Grammar and Style for Writers Eugene Hammond/William Marderness

WRT 200.01/ WRT 200.02 MW 2:30-3:50 pm/ TuTh 11:30 am-12:50 pm

A study of aspects of grammar that are most relevant to clear writing, including parts of speech, verbals, clauses, phrases, punctuation, and complete sentences. Students study prose style as a way to achieve rhetorical effectiveness and, through frequent writing, learn to apply principles of clarity, concision, and coherence. Sentence imitation, sentence combining, and sentence invention techniques are used to help students become more flexible in their syntactic fluidity. Several tests and short papers.

Rhetorics of Love and Compassion Peter Khost

WRT 302.01 TuTh 1:00-2:20 pm

This course engages with artistic, rhetorical, and theoretical representations of love and its ethical counterpart, compassion, as both separate and interrelated phenomena. Students research and write about individual interests within these subject areas and respond to the familiar call to connect education with critical citizenship, including through application to contemporary global conflicts. Addressing multimodal, especially visual, texts of both popular and scholarly origins, the assignments emphasize analytical and argumentative writing. A central question throughout the course is how texts function and can be made to function rhetorically as influences on individual and collective moralities. Course readings are theoretical and challenging but not particularly lengthy, and there are no tests or quizzes on them or anything else. Rather, coursework includes frequent low-stakes reading responses, in-class discussions and group work, informal presentations, a multimodal composition, database research, and essay writing and revising. This interactive workshop course expects active participation of students in nearly every class period.

Global Litericies Rita Nezami

WRT 302.02 TuTh 4:00-5:20 pm

This course invites students to develop their skills as writers by formulating various kinds of responses to literary texts by writers from throughout the world. By not limiting our readings to texts by writers living exclusively in the West and writing in English, we open ourselves to the possibilities of responding to the problem of being human in ways other than those conditioned by first-world assumptions formed by American and European culture, media, and politics. Students will identify, discuss and write about the various global issues that are reflected in global literature. Readings will include Salman Rushdie’s Midnight’s Children; Tahar Ben Jelloun’s Leaving Tangier; Laila Lalami’s Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits; and Arundhati Roy’s God of Small Things. There will be three major textural analysis writing assignments.

Rhetoric of Poetry Michelle Whittaker

WRT 302.03 MWF 11:00-11:53 pm

This course will examine poetry and essays in response to social change and social justice. We will explore themes and culture of the 20th and 21st centuries; analyze