New technologies have led to a proliferation of new types or forms of discourse: newsgroups, home pages, listservs, email, blogs, wikis, online social networking, etc. Are these genres? If they are genres, how can they manifest recurrence and typification within the new technological environment of constant, rapid change? How are antecedent genres relevant? Should we understand new genres that are “imposed” differently from those that seem to arise spontaneously? In this course we will explore how to think about rapid genre change, with a special focus on the appearance of new genres and the interaction of antecedent genres, communicative media, and cultural exigence in their formation.

**Week I: Rhetorical Situations and Genres**

**Tuesday, July 17**


**Thursday, July 19**


**Assignment:** Describe the three components of two recurrent rhetorical situations. Are rhetorical genres associated with these situations?

**Week II: Case Studies of Genre Change**

**Tuesday, July 24**


**Assignment:** How do we learn about genres from history? Describe a genre with which you are familiar and its probable antecedent genres.

**Thursday, July 26**

Where Do Genres Come From?


**Assignment:** How can we study contemporary, non-public genres? What are the research methods used in these studies?

**Week III: New Digital Genres**

*Tuesday, July 31*


**Assignment:** What issues do the digital media raise for the use and study of genres?

*Thursday, August 2*


**Assignment:** Identify and describe a potential emerging digital genre.

**Week IV: New Genres in Teaching and Learning**

*Tuesday, August 7*


*Thursday, August 9*


**Final assignment:** Propose a research study or a teaching unit focusing on the emergence of a new genre—oral, written, visual, digital, or any combination.