

DEPARTMENT OF WRITING AND RHETORIC

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Lecturers: *Glen Armstrong, Benjamin Bennett-Carpenter, Theodora Bolak, Marilyn Borner, Timothy Briggs, Matthew Burkett, William Byrne, David Calonne, Anne Chapple, Catheryn Cheal, Laura Colbeck, Jennifer Coon, Susan Cronin, LaWanda Dickens, Joseph DiGaetano, Suzanne Drapeau, Carl Dull, Laura Duprey, John Freeman, Natasha Gavroski, Paul Gelinis, Peter Gunn, Lisa Hine, Andrew Kos, Kathleen Lawson, Sababat Masood, Catherine McQueen, Arthur Orme, Sherry Perdue, Cornelia Pokrzywa, Leba Rantbort, Rebecca Rivard, Cathy Rorai, William Rouser, Marilyn Shapiro, Bethany Shepherd, John Simecek, Kathy Skomski, Craig Smith, Jeremy Stephisen, Carol Trupiano, Helen Zucker*

Chief adviser: *Greg Giberson*

The study of writing and rhetoric prepares students to read, write and think critically in local, national, global and virtual communities. Students gain experience evaluating and analyzing information and cultural debates, and they learn to compose a variety of texts for multiple audiences, media, and purposes.

Students who take courses in writing and rhetoric learn to perform the kinds of collaborative work in written communication that will be required of them for full participation in an increasingly global and high-tech society, whether they choose to focus on professional writing in business, industry and non-profits; or on production work in new media; or on academic writing in preparation for graduate studies.

The department's First-Year Program helps students develop fundamental skills in producing and understanding written texts, develop fluency and flexibility in writing for a variety of audiences and situations, and become critical readers and skilled writers of print, digital and visual texts that incorporate the work of others appropriately for audience, topic and purpose.

The department supports a larger culture of writing including the Oakland University Writing Center, the Meadow Brook Writing Project, the Writing Excellence Awards and the Community Book Project.

Writing foundations

Most students satisfy the university general education requirement in the writing foundations area by completing WRT 160 with a grade of 2.0 or higher. Please consult the Writing Requirements section in the general education area of the catalog for *alternate* ways of fulfilling this requirement.

Placement

The ACT English score is the main mechanism used to place students in the writing foundations course (WRT 160), and in any courses that students might need as a prerequisite to WRT 160 as follows:

ACT English scores of 28 or higher place students in WRT 160 Composition II.

ACT English scores of 16-27 place students in WRT 150 Composition I.

ACT English scores of 15 or below place students in WRT 102 Basic Writing.

Students may submit a placement packet comprised of two essays in response to specific directions available from the writing and rhetoric department office, 316 Wilson Hall (248-370-4120) or on the website (<http://www4.oakland.edu/?id=703&sid=64>). Placement by ACT score or placement packet does not yield any course credit regardless of where students are placed.

Requirements for the liberal arts major in writing and rhetoric, B.A. program

The major in writing and rhetoric requires a minimum of 40 credits in writing and rhetoric courses. Only courses in which the student has earned a grade of at least 2.0 or higher may be counted toward the writing and rhetoric major. Students must complete the following:

1. twelve credits from core courses WRT 160, 340 and 394.
2. eight credits from WRT electives at the 200 level or above. Students may substitute appropriate courses from other departments with permission of the WRT department chair.
3. sixteen credits from one area of specialization (one of the elective courses may be chosen from another track with the permission of the WRT department chair):
 - a. Writing for the Professions WRT 331, plus three courses from WRT 305, 332, 335, 341, 350, 380, 381, 382, and 460.
 - b. Writing for New Media WRT 330, plus three courses from WRT 231, 233, 305, 320, 332, 364 and 381.
 - c. Writing as a Discipline WRT 320, plus three courses from WRT 305, 341, 342, 350, 364, 365, 380, 414 and 460.
4. One senior capstone (WRT 491 or 492) is required.

Requirements for the liberal arts minor in writing and rhetoric

To earn a minor in writing and rhetoric, students must complete a minimum of 20 credits. Students who earned college credit for the AP writing course and those who have received credit for the equivalent of WRT 160 at other institutions are not required to take WRT 160. Students who have been exempted from WRT 160 for submitting a portfolio as described under the *General Education Program* in the *Undergraduate Degree Requirements* section of the *Undergraduate Catalog* do not need to take WRT 160 and can instead choose an additional elective course to complete their 20 credit of course work.

1. Core courses (8 credits):
 - a. WRT 160 Composition II (*or its equivalent*),
 - b. one course from the following: WRT 340 (Issues in Writing and Rhetoric), WRT 394 (Literacy, Technology, and Civic Engagement), WRT 331 (Introduction to Professional Writing),
2. 12 credits from additional WRT courses at the 200 level or above.

