

RWS411 Fall 2026 Schedule

[Zoom link](#) for conferences and online meetings with the instructor.

WEEK 1	
Mon 08/24	Introductions, overview, assignments, course wiki, Hypothes.is, AI tools.
Wed 08/26	Reading and Writing AI. Read and discuss Kinstler "A University System Went All In on A.I." Kinsly Ettinghausen "What I Learned Reading Student ChatGPT Logs" Bree Vee, "How are Students Using AI?" (3 pages) Hazem Survey of interests/experiences. Potential paper topics. Volunteers for 08/31 readings. Homework for 08/26
WEEK 2	
Mon 08/31	Perspectives on AI. Read and discuss: Goldberg, "Why College Grads are Booing AI" Sanders, "AI Belongs to the People," Caleb Goldstein, "What Do Students Lose?" Isabella Mills, "Why Write?" Amia Mollick "Using AI Right Now: A Quick Guide" Volunteers for 09/02 readings (select text, insert comment in this doc) Homework for 08/31
Wed 09/02	Writing and AI: Entering the Conversation Read and discuss Walsh, "Everyone is Cheating Their Way Through College," Justin Dillard, "What is an Essay For in the Age of AI?" Pluto Mollick, "15 Times to use AI, and 5 Not to," Ima Volunteers for 09/09 readings Homework for 09/02
WEEK 3	
Mon 09/07	LABOR DAY NO CLASS CAMPUS CLOSED
Wed 09/09	O'Neil, "These Women Warned of AI's Dangers" Kyla Pickard, "Big Tech's Empire of Extraction," Charlotte Kelley, "The work of helping AI destroy work" Kevin Groups select texts for AI Presentations. Sign-up & instructions Homework for 09/09
WEEK 4	
Mon 09/14	In-class: groups work on AI Presentations. Sign-up & instructions

	Discuss short writing exercise 2 options. Homework for 09/14
Wed 09/16	In-class or online: groups work on AI Presentations. Sign-up & instructions Discuss short writing exercise 2 options.
WEEK 5	
Mon 09/21	Group presentations part 1
Wed 09/23	Group presentations part 2 Homework for 09/23 part 1: share link to group presentation Homework for 09/23 part 2: hand in short writing exercise 2 Volunteers for 09/28 readings
WEEK 6	
Mon 09/28	Why Writing Matters I Read and discuss Ong, " Some Psychodynamics of Orality " Sacacas, " Inescapable Town Square. " Homework for 09/28 : Analyzing Ong and Sacacas
Wed 09/30	Workshop Wednesday Short Writing Exercise 3 : Applying Ong Volunteers for 10/05 reading
WEEK 7	
Mon 10/05	Why Writing Matters II Read and discuss Thompson, Public Thinking , Micheal Homework for 10/05
Wed 10/07	Workshop Wednesday Experiments with prompt design. Exploring NotebookLM. Read proposal assignment Homework for 10/07
WEEK 9	
Mon 10/12	Draft proposals due. Brief presentations/progress reports
Wed 10/14	Conferences with Instructor (Zoom and/or my office SH114C)
WEEK 10	
Mon 10/19	PROPOSAL DUE AI for creativity and therapy?

	Read and discuss Marche, "The Future of Writing Is a Lot Like Hip-Hop Doctorow, "What Should Creative Workers Do About AI?" Petre and Ticona, "Starving Artists vs AI" Homework for 10/19
Wed 10/21	Workshop Wednesday: How Can AI Assist Rhetorical Analysis & Creative Writing? Using A.I. to help interpret, analyze, and evaluate an argument. Playful prompting. Creative applications of A.I. tools Short Writing Exercise 4: A.I. for rhetorical analysis and creative work Volunteers for 10/28 readings
WEEK 11	
Mon 10/26	Workshop Monday: How Can AI Assist Rhetorical Analysis & Creative Writing? Using A.I. to help interpret, analyze, and evaluate an argument. Playful prompting. Creative applications of A.I. tools Short Writing Exercise 4: A.I. for rhetorical analysis and creative work Volunteers for 10/28 readings
Wed 10/28	The Past and Present of Online Community Read and discuss Werry, "Imagined Electronic Community" Pariser and Allen, "Our Democracy Needs Digital Public Infrastructure" Homework for 10/28
WEEK 12	
Mon 11/02	Workshop MyEssayFeedback, AI feedback, and writing coaches
Wed 11/04	Social media, demagoguery, and authoritarian populism Read: 1-page handout key elements of demagoguery Roberts-Miller, "Rhetorical Characteristics of Demagoguery" Wallace, Inaugural Speech Homework for 11/04
WEEK 13	
Mon 11/09	Social media, AI, demagoguery, and authoritarian populism continued Read analyzing authoritarian populist rhetorics and apply to excerpts from speeches before and on Jan 6 attack at the Capitol Volunteers for 11/16 readings Homework for 11/09

Wed 11/11	Writing Workshop Working on final paper/projects & using AI to assist
WEEK 14	
Mon 11/16	Social Media and Free Speech Read and discuss Tufekci " It's the (Democracy-Poisoning) Golden Age of Free Speech " Tufekci, " YouTube The Great Radicalizer ." (1 page) Hassan, " Subscribe to PewDiePie " Homework for 11/16
Wed 11/18	Latest/Revised Project draft due Conferences with Instructor (Zoom and/or my office SH114C)
WEEK 15	
Mon 11/23	Conferences and peer review
Wed 11/25	THANKSGIVING NO CLASS
WEEK 16	
Mon 11/30	Digital Literacy and Debating Haidt Read Wineburg et al's short paper on digital literacy Twenge's, The Screen That Ate Your Child's Education Haidt's Senate testimony, " Teen Mental Health Is Plummeting ." Homework for 11/30
Wed 12/02	Workshop Wednesday Drafting and peer review
WEEK 17	
Mon 12/07	Presentations
Wed 12/09	Presentations Final day of classes
12/14	FINAL PAPER DUE