Finally, you will also be required to have a dedicated blogging platform for the “Surveillance Scrapbook” assignment (please see the assignment description for further details).

### Course questions

Randolph Lewis, the author of our book *Under Surveillance*, asks, “What are the implications of living with these rapidly proliferating surveillance technologies and practices? What are the hidden costs of living in a society in which surveillance is deemed essential to governance, business, and ordinary social life? What are the emotional burdens and benefits of living in a surveillance-obsessed culture? And ultimately, what is driving the vast market for surveillance on an emotional and ideological level in ways that often transcend logic and reason?” We will use these questions to guide our thinking throughout the semester.

### Class procedures

This course is divided into modules. You are expected to complete the activities in each module by the due dates. While all of the modules are available “on demand,” the modules are **NOT** self-paced—that is, each week has different activities that must be completed in that week (i.e., discussion posts). You must complete all the activities in each module to earn credit. Please be aware that some modules will require you to comment on others’ discussion posts. Just as you would in a face to face class, you are

expected to be active and participate in discussion with your classmates. Failure to do so will result in a lower grade.

Participation in this course is asynchronous. You are not expected to be online at the same time as the professor or as your peers, as long as you complete the assignments. Each week, all instructions and assignments, along with a description of the week's activities, are made available to you in the "Modules" tab.

I check the course site daily and will generally respond to questions within 24-48 hours, so feel free to post any questions you have in the "Questions for Kim" discussion board. Please note, however, that email is the easiest way for me to respond. Oftentimes, I will repost questions I receive via email on the "Questions for Kim" discussion board (with your name removed). Many students have the same questions, so this saves time for everyone. Please consider checking the "Questions for Kim" discussion board before emailing me—someone may have already asked the same question!

Canvas is not a new tool at SVSU, and I do expect you to be well versed in using Canvas. However, if you need help, please refer to the extensive library of Canvas how-to videos and help pages: <http://guides.instructure.com/>

### **Participation**

For this class, I strongly suggest you log on at least once a day, if for no other reason than just to keep up with what is going on in the course. I also want to reinforce that you should try to check the course at least one weekend day, even if you have completed the requirements for the week.

As in a face-to-face class, attendance does not equal participation. Merely logging in does not mean that you are participating in class.

### **Tone**

The objective of the discussions we will have is to be collaborative rather than combative. Remember that even an innocent remark in the online environment can be easily misconstrued. Some suggestions to combat this are to carefully proofread your responses and to remember that humor online is sometimes difficult to carry off. Sarcasm is particularly difficult to get across in written form, so be careful.

### **Our classroom**

We will spend most of our time in class in following places:

- **Modules (access via "Modules" tab):** The entire semester is built around 7 weekly modules. In each module, you'll find all the work to be completed that week. You should follow these in order.
- **Assignments (access via the "Assignments" tab):** Paper descriptions are available in the "Assignments" tab. You can also find these under the "Files" tab.
- **Discussion posts (access via the "Discussions" tab):** This is where you will post your discussion posts. Your discussion posts will be assessed in the following ways: 3 points: superior; 2 points: mediocre; 1 point: poor; 0 points: no submission.
- **Weekly updates (access via each weekly "Module"):** At the start of each week I will post a short video discussing some of the issues of the week. These include, but are not limited to: reviewing assignments, tricky theories, points of interest and confusion, answers to questions, etc. I will post the weekly update in each weekly module and also e-mail it to everyone.

- **Videos (access via each weekly “Module” tab):** In many weeks, you will be required to watch videos. Sometimes these videos are me discussing an assignment while other times they are short videos related to our readings.
- **Questions for Kim (access via “Discussions” tab):** Use this to post any questions that you have about the course, modules, etc. I generally check here first when I enter Canvas, so post any questions or problems (i.e., can't see links, when are things due, etc.) here. Others are free to answer in this forum as well.

### **Required text to purchase**

This text has been ordered at the bookstore, but feel free to shop around online for the cheapest price.

Randolph Lewis, *Under Surveillance: Being Watched in Modern America*  
ISBN: 978-1477312438

You will also be required to watch one film. If you have to rent it, you will want to factor in that cost, too.

