Course Description:
This course takes as its focus the language of digital media as it evolves before our eyes. This course satisfies the UC subject ‘A’ requirement; it therefore has a substantial composition component but also embraces an area study.

The asynchronous language of the World Wide Web and other ‘connectionless’ media such as text messages and ‘instant’ messaging is quite different from normal spoken language. The media through which this language makes its way to us are themselves not just encapsulators of the content; they are part of the message itself. Just as spoken language evolves much faster than any dictionary can keep up with, certain aspects of this digital ‘hyperlanguage’ (also known as ‘webspeak’) evolve at a different rate than does spoken language.

In this class we’ll do readings on English (and possibly one or two other widely spoken languages) as it is spoken on the web, in text messaging, and in instant messaging versus how it is spoken in newspapers and orally.

__Schedule:

__Week 1:
Thurlow, Crispin
*Generation Txt? The sociolinguistics of young people's text-messaging*
Department of Communication,
University of Washington, Box 353740,
Seattle, WA 98195, USA
Article

__Week 2:
Baron, Naomi S.
*Always on: Language in an Online and Mobile World*
Published by Oxford University Press US, 2008
ISBN 0195313054, 9780195313055
289 pages
Chapters 1 and 2

*Due: Essay 1*

__Week 3:
*Always on: Language in an Online and Mobile World*
Chapters 7 and 8
Due: Essay 2

Week 4:
Tolmach Lakoff, Robin
The Language War
Published by University of California Press, 2000
ISBN 0520232070, 9780520232075
322 pages
Chapters 2 and 3

Due: Essay 3

Week 5:
The Language War
Chapters 4, 7, 8

Due: Essay 4

Week 6:
Jones, Abram (Forthcoming)
The Sophonym Vs. The Aggronym : Influence from AI on human language
Article

Due: ‘Midterm’ essay

Week 7:
Jenkins, Henry
Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide
Published by NYU Press, 2006
ISBN 0814742815, 9780814742815
308 pages
Chapters 1-3

Due: Essay 5

Week 8:
Convergence Culture
Chapters 4-6

Due: Essay 6

Week 9:
Boardman, Mark
The Language of Websites
Published by Routledge, 2005
ISBN 0415328535, 9780415328531
117 pages
‘Units’ 1-3

Due: Essay 7

Week 10:
The Language of Websites
‘Units’ 4-6

Due: ‘Final’ essay