

Victoria Swanson

ENG 102

Inquiry into Hoaxes:

What is a hoax and why do they generate such broad public interest? This course takes this question as a springboard from which explore various critical debates as we enter into an extended conversation and in-depth inquiry into hoaxes. Hoaxes perpetrate deception upon society and the most successful hoaxes procure the cooperation of a perplexingly willing, participatory public. Some hoaxes blur the lines between truth and deception so efficiently that they retain a core public of “believers” and provoke continued debate among skeptics. The modern reliance on audio/visual technologies has led to more sophisticated hoaxes that profit from an ever-widening Internet and television reliant public. While society is becoming more suspicious of the validity of images and video, the Internet has helped hoaxes evolve and generate interest. Our study of hoaxes will include exploration of how media impacts the suspension of disbelief that allows modern-day hoaxes to become popularized