### **Assignments**

Surveillance log and reflection (beginning of semester): 7%  
 Surveillance log and reflection (end of semester): 7%  
 Funopticon film analysis: 14%  
 Surveillance memoir: 10%  
 Nature cam video review: 7%  
 Surveillance scrapbook and analytical reflection: 16%  
 Discussion posts (reflections, responses, questions, etc.): 3% each/39% total

### **Grading scale**

↑95%: A  
 ↑90%: A-  
 ↑87%: B+  
 ↑83%: B  
 ↑80%: B-  
 ↑77%: C+  
 ↑73%: C  
 ↑60%: D  
 0%: F

Please note: SVSU does not give out C- grades. Any grade lower than 73% automatically defaults to a D. Any grade lower than a 60% automatically defaults to an F. There are no “pluses or minuses” in that range.

ENGL 212 courses use a common rubric, which can be found in the “Files” tab.

### **Course policies**

The decision to take this course is yours, but once you make that decision, you have responsibilities to everyone else in this community of learners. It is your responsibility to abide by the following course policies in order to contribute to our classroom’s productivity.

**Access:** Check your e-mail daily. It's SVSU's official mode of communication, and there is no excuse why you shouldn't check it often. This is an online course, and you must have consistent internet access for this course. Not having access is not an excuse. Please make arrangements in advance if you know you will have difficulties getting online.

**Grade postings:** All grades will be posted on Canvas. I do not share grades or other course related information on social media.

**Late work: Late work is unacceptable.** Please ensure that your work is submitted on time. The deadlines are clearly marked on all paper descriptions and on the course calendar. If you know a due date conflicts with something outside of class, plan ahead and submit your assignment early. If Canvas is not working, please email me your paper. Regardless of how you submit your paper, I will send a confirmation e-mail by 9 am the next morning. If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail, I did not receive your paper.

### **Disability and non-discrimination clause**

Students with disabilities which may restrict their full participation in course activities are encouraged to contact the SVSU Office of Disability Services, Wickes Hall 260, Phone: 989-964-7000. SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability, or veteran status in the provision of education, employment, and other services.

### **Academic integrity policy**

According to the *SVSU Student Handbook*, "Academic integrity is undermined whenever one is dishonest in the pursuit of knowledge. Dishonesty takes many forms, including cheating, plagiarism, and other activities for undermining the educational process.

"Cheating occurs whenever one attempts to gain an advantage through a violation of rules regarding the relevant behavior. It should be assumed that collaboration is cheating unless explicitly authorized" (16).

"Plagiarism involves intentionally or unintentionally presenting another person's expressions – ideas, opinions, illustrations, data, style – as one's own expression" (16).

Forms of plagiarism include directly transcribing (copying) without quotation and attribution, summarizing without attribution, paraphrasing or patchwork paraphrasing without attribution, patching electronic materials (including pictures, graphs, and/or charts) without attribution.

Please see the full Academic Integrity Policy here:

<http://www.svsu.edu/studentconductprograms/policies/academicintegritypolicy/>

*In ENGL 212 plagiarism or cheating in any form, deliberate or otherwise, will result in the grade of zero (0) for the entire assignment and will be reported to the Academic Conduct Board for further sanctions.*

### **Writing Center information**

One of the many advantages as an SVSU student is the Writing Center. You are strongly encouraged to meet with a tutor to discuss your writing. Sessions at the Writing Center are available on a first come, first serve basis. Please stop by the Writing Center anytime you need additional help.

Writing Center Hours Spring/Summer Semester

Tuesdays: 11:00 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesdays: 12:00 p.m.-4 p.m.

Location: Zahnnow 205 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library)

Phone: 989-964-6061

Website: [www.svsu.edu/writingcenter](http://www.svsu.edu/writingcenter)

For an online class, the Writing Center online might be beneficial for you:

<http://www.svsu.edu/writingcenter/onlinetutoring/>

Sundays: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Mondays: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 12 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

You might also benefit from two, off-site Writing Centers, staffed by SVSU students.

Bay County Writing Center

Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library

500 Center Ave.

Bay City, MI 48708

Phone: 989-893-9566

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Saginaw County Writing Center

Butman-Fish Public Library

1716 Hancock Street

Saginaw, MI 48602

Phone: 989-799-9160

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

**Course Calendar**

Important notes:

- This schedule is subject to changes. If changes are made, you will be notified in writing via e-mail.
- Make sure you read through and complete the entire module for each week. The “module work” listed below is simply a checklist of weekly requirements. Each part of the modules has very specific directions.
- Only major papers are listed in the “Major Paper Due Dates” column. There is other work that needs to be completed during each week.

