AI Theory and Writing

Instructor
Dr. Nick Potkalitsky
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Free Periods: 1, 5, 7, 8

Research Partner
Dr. Terry Underwood (observing via Zoom & assisting with research)

Class Times & Location
Period 5, Room 142

Welcome!

In this course, you'll experiment with AI tools to brainstorm, draft, revise, and publish your writing. You'll build real-world writing skills and help shape how AI might be used in future classes.

Two Main Projects

1. **Project #1: Technological Autobiography**
   - **Focus**: Your personal history with technology (games, social media, AI, etc.).
   - **Due**: Around **March 12 or 14** (whichever date we finalize in class).
2. **Project #2: Exploring a Community You Know**
   - **Focus**: Investigate a real issue or topic in a community you're part of (sports team, club, online forum, etc.).
   - **Due**: **May 7** (final project).

Course Frameworks

- **PRESSED**: Analyzes your writing environment (Physical, Regulatory, Evolving Temporal, Shared-Digital, Social, Ethical, Diverse Audience).
- **THINK**: Guides your writing process (TOOLS, HONE, INTERACT, NAME, KINDLE).

We'll use these to plan and evaluate your work.

Grading

- **Major Projects (2)**: 100% of your grade.
- **AI usage logs, memos, interviews**: **Not** graded (research only).

Schedule (Only the Listed Dates)

Date	What We'll Do
Feb 7, 10, 13	- Course overview & intros - Experiment with AI brainstorming - Set up AI Usage Log
Feb 18, 20	- Deep dive into PRESSED & THINK - Compare peer vs. AI feedback - Reflective Memo #1
Feb 24, 26, 28	- Launch Project #1 (Tech Autobiography) - Create your self-prompt - Interview #1 - Reflective Memo #2
Mar 4, 6	- Drafting Project #1 - Build a collaborative rubric - Reflective Memo #3
Mar 10, 12, 14	- Finalize & share Project #1 - Group reflections on AI use - **Project #1 Due (Mar 12 or 14)** - Reflective Memo #4
Apr 1, 3	- Start Project #2 (Community Inquiry) - Conduct a PRESSED analysis - Reflective Memo #5
Apr 7, 9	- Drafting, peer feedback, AI checks - Compare AI feedback to peer - Reflective Memo #6
Apr 14, 16, 18	- Continue revisions & deeper research - Possibly share or test ideas with your community - Reflective Memo #7

Apr 23, 25	- Refining your draft
	- Interview #2 (if needed)
	- Reflective Memo #8

Apr 29 - Polishing drafts & final research checks
- Reflective Memo #9

May 1, 5 - Final workshops & preparations
- Reflective Memo #10

May 7 - **Project #2 Due** (final project)
- Group sharing or presentation (optional)

May 13, 15 - End-of-course reflections & debrief
- Revisiting PRESSED & THINK in "real life"

Note: The above schedule may shift slightly based on class progress.

Research Elements (Not Graded)

- **AI Usage Log**: Simple, handwritten notes every time you use AI for this class.
- **Reflective Memos**: Weekly ~250-word reflections about what's working, what's challenging, and your AI usage.
- **Interviews**: Two short interviews about your writing experience and AI usage.
- **Observations**: Occasional Zoom observations by Dr. Underwood and in-person by Dr. Potkalitsky.

Class Policies

1. **Respect & Collaboration**: We're trying new methods—keep an open mind and help each other.
2. **Late Work**: Communicate early if something affects your ability to meet deadlines.
3. **Academic Integrity**: If AI or any external source influences your work, acknowledge it.

Contact & Help

- **Free Periods**: 1, 5, 7, 8
- **Email**: nicolas.potkalitsky@mvschool.com

- **Office Hours**: By appointment or drop-in during free periods.

Final Thoughts

Thank you for joining this exploration of AI and writing. We look forward to seeing how you tackle these two projects—and how you reflect on the process during our **May 13 & 15** debrief days. Let's make it a great semester!