Hi,

I’m looking forward to a good summer session. Here’s a checklist of things you’ll want to do to prepare for our first MOO session on Thursday, June 2nd at 6 p.m. CDT. If you have any questions, please send them my way (sean.zdenek@ttu.edu).

- If you haven’t done so already, please check the course website for information about policies, meeting times, assignments, texts, and the reading schedule: http://www.faculty.english.ttu.edu/zdenek/courses/5362/summer05/index.html
- Purchase the required books right away (e.g. from amazon.com or the campus bookstore) and do the readings assigned for Weeks 0 & 1. I’ve adhered to the summer convention of assigning readings that are due before the first class meeting (hence “Week 0”).
- Visit the library website to retrieve the 4 supplemental readings on e-reserve: http://www.library.ttu.edu and select “Course/E-Reserve.” (If all four are not there yet, they will be there shortly.) Print these out and read them when assigned.
- Choose a “rhetorical artifact” that you can draw on throughout the semester to ground your reading responses. The artifact assignment is designed to give you an opportunity to “apply” the readings to an example of rhetoric. You will use the same artifact throughout the summer, so you’ll need to choose carefully (see the syllabus for more info). Students in the past have chosen word-heavy artifacts related to their research interests. Two examples stand out: one student last semester chose for her artifact a small number of transcribed sermons from the 1960s written and performed by African-American preachers; another student chose a well-known memo/report written by Microsoft in response to the Open Source “threat.” Feel free to email me prior to the start of the semester with your artifact ideas. You may have no idea right now what to choose for your artifact. But I’m confident that as you’re doing the assigned readings this month, you’ll get a better sense of what kind of artifact will work best.
- Login to WebCT (http://www.webct.ttu.edu), connect to the WebCT course for 5362, and post a self-introduction prior to the first MOO session (but preferably as soon as possible). If you have a self-pic you’d like to include, please do so. (The WebCT site should be online in mid-May.)
- Finish doing the reading for Weeks 0 & 1 and write a reading response (due on the day of the first MOO session). Post your reading response (and all subsequent reading responses) to WebCT. See the syllabus for info on writing reading responses. Before you can write your first reading response, you’ll need to have selected your rhetorical artifact.
- Familiarize yourself with the English Dept. MOO (if you’re unfamiliar with it or with MOOs): http://www.english.ttu.edu/TC/MOO/. Then login to the MOO (http://moo.engl.ttu.edu:7000/). You should see a link to my room (e.g. Zdenek’s room) on the MOO site after you login. This is where we’ll meet on Thursdays.

See you soon,

Sean Zdenek