<b>WEEK/MODULE</b>	<b>MODULE WORK</b>	<b>MAJOR PAPER DUE DATES</b> <i>(Reminder: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments in this column are due by Sundays at 11:59 pm EST)</i>
Module 0: Introduction to the Course  Preferably before the course begins, but can complete during Week 1	1. Take a look around!	

<p>Week 1: Monday, May 14- Sunday, May 20</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome!</li> <li>2. Video: Weekly update #1</li> <li>3. Discussion post: Introduce yourself!</li> <li>4. Reading: <i>Under Surveillance (US)</i>: Introduction (1-11)</li> <li>5. Discussion post: Reflection questions (due Thursday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>6. Video: Review “Surveillance Log and Reflection” assignment</li> <li>7. Discussion post: Respond to other discussion posts (due Sunday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>8. Reminder!</li> </ol>	<p>Surveillance Log and Reflection</p>
<p>Week 2: Monday, May 21- Sunday, May 27</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Video: Weekly update #2</li> <li>2. Reading: <i>US</i>: Chapters 1-2, “Feeling Surveillance” and “Welcome to the Funopticon” (12-81)</li> <li>3. Discussion post: Reflection questions (due Thursday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>4. Video: Review “Funopticon Film Analysis” assignment</li> <li>5. Video: Review “Surveillance Scrapbook and Analytical Reflection” assignment</li> <li>6. Discussion post: Respond to other discussion posts (due Sunday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> </ol>	
<p>Week 3: Monday, May 28- Sunday, June 3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Video: Weekly update #3</li> <li>2. Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Disney Meets Orwell with These Super Cute Surveillance Cameras”</li> <li>• “Snowden Just Showed Us How Big the Panopticon Really Was; Now It’s Up to Us”</li> <li>• “Millions of Voiceprints Quietly being Harvested as Latest Identification Tool”</li> <li>• “Photographer Proves End of Privacy Is Here Through Photos That Will Blow Your Mind”</li> <li>• “How This 2014 Instagram Hoax Predicted the Way We Now Use Social Media”</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Discussion post: Creating questions (due Thursday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>4. Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Would You Do?: Racially Appropriate toys</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Funopticon Film Analysis</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Would You Do?: Customer Cuts in Line, Wins Prize</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Discussion post: WWYD: Reflection (due Sunday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>6. Discussion post: Answering questions (due Sunday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>7. Reminder!</li> </ol>	
<p>Week 4: Monday, June 4- Sunday, June 10</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Video: Weekly update #4</li> <li>2. Reading: <i>US</i>: Chapter 3, "Growing Up Observed" (82-110)</li> <li>3. Discussion Post: Reflection questions (due Thursday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>4. Video: Review "Surveillance Memoir" assignment</li> <li>5. Discussion Post: Respond to other discussion posts (due Sunday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> </ol>	
<p>Week 5: Monday, June 11- Sunday, June 17</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Video: Weekly update #5</li> <li>2. Reading: <i>US</i>: Chapter 4, "Watching Walden" (111-157)</li> <li>3. Discussion Post: Reflection questions (due Thursday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>4. Video: Review "Surveillance Log and Reflection" assignment</li> <li>5. Discussion post: Respond to other discussion posts (due Sunday, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>6. Reminder!</li> </ol>	Surveillance Memoir
<p>Week 6: Monday, June 18- Sunday, June 24</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Video: Weekly update #6</li> <li>2. Video: Review "Nature Cam Analysis" assignment</li> <li>3. Reminder!</li> </ol>	<p>Nature Cam Video Review</p> <p>Surveillance Log and Reflection</p>
<p>Week 7: Monday, June 25- Saturday, June 30</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Video: Weekly update #7</li> <li>2. Course evaluation</li> <li>3. Discussion post: Surveillance scrapbook "presentations" (due <u>Wednesday</u>, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>4. Discussion post: Respond to other surveillance scrapbook "presentations" (due <u>Saturday</u>, 11:59 p.m.)</li> <li>5. Reminder!</li> <li>6. Bye and thank you!</li> </ol>	Surveillance Scrapbook (Due <u>Saturday</u> !)