

2017-2018 Writing Course Descriptions

Writing

WRT 100 College Writing. A course requiring a research paper and frequent written assignments related to classroom discussions and readings. Individual conferences help students formulate, organize, and express ideas. WRT 100 satisfies the General Education Requirement for Written Communication (I,B.1) and is intended for students entering before fall 2012. Prerequisite: None. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 110 Introduction to Professional Writing. A course introducing students to the rhetorical foundations of business, professional, and technical writing. In this class we will pay attention to such rhetorical elements as style, audience, purpose, and design and learn how these varying contextual factors affect the creation and reception of professional and technical documents. Prerequisite: None. Typically offered every year. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 120A Introduction to Creative Writing. A course introducing students to the craft of creating fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and drama. In this course we will explore the various techniques, decisions, styles and approaches used by creative writers. Students will also read extensively and participate in exercises designed to develop the creative process. Prerequisite: None. Typically offered every year. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 200 Fieldwork for Writers. A course introducing students to the type of research real writers do. Writers learn to conduct research in order to present a piece of writing that is "right" not only factually, but aesthetically. They conduct interviews, observe scenes, walk the ground, consult archives and read extensively to find the story and the story beneath the story. In this class, we will study how writers research their subjects and practice doing research using multiple methods. Students will identify a writing project and conduct both primary and secondary research. Primary research might include observation, interviews, and case studies; secondary research may include traditional scholarly research and the use of a wide net of resources useful to a particular project (resources that would not be considered scholarly but which would illuminate the subject for readers in new ways). Prerequisite: WRT 110 or WRT 120A. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 220 Careers in English and Writing. This course is intended for first and second-year students interested in majoring or minoring in English or Writing. In this course, students will discover and research the kinds of careers and professional occupations available to students studying writing and English. Students will also develop awareness of the skills and abilities developed and reinforced through English and writing courses and learn about the beneficial role that these skills and abilities play in the larger culture and professional workplace. There is an experiential component to this course. 2 Semester Hours.

WRT 230H Rhetorical Grammar. A course introducing students to the rhetorical choices writers make at the sentence-level to create a particular effect among readers, including grammatical, punctuation, and mechanical choices. In this class, we will wrestle with some of the big questions surrounding language use today: What are the consequences for "incorrect" grammar today? How do societies decide what makes for "correct" grammar? What makes good writing good? How does language use affect meaning? In addition to asking the big questions, we will examine how people use language "rules" to shape writing, and how people break those rules for certain, deliberate effects. We will also learn and practice the methods of studying language use that can be helpful for anyone who wants to communicate well. Practically speaking, we will study examples of effective communication and practice using their successful strategies to produce and revise our own work. This class can be beneficial for the student who just wants to gain a better grasp of grammar as well as the student who really wants to learn more about the power of language in our lives. Typically offered every semester. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 310 Theory and Practice of Editing. A course introducing students to the knowledge, skills, and techniques necessary for a career in professional editing. In this class we will examine textual and literary approaches to editing given particular rhetorical contexts, emphasizing the various approaches to editing and how to make editorial judgments that promote editorial standards without violating authorial intent. Topics covered will include: visual and textual document design, editorial design, copy editing, proofreading, and plain language principles. Prerequisite: Junior standing. Typically offered every other year. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 311 Publications Management. A course introducing students to the historical, theoretical, and practical aspects of publications management. In this course we will gain familiarity with the responsibilities of people who manage a variety of publications including: in-house publications, those of independent companies, organization-wide information policies, and professional publications. We will cover the principles of effective visual and document design, the role of the technical communicator in the design process, and the application of professional design principles and production techniques to create effective print and digital publications. We will also assist in the management and production of *The Agora* and *Calliope*. Prerequisite: Junior standing. Typically offered every other year. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 312 Writing and the Web. A course introducing students to the principles of writing in digital, networked environments. In this class we will conduct oral and/or written analyses of a number of different digital artifacts and practice writing and designing websites, weblogs, and digital video content. We will read contemporary theories of digital, visual, and public rhetoric as well as texts on the history of digital writing technologies and their effect on contemporary practice. Students will propose, plan, and develop a number of individual and group web writing projects. Prerequisite: Junior standing. Typically offered every other year. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 320 Reading and Writing Poetry. A course helping students to expand on introductory material from WRT 120 in a focused study and production of poetry. In this course we will learn where poetry comes from (historical context), how it has changed over the centuries, and where poetry now stands as a literary art form and vibrant cultural expression. We will write about writing poetry, write poetry, and read poetry. We will research poets, publications, and topics for writing poetry. Students will produce a poem a week based on an exercise from the text, which will help to develop a sense of the range and possibilities in poetic expression. Students will also host and participate in monthly coffeehouse events for writers on campus. At least one piece will be revised for inclusion in the major portfolio. Prerequisites: WRT 120A and WRT 200. Typically offered every other year. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 321 Reading and Writing Fiction. A course helping students to expand on introductory material from WRT 220 in a focused study and production of fiction. Writing creatively begins by reading with the eye of a writer. Thus, in this course we will read classic and contemporary

