

**EDUCATION 383-4**  
**SPECIAL TOPIC:**  
**WRITING IN THE ELECTRONIC CLASSROOM**

Intersession, 1991  
(May 6 - June 14)

Instructor: Trevor Owen

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**PREREQUISITE:** Permission of Instructor. Educ. 401/2 or equivalent.

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:**

*WRITING IN THE ELECTRONIC CLASSROOM* will explore the impact of telecommunications on the writing process, the experience of written interaction both online and in the classroom, and the role of reflection in written expression in projects such as the *Writer in Electronic Residence* program, which has been operating at Simon Fraser University since 1988.

Given the time of this intersession course, it may also be possible for students to participate in WIRED.WRITERS, the 1991 *Writer in Electronic Residence* project.

**OBJECTIVES:**

This course will be undertaken electronically, using telecommunications to link participants throughout the province. Students will examine several online writing projects and consider the impact of telecommunications on the writing process, classroom interaction, and the use of original student writing as reading material in existing English and Language Arts programs. We will also use telecommunications technology to undertake our own learning, working collaboratively in online conference groups.

Accordingly, there are two objectives for this course:

- (1) to consider the medium of telecommunications as an instrument of language-learning, both for our students and ourselves; and,
- (2) to develop models of implementation appropriate to our own classrooms and school districts.

Students will require access to a computer with word-processing and telecommunications software, and a 1200 or 2400 baud modem. Access to a printer is highly recommended. Previous computer experience is not required, but participants will be expected to be able to use their equipment for the course.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

*Mindweave: Communication, Computers and Distance Education* R. Mason and A. Kay (Eds.), Oxford: Pergamon Press. ISBN 0-080-037755-6

*Electro-Poets*, Writer in Electronic Residence project, SFU, 1988

*New-Voices*, Writer in Electronic Residence project, SFU, 1989

*Wired.Writers*, Writer in Electronic Residence project, SFU, 1990

A collection of journals and readings will be available from the instructor in either print or electronic versions. Participants in this course will also be asked to contribute student publications from their own schools that feature original student writing.

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

Any of the works by Canadian writers participating in the Writer in Electronic Residence programs: Lorna Crozier, Katherine Govier, Lionel Kearns, Crawford Kilian, Emily Hearn, David McFadden, Susan Musgrave, Daniel Poliquin, Rick Salutin and Robert J. Sawyer.

Students will also be asked to take out a one-year subscription to *The Computing Teacher*, and *T.I.E.* (Telecommunications in Education) *News*, ISTE, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon

Frye, Northrop, *The Educated Imagination*

MacNeil, Robert, *Wordstruck*

Knowlton Nash, et al., *More Than Words Can Say: Personal Perspectives on Literacy*

Woolf, Virginia, *A Room of One's Own*

**STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:**

- 50% Participation in computer conferencing activities
- 25% Writing Folder (including a research paper developed collaboratively in the computer conference, and a portfolio of professional writing, which includes contributions to the computer conferences)
- 25% A plan to implement language-based telecommunications into the curriculum of your classroom, school and/or district