Departmental honors

Graduating seniors may apply for departmental honors. To be considered, students must have completed 24 credits of writing and rhetoric program courses at Oakland University with a GPA of 3.60 or higher in the major.

Course Offerings

The department offers selected courses from this catalog as warranted by student needs and availability of faculty. Specific offerings for each term may be found in the *Schedule of Classes*.

WRT 102 Basic Writing (4)

Developing writing skills including idea generation and invention, organizational strategies and

conventional usage in expository prose. Emphasis on developing fluency and effective writing processes. May be repeated once for additional credit. Graded S/U.

Corequisite: WRT 104 if recommended by instructor after first class meeting.

WRT 104 Supervised Study (1 or 2)

Tutorial instruction in areas mutually agreed upon by student and instructor such as independent or academic writing projects. May be taken concurrently with other rhetoric courses (seven weeks or 14 weeks). May be repeated for up to 8 credits. Graded S/U.

WRT 120 College Study Skills (4)

Prepares students for academic success by introducing theories and effective practices in college learning, including strategies of memory and retention, examination preparation and performance, textbook reading and marking, note-taking, time-management.

WRT 140 Critical Thinking and Reading (4)

College reading techniques, including diagnosis of instructional needs, and an individual program study.

WRT 142 Efficient Reading (2 or 4)

For students who understand material but need more efficient reading skills. Topics include skimming/scanning techniques, adjustment of rate, patterns of organization, drawing inferences and conclusions before and during reading, and effective use of textbooks. A seven- or 14-week course.

WRT 144 Critical Reading (4)

For students who understand literal reading content but who have difficulty with critical comprehension. Develops sophisticated reading skills for practical prose. Recommended for upper-level students contemplating graduate school.

Prerequisite: completion of the university general education writing knowledge foundation course.

WRT 150 Composition I (4)

A course emphasizing the rhetorical and stylistic demands of college writing through focus on experiential and expressive writing. Students learn to generate, organize and develop their ideas and to make choices as writers that are appropriate to the rhetorical situation. A grade of 2.0 or higher must be achieved to advance to WRT 160.

Prerequisite: placement by ACT English score, or WRT 102 for students who don't test into WRT 150 and with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

WRT 160 Composition II (4)

Emphasizes the process of writing in increasingly complex rhetorical situations with focus on developing analytic thinking and problem-solving strategies in writing. Students learn methods of academic research including evaluation and documentation of sources and are expected to create at least one research paper. *A grade of 2.0 or higher must be achieved to satisfy the university general education requirement in the writing knowledge foundation area.*

Prerequisite: WRT 150 with a grade of 2.0 or higher, or placement.

WRT 231 Composing Audio Essays (4)

Explores the rhetorical, ethical, and technical principles of creating personal and ethnographic essays and oral histories for digital audio distribution.

Prerequisite: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.

WRT 233 Digital Storytelling (4)

Explores the rhetorical, ethical, stylistic, and technical principles of creating personal, observational, and ethnographic narratives through visual and digital productions – slide shows, graphic-intensive web sites, poster, flip books and comics.

Prerequisite: WRT 160 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

WRT 305 Advanced Writing: Various Themes (4)

Students will read and write about and within increasingly complex rhetorical situations within chosen themes. Themes provide opportunity to explore new and emerging genres and contexts for writing while gaining insight and experience with the importance of writing for various parts of society.

Prerequisite: WRT 160 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

WRT 320 Peer Tutoring in Composition (4)

Peer tutoring theories and pedagogies, and practical experience in teaching. Work divided between classroom and tutoring assignments. Particularly valuable for majors in the humanities, education, psychology, human services and related fields. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both.*

Prerequisite: a grade of 3.0 or better in WRT 160 or its equivalent.

WRT 330 Digital Culture: Identity and Community (4)

Examination of the rhetoric and ethics of internet technology and culture. Introduces theories of digital culture and its effects on both on-line and actual identities and communities, especially in relation to ethnicity, gender, class, physical ability and sexual orientation. Includes individual and collaborative analysis and construction of web projects. Identical with COM 330. *Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Satisfies the university general education requirement in U.S. diversity.*

Prerequisite: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.

WRT 331 Introduction to Professional Writing (4)

Introduction to the field of professional writing. Examines the theories, practices, technologies and ethics of professional writing in the workplace.

Prerequisite: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.

WRT 335 Writing for Human Resource Development Professionals (4)

Development of analytic reading and writing skills for human resource development professionals. Emphasis on using rhetorical analysis to write in a variety of forms which may include letters, memos, electronic communications, problem statements, proposals, and research projects. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education. Prerequisite for knowledge applications integration and writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: WRT 160 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

WRT 340 Issues in Writing and Rhetoric Studies (4)

Introduction to important past and present issues in the field of writing and rhetoric. Provides a theoretical and historical foundation for understanding current issues, changes and challenges for the discipline.

Prerequisite: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.

