**ENGL 5328 Risk Communication and Intercultural Rhetorics**

**Final Project Proposal Guidelines**

*Proposal Length:* 1 page single spaced (2 pages maximum)

*Final Project Length and Types:* Refer to syllabus. Please use the categories and questions below to guide your proposal. Headings and sub-headings are usually helpful.

*First Draft Due:* October 21st –hard copy in class

*Final Proposal Due:* November 2nd by e-mail

**Summary**

I would like to research the elements of risk in communicating in an online digital space with an instructor. This project would research the cultivation of online identities, and the risk in communicating honestly with an instructor. I am proposing to look at the communication between instructors and students in online digital spaces, such as twitter, tumblr, facebook, etc. I believe I can accomplish this by looking for instances of mimicry, wherein the student may be attempting to communicate what they believe the instructor wants them to say. I can also look for communication that may reflect a more honest response or less guarded responses by the student to the instructor.

The problem, of course, is how to research something that is subjective, and with little contextual knowledge.

**Need, Gap, Research Questions**

The study on online identity has value in RWS, because people make deliberate rhetorical choices on how they will present themselves. These choices can be influenced by many factors, which are, but not limited to, genre, online community practices, etc.

When applied to online learning environments that take place outside of Blackboard, for example,

Is your work couched within an existing RWS conversation? Are you bringing a new lens to an old problem? Are you filling a gap, building on current work, or addressing a need? Contextualize your project using the readings, course materials, and theories/concepts we have been discussing in class. Are you answering a particular research question or a set of research questions?

**Proposed Project and Significance**

What kind of a project are you proposing? What does the end product look like? What is its purpose? What does it do? What is your proposed project’s significance?

**Methodology**

How do you propose to accomplish this project? What does the process you will use look like? Who is your intended audience? Discuss any theoretical or conceptual frameworks you will be using in your analysis.

What is the best medium for it? What does the final product look like? How many pages? What is its format? Can you find guidelines for this format? I.e., if it is a paper for a conference, how many pages should it be? In what style? Or if it is a visual or multimedia project, what does the end product look like, sound like, feel like? What is the purpose in choosing this medium? How will you know you have complied with a written assignment research and page equivalent?

**Working Reference List**

What references and resources that you have already read need to be included in your reference list? What about references and resources that you haven’t read or examined?