ENG 5900
Digital Literacies

OHIO UNIVERSITY
1804

Space Critique

An important part of this class is developing the tools to critique and analyze digital spaces. For the Space Critique, you'll be asked to choose a digital space that you use regularly or would like to learn more about. Then, you will break down the elements of the space. The space you choose must be multimodal, active, and social. You might consider choosing a social network site (such as Instagram or Snapchat), a space for posting media content (such as YouTube or Twitch), an online forum or aggregator (such as Reddit or Pinterest), or any other social media site or app. Based on what we've read in the class to this point, you'll critique the space. Your critique should include the following, but you are not limited to discussing only these topics:

- Modes of Communication: What modes in addition to alphabetic text do users use to communicate (audio, video, images, gestures, etc.)?
- Affordances and Constraints: In what ways does the space allow for and limit certain ways of doing things, thinking, or being? Try to go beyond obvious affordances and constraints to explore deep social identities that the space encourages or limits.
- Discourse Systems Used: What specialized language, images, gestures, etc. are used in the space that may be difficult for outsiders to understand?
- Social Structure: Who has power in the space? How is this power exercised? For example, who can make, edit, or delete content other than the original creator? How is this power used?
- Collaboration: Do users offer feedback to other users or co-create content with them? Is this collaboration amicable or not?

Objectives

- To put tools learned in the readings into practice
- To deeply analyze and critique a digital space
- To critique social aspects of digital media

Requirements

- Projects must be between 1500 and 3000 words.
- Projects must include sample content from the space, such as images, video, audio, or links.

Due Dates

- First drafts are due Monday, February 3rd
- Peer response is due Thursday, February 6th
- Final drafts are due Monday, February 10th

Screen Capture

You are required to use content from your space. You can download copies, include links, or take screen captures. If you are unsure how to take a screen capture on your device, google the device name and "screen capture" (e.g. "iPhone 10 screen capture").

Submitting Content

Please make a document in Google Drive and write your Space Critique there. Your document should be named with your name, the class, and the specific assignment (e.g. "Malcolm Reynolds ENG 5900 Space Critique"). When you have finished your critique, please move the document into your shared folder for the class.

Incorporating Media

When incorporating media, please follow these three guidelines:

- Does the media help us understand points in your critique? If the answer is no, find different media. For example, if you're critiquing Twitter, an image of the Twitter logo does not help us understand Twitter. Instead, you try to include an image of a tweet that includes somethings you want to discuss, such as a retweet, a favorite, or a hashtag.
- Is the media placed strategically within the critique? You want to control when your readers look at the content. For example, if you want to show a screen capture of a tweet that represents hashtags, you should include the image immediately after you've explained how hashtags work. This will allow your reader to understand what they are seeing.
- Is the media referenced in the text? Your reader should know what you want them to notice about media included. Try to guide them to the aspect of the media that you think is important. You can do this in the body of the text (e.g. "As you can see in the image to the right…") or you can do this by adding a caption that explains what to look for.

Additional media tips:

- To add an image to a Google Drive document, simply drag the image into the document. You can resize the image, change its position, and add captions.
- Please anchor links. I should not see the URL in the body of the text. Instead, select the text you want to link, right click, and select "link" to anchor the URL to your selected text. If you've done this correctly, it should look like this.
- Videos and audio cannot be directly incorporated into a Google Drive document. Instead, you can post a link to this content.

Grading

Grading for the Space Critique will be based on how well you meet the following criteria:

Expectations	Exceeded	Met	Not Met
Understanding of the Space	You have thoroughly explored the space and are an expert in using features.	You have explored the space and understand how to use features.	You do not fully understand how to use features.
Exploration of Modes Used	You have an expert understanding of why and when certain modes are used.	You explain why certain modes are used in different contexts.	You do not explain all of the modes used and/or why certain modes are used.

Grading (Continued)

Expectations	Exceeded	Met	Not Met
Exploration of Affordances & Constraints	You explore what the space encourages and limits users to do, think, and be. You go beyond obvious affordances and constraints.	You explore what the space encourages and limits users to do, think, and be.	You offer only obvious affordances and constraints or none at all.
Exploration of Discourse	You have explored the Discourse of the space, offering specific examples of Discourse in use.	You have explored the Discourse of the space, offering ways of making meaning that may not be obvious to outsiders.	You offer only obvious examples of Discourse in use or do not explain what the Discourse practices mean.
Exploration of Social Structure	You explain the social structure in detail, including who controls the space, how control is exercised, and what that means for users.	You explain the social structure of the space, including who controls the space and how they control it.	You do not identify who controls the space and/or how control is exercised.
Exploration of Collaboration	You have found unique examples of co-creation of content or feedback.	You have found examples of co-creation of content or feedback. If none are present, you explain why.	You do not explain examples of collaboration or do not explain why none are present.
Use of Media	You have used media to enhance your points. At minimum, you have used 6 pieces of outside content.	You have used media as examples of your points. At minimum, you have used 3 pieces of outside content.	You have used fewer than 3 pieces of outside content, or content used does not connect with points made.
Organization	You have organized your points in a way that enhances meaning. Media is placed in a way that helps readers to understand.	You have organized your points in a reasonable way. Media is placed appropriately.	Organization impedes understanding. Text and Media are organized in a confusing or arbitrary way.
Manuscript Preparation	You have met the guidelines and responded to your peers' comments thoughtfully.	You have met the guidelines and responded to your peers' comments.	You have fallen outside the word-count range, have not included required content, and/or have not responded to your peer's comments.

Grading (Continued)

Your grade for the Space Critique will be determined by how many of the criteria you meet or exceed.

A   You exceed the expectations for seven or more of the criteria. All others are met.

A-   You exceed the expectations for three to six of the criteria. All others are met.

B+   You meet the expectations for all of the criteria.

B   You do not meet the expectations for one of the criteria. All others are met.

B-   You do not meet the expectations for two of the criteria. All others are met.