EFA Digital Storytelling (online)

If you take this class, you will:

Work online! Our class does not physically meet, so all of our class interactions take place exclusively online. As long as you can be responsible about logging in daily and being "present" in class, you'll do just fine. Many students discover that they really enjoy the flexibility that comes with taking a class online.

Learn about narrative. You know — stories. We'll explore some of the history of narrative, discuss how narratives are told, and see how different media can be used to tell them.
And think about your life as a series of narratives. We'll go through lots of exercises, both written and visual, to get you inspired.

Write, though probably in a looser sense than you may be used to. You'll develop written aspects of your own stories, plus you'll write responses to assigned media and to your classmates. Remember, we're online, so a lot of our interaction takes place in written form.

Learn about photography. Not snapshots — photography. Though yes, snapshots are an important part of that. They say that a picture is worth 1000 words. We'll see how true that is.

Become a better photographer. In addition to the storytelling aspect of photography, we'll go over lots of logistics: composition, framing, camera functionality, and more.
And a better storyteller. Everything we learn, view, and discuss will help you discover your own personal narratives and tell them in dramatic, compelling, visually interesting ways.

Read and watch. There are so many great examples of digital stories, and there are so many pre-digital non-traditional stories that we can learn from. There is also a lot of interesting commentary on what it means to be a storyteller, both in general and in the 21st century. We'll make our way through a selection of them. Be prepared to watch and read some fascinating stuff.

Explore free, online tools that you can use to create stories. While you probably already know about some of them, there are lots of undiscovered apps and utilities that you can use to create interesting narratives. We'll talk about some of them and try to stay on top of recent trends.

Look ahead. With the continuing advances in technology, the way we tell stories is bound to always evolve. How will things like Google Glass, Vine, Snapchat, and other tools that haven't even been developed yet affect how we create and look at narratives?

Publish online and come away with a digital portfolio of the work you've created. Even better, you'll be able to share your work with family, friends, college admissions personnel, scholarship panels, and anyone else who you want to see it.