

## Digital English Research Writing Fall 2008

**Location:** Room 110 Wenshilou  
**Class Hours:** Wednesday 17:50-20:00  
**Course Site:** <http://sites.google.com/site/byteweavers>  
**Instructor:** Dr. Zhang Wei (zwtoday@gmail.com)

### Goal

The goal of Digital English Research Writing is to help you develop a set of skills essential to academic success in a digital age. Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to 1) efficiently locate relevant information from the Internet and digital databases, 2) critically evaluate the credibility of the gathered information, 3) effectively organize various bodies of information into a coherent framework, and 4) clearly communicate the synthesized information in both oral and written English.

### The Project Task

Your major task is to carry out a semester-long digital research project in your major area of study. At the end of the semester, you will make a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation and submit a 12-page documented essay in English. You are expected to identify a problem, conduct relevant research using the Internet and digital databases, and propose possible solutions based on a variety of credible digital sources. To work on your project, you will need to create a Google Site (see <http://sites.google.com>), which allows you to publish, share and edit your writings online. In our weekly meetings, you will report your work-in-progress to the whole class and provide feedback to each other.

### Grading

- Regular tasks - 30%
- Final research project presentations - 60% (written presentation: 45%; PowerPoint presentation: 15%)
- Self and peer assessment - 10%

### Resources

Doing English Digital ([http://162.105.138.207/webcourse/advanced\\_english/index.htm](http://162.105.138.207/webcourse/advanced_english/index.htm))

The Purdue University Online Writing Lab (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>)

Langan, J. (2005). *College Writing Skills with Readings*. Beijing: FLTARP. [中关村图书大厦]

Raimes, A. (1999). *Keys for writers: a brief handbook*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. [H314-62/R132.2 北大中心馆教参阅览室]

“北京大学网络培训”

([http://localsev.lib.pku.edu.cn/zixuntrain/model/index\\_main.html](http://localsev.lib.pku.edu.cn/zixuntrain/model/index_main.html))

Crowther, J., Dignen, S. & Lea, D. (Eds.). (2003). *Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English*. Beijing: FLTARP.

*Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). (2001). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

## **Schedule**

Week 1 Course introduction

Week 2 Examining successful research presentations (written presentations)

Week 3 Examining successful research presentations (oral presentations)

Week 4 Looking at the process: Secrets from the experts

Week 5 Identifying a problem

Week 6 Locating credible sources (the Internet)

Week 7 Locating credible sources (digital databases)

Week 8 Working with sources

Week 9 Building an organizational pattern

Week 10 Drafting (introduction and conclusions)

Week 11 Editing for clarity (unity and coherence)

Week 12 Editing for clarity (paragraph development)

Week 13 Editing for clarity (sentence construction)

Week 14 Preparing PowerPoint presentation

Week 15 Project presentations

Week 16 Project presentations