Writing and Rhetoric (WRT)
Program in Writing and Rhetoric, College of Arts and Sciences

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Writing and Rhetoric (WRT)
The Program in Writing and Rhetoric offers courses that fulfill the University's D.E.C. category A English Composition requirement. The program also provides electives for students who want to explore writing in different contexts and enhance their proficiency in academic writing.

The philosophy of the University's Program in Writing and Rhetoric is that writing is an ongoing process as well as a finished product. Because writing well requires re-thinking and re-writing, the program emphasizes revision. Courses require multiple drafts of all papers submitted for the final writing portfolio.

Writing courses stress collaborative learning in the classroom and are designed as workshops. Students work in small groups to learn aspects of writing analysis and criticism to better analyze their own writing as well as the writing of fellow students. By learning how to analyze their writing, students learn to improve their writing. All group work is supervised by writing instructors experienced in workshop teaching and in critical commentary on student writing. The primary goal of all writing courses is effective communication, orally and in writing.

Facilities

The Writing Center

The Writing Center provides free, individual help with writing to all members of the University community, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. Tutors assist with writing projects ranging from freshman composition essays to dissertation proposals. Tutors receive ongoing training in all aspects of the teaching of writing and are prepared to mentor a whole host of issues (e.g., getting started, developing arguments, revising, editing, learning techniques for editing and proofreading, understanding specific aspects of grammar, and addressing the needs of English as a second language students). Although the Center does not provide proofreading or copyediting services, the tutors are always willing to teach strategies to help writers eliminate error on their own.

Sessions generally take three forms: weekly appointments with the same tutor that students can extend through the semester; drop-in sessions that depend on the availability of tutors, and e-tutoring sessions that students can access through the Center's Web site at http://www.stonybrook.edu/writrhet. All tutoring sessions are approximately 50 minutes long.

For hours of operation or to schedule an appointment, call (631) 632-7405.

Electronic Writing Classrooms

The Program in Writing and Rhetoric has two computer labs that are used for instructional purposes. The Life Sciences EWC, located in L-112, contains 26 personal computers. The History EWC, located in SBS S316, has 22 PCs. Both are open to scheduled classes only. MS Office, Dreamweaver, and Photoshop, along with teaching and Internet tools, are installed on all machines, and both labs have projection capability and access to networked laser-quality printing. Class times are posted at http://www.stonybrook.edu/writrhet
WRT

Writing

WRT 101 - A: Introductory Writing Workshop
Frequent short papers are designed to help students develop fluency and correctness. The basic requirements of academic writing are introduced. A through C/U Unsatisfactory grading only. The Pass/No credit option may not be selected for this course. WRT 101 does not count towards D.E.C. A requirement for students matriculating before fall 1999. WRT 101 is not for credit in addition to EGC 100. Due to the content of the course, enrollment after the first week of class is not permitted.
Prerequisite: successful completion of ESL 193 or a score of less than 1000 on the combined SAT verbal and written exams
3 credits, ABC/U grading

WRT 102 - A: Intermediate Writing Workshop A
Writing for academic purposes is emphasized. Students learn strategies for extended writing assignments at the university. At least three major essays, multiple drafts, and short papers are required. A through C/U Unsatisfactory grading only. The Pass/No Credit option may not be used. Due to the content of the course, enrollment after the first week of class is not permitted.
Prerequisite: WRT 101; or 3 or higher on the AP English/Comp or English/Lit exams; or 1000 or higher on the combined verbal and writing portions of the SAT I; or C or higher in a college writing course judged equivalent to WRT 101
3 credits, ABC/U grading

WRT 200: Grammar and Style for Writers
Students will study the aspects of grammar that are most relevant to punctuation and to clear writing, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, nominative and accusative cases, phrases, clauses, gerunds, participles, infinitives, and complete sentences. Sentence imitation, sentence combining, and sentence invention techniques will also be used to help students become more flexible in their syntactic fluidity. There will be five tests, three short papers, and a final exam.
3 credits

WRT 201: Writing in the Disciplines: Special Topics
Writing in specified academic disciplines is taught through the analysis of texts in appropriate fields to discover discourse conventions. Students produce extended written projects. Different sections emphasize different disciplines.
Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A
3 credits

WRT 301: Writing in the Disciplines: Special Topics
Writing in specified academic disciplines is taught through the analysis of texts in appropriate fields to discover discourse conventions. Students produce a variety of written projects typical of the genres in the field. Different sections emphasize different disciplines. Typical topics will be Technical Writing, Business Writing, Legal Writing, and Writing for the Health Professions. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A
3 credits

WRT 302 - G: Critical Writing Seminar: Special Topics
A writing seminar, with rotating historical, political, social, literary, and artistic topics suggested by the professors each semester. Frequent substantial writing projects are central to every version of the course. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A
3 credits

WRT 303: The Personal Essay
The personal essay is a form that has recently come back into fashion. In this class we will engage the form by writing our own personal essays as well as reading and responding to the work of writers who have come to define the genre: examples include E. B. White, Langston Hughes, and Raymond Carver as well as more contemporary writers such as Joan Didion and Gene Shepherd. We will explore the differences between shaping experience as truth in a personal essay or memoir and as a work of fiction. As a definition of personal essay evolves, we will consider whether personal writing and essay writing (or ‘essaying’) have a place in academic writing. Students in this class will also be able to prepare a personal statement for their application for graduate or professional school.
Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A
3 credits

WRT 381: Advanced Analytic and Argumentative Writing
An intensive writing course, refining skills appropriate to upper-division work. Content varies: focus may be on analysis or various intellectual issues, rhetorical strategies, or compositional problems within or across disciplines. Frequent substantial writing projects are central to every version of the course. May be repeated as the topic changes. This course is offered as both EGL 381 and WRT 381.
Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category A
3 credits

WRT 392: Theories and Methods of Mentoring Writers
Closely examines the difficulties implicit in mentoring writers, with special consideration for the roles of cultural expectations and social dynamics on both the teaching of writing and writers themselves. In small groups and one-to-one interactions, students explore theories and practices upon which composition instruction and writing center work depend. Building on the understanding that writing is a recursive process (a cycle of planning, drafting, revising, and editing), students also learn to analyze and problem-solve issues that become barriers for effective writing and communication.
Prerequisites: WRT 102 or 103; permission of instructor
3 credits

WRT 487: Independent Project
Qualified upper-division students may carry out advanced independent work under the supervision of an instructor in the program. May be repeated.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and program director
0-6 credits

WRT 488: Internship
Participation in local, state, and national public and private agencies and organizations. May be repeated to a limit of 12 credits.
Prerequisites: g.p.a. of 2.50 or higher; permission of instructor and program director
0-6 credits, S/U grading