fiction paying close attention to aesthetic elements such as characterization, conflict, dialogue, narrative, and plot, while always keeping in mind that good literature appeals to its reader through the senses. The published works of others will provide inspiration as well as a framework through which we can analyze, understand and discuss stories as an enthusiastic community of writers. As the semester progresses we will turn our attention to stories written by class members. These stories will be critiqued in the classic workshop style, whereby students will present their works in progress, and will receive responses from the instructor as well as fellow class-members through writing and through discussion. Students will also host and participate in monthly coffeehouse events for writers on campus. At least one piece will be revised for inclusion in the major portfolio. Prerequisites: WRT 120 and WRT 200. Typically offered every other year. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 322 Reading and Writing Creative Nonfiction. A course helping students to expand on introductory material from WRT 220 in a focused study and production of creative nonfiction. Creative nonfiction uses the techniques of poetry, fiction and journalism to get at truth, both emotionally and factually. Creative nonfiction (CNF) is thriving in the world. Any reader can pick up *The New York Times* and find it there as the "New Journalism," in essays that tell the stories behind specific events, people, and problems. CNF can be found in hundreds of trade journals and specialty magazines, on any magazine row, in literary journals devoted to the genre, and in the thousands of personal web blogs flourishing today. In this course we will read the works of classic and contemporary creative nonfiction writers in order to provide a framework through which we can analyze and understand creative-nonfiction as writers. This reading will also provide a means for us to discuss our own work, as well as that published by others. As the semester progresses we will turn our attention to work written by class members. These pieces will be critiqued in the classic workshop style whereby students will present their works in progress and will receive responses from fellow class-members through writing and through discussion. Prerequisites: WRT 120 and WRT 200. Typically offered every other year. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 330 Special Topics. A course offering students an opportunity for advanced study of a more focused area of professional or creative writing. Special Topics courses may be offered on occasion as a substitute for a rotational elective (e.g., "The Short Story Collection" instead of "Reading and Writing Fiction") or as an extra topic (e.g., "Writing for the Screen and Stage," "The Novella, Writing about Place," "Argument and Persuasion," or "Major Author") in addition to the rotational offerings. Prerequisite: Varies by topic. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 400 Style, Voice, Ethos. A course helping students to examine some of the most significant concepts common to writers of all texts (poetry and prose of all kinds). In this course we will emphasize the concepts of style, voice, and ethos and explore how writers develop strategies for the choices they make to have a desired effect on readers. Students will also develop strategies for honing their own language choices to better attend to the issues of style, voice, and ethos in their texts. Prerequisite: Senior standing. Typically offered every fall. 4 Semester Hours.

WRT 450 Independent Study. Open to senior Writing majors who wish to pursue a topic related to the advanced study of writing in an area not offered under the traditional curriculum. Study may be taken on an interdepartmental basis with permission of the departments involved. A prospectus and preliminary bibliography of the project must be submitted for departmental approval prior to registration. 1-4 Semester Hours.

WRT 499 Internship. Through the cooperation of agencies and business in the vicinity of the University, students are provided with a significant learning experience outside of the classroom setting. Although the program is designed to be fundamentally an educational experience, professionally productive work will constitute an integral part of the internship. Specific arrangements and requirements will vary with the program. A contract will specify the activities with which the student will be involved. The basis of determining the grade for the program will be given in the contract and will include an evaluation by the supervisor at the organization where the internship work is done, an assessment by the internship faculty advisor, and a written report of the internship experience submitted by the student. Prerequisites will vary with the internship. Participation is by petition to the chair of the department. Taken under Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade option only. Only one internship may be taken for credit but may, in certain cases, be repeated for audit. 1-12 Semester Hours.