Course: ENGL 7/8590: Appl/Theory of Linguistics -- Multimodal Discourse

In this course we will explore aspects of discourse (visual, spoken, written, spatial) that occur in a variety of multimodal environments (including social media, online streaming, comics, video games, and web pages). Using research models from semiotics, ethnography, critical discourse analysis, and sociolinguistics, we will examine how speech, images and texts intertwine to form complex communicative events in modern language.

Some possible questions we'll explore:

- Does a/synchronicity create (mis)understanding?
- Is it harder to be polite online than it is face-to-face?
- How does spatial layout (like in comics with multiple panels) affect the way stories are read and understood?
- How do spoken conversations differ from conversations on Discord?
- How do people's profiles & identities change on different digital platforms? (Instagram vs. Snapchat vs. Tumblr vs. Tinder)?
- Are people more toxic on social media than they are on email?
- Where & when do people use emoticons, emojis, memes, GIFs and stickers?
- How does the arrangement of material on websites influence how the information is interpreted?
- How do online live streams bring multimodal elements together (public chat, streamer speech, AI Bot notices, camera position, etc.) to create a single communicative event?