

## **GS EN 6777 3.0: Transformations & Multimodalities: Writing in the Expanded Field**

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An overview of multimodal writing and associated techniques for creative writers and critics working in an expanded extra-literary field. This course will cover methods of reading and critiquing multimodal works, from visual poetry to hybrid prose, from digital media to installations. We will develop a shared vocabulary across mediums, and consider the applications and effects of artistic choices, implications for the field(s), and workshop individual pieces and projects.

From intertextualities to geo-located writing, from twitter novels to video poems, and from page to world, the writer creating in the expanded field “makes work that challenges the very units of language—and in doing so translates a tiny piece of human experience into a universal truth” (Lucianna Chixaro Ramos, “Across Time and Space: Thoughts on Writing in the Expanded Field”).

In this course we will examine works of visual poetry, digital media, hybrid prose, conceptual art, and writers working across these mediums, to better understand how form affects function (and vice versa) as both writers and readers. Students will develop their own work within and expanding upon this range of practices and will draw upon critical texts in a wide range of fields to support their interpretative and analytic abilities.

By reviewing the multimodal works of writers and conceptual artists, we will develop a shared vocabulary across literary and visual mediums, one that includes compositional elements (line, light, juxtaposition, pattern & repetition), guiding forces (memory, mapping and geolocation, language, viewership and gaze) and methods of transformation (form & medium, collaboration, re-mixing). We will discuss and generate new works and forms. We’ll find the source of our own voices, what we uniquely see; we’ll learn how to translate these ideas into work that is accessible to the viewer as reader. By discussing our expectations and revelations as readers, we will identify core principles and techniques of multimodal writing and the effects of artistic and writerly choices.

All students will generate creative pieces as well as academic papers (critical and/or theoretical engagements with course topics). Students taking the course as part of the GDIP in Creative Writing will be evaluated primarily on their creative work; other students will be evaluated on the basis of their academic work.

### **Evaluation criteria (or similar):**

- Informed seminar participation and workshop participation (15%)
  - Includes co-leading one seminar discussion (including short presentation of artists and techniques of choice)

- short critical responses and short creative assignments (5, 7% each, 35%)
- And either:
  - Creative Track (for students counting this course toward a CW Graduate Diploma, and for non-English Department Students:
    - 1 multimodal project with short reflection essay (~5-7 pages) situating the work in terms of course principles (30%)
    - 1 critical paper (20%) – 8-12 pages
  - Academic Track (for students not counting this course toward a CW Graduate Diploma, and for students counting this course toward their graduate degree)
    - 1 critical essay (16-20 pages; 35%)
    - 1 creative multimodal project (15%)