WRT 341 Rhetoric of Professional Discourse (4)

Examination of the rhetoric of argumentation in professional and workplace settings. Introduces relevant theories of cultural and discourse analysis. Includes extended research project focused on writing in a professional or workplace setting. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge application integration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both.*

Prerequisite: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.

WRT 342 Contemporary Rhetorical Studies (4)

Examination of major European and American twentieth century rhetoricians. Considers the classical roots of modern rhetoric and the modern influences of disciplines such as philosophy, literary criticism

and cultural anthropology. Involves reading-response journals, shorter papers, and final project. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge application integration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both.*

Prerequisite: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.

WRT 350 Community Service Writing (4)

Focus on the development of writing skills applicable in a community service context, including writing in a variety of genres and applying academic research skills to community issues and problems. Community service work required through local agencies or student-initiated organizational contact.

Prerequisite: WRT 160 with a grade of 2.0 or better.

WRT 364 Writing about Culture: Ethnography (4)

Development of analytic and collaborative writing skills in the context of ethnographic study. Emphasis on written analysis in a variety of forms including case study analysis and ethno-methodological investigation. Appropriate advanced writing experience for majors in communication, psychology, anthropology, sociology and political science. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Satisfies the university general education requirement in U.S. diversity.*

Prerequisite: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.

WRT 365 Women Writing Autobiography (4)

Students use autobiography as a feminist methodology to explore topics of personal and community significance, and practice writing strategies relevant to addressing issues of audience, purpose, agency and research. Autobiographical texts by diverse women writers serve as models for students' own writing. Includes weekly assignments and an extended final project. Identical with WGS 365.

Prerequisite: WRT 160.

WRT 370 Special Topics (2 or 4)

Special topics in composition and rhetoric. May be repeated under different subtitles.

Prerequisite: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.

WRT 380 Persuasive Writing (4)

Advanced writing designed to help students develop argumentative and stylistic skill in a variety of rhetorical contexts with application in business, communication, industry and government. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both. Prerequisite for knowledge applications integration and writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

WRT 381 Science Writing (4)

Writing to diverse audiences about scientific and technological subjects for a variety of persuasive contexts. Students may not receive credit for both ENG 381 and WRT 381.

Prerequisite: WRT 160 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

WRT 382 Business Writing (4)

Instruction, practice, and technique in writing business communications (resumes, letters, memoranda, and reports). Students may not receive credit for both ENG 382 and WRT 382. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education. Prerequisite for knowledge applications integration and writing intensive: completion of the university writing foundation requirement.*

Prerequisite: WRT 160 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

WRT 386 Workshop in Creative Non-Fiction (4)

Creative writing workshop with emphasis on stories of real life, balancing artistry and accuracy. May include personal essay, autobiography or travel literature. Identical with ENG 386. Student may not receive credit for both ENG 386 and WRT 386.

Prerequisite: WRT 160 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

WRT 394 Literacy, Technology, and Civic Engagement (4)

Exploration and application of technology in the discipline of writing and rhetoric. Examines the uneven shifts from oral to print to digital literacy, and how those shifts affect the production of knowledge, social relationships, and opportunities for civic engagement.

Prerequisite: WRT 160 with a grade of 2.0 or higher.

WRT 414 Teaching Writing (4)

Examination of and practice in instructional techniques and research in writing pedagogy, and such related issues as assessment and classroom workshops.

Prerequisite: junior standing and WRT 320, or permission of instructor.

WRT 460 Writing Across the University: Language and Disciplinary Culture (4)

Interdisciplinary examination of diverse strategies for writing and research in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Introduces theories of language as social and cultural action. Students build upon prior knowledge and increase their effectiveness as writers and researchers. Includes individual, collaborative, and field-based research projects. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both.*

Prerequisite: junior standing. Completion of the university writing foundation requirement.

WRT 490 Independent Study (2 or 4)

Special research projects in writing and/or teaching writing. Approved course of study and an authorization form, signed by a faculty member willing to supervise the study, must be submitted to the department the term prior to the term the independent study is taken. May be repeated for up to 8 credits.

Prerequisite: one 300-level writing/rhetoric course and permission of the instructor.

WRT 491 Internship (4)

Experience working with writing professionals in business, industry or educational or non-profit organizations. May be repeated once in a different setting. *Satisfies the university general education requirement in the knowledge applications integration area. Satisfies the university general education requirement for a writing intensive course in general education or the major, not both.*

Prerequisite: WRT 320, 335, 382 or another 300-400 level writing/rhetoric course, and permission of the instructor.

WRT 497 Apprentice College Teaching (2 or 4)

Assisting in teaching an undergraduate course in rhetoric. Includes discussions with the supervising faculty member on the principles, methods and problems of such teaching. May be taken for a total of 4 credits.

Prerequisite: senior standing, WRT 414 and two additional 300-400 level WRT courses. WRT 414 may be taken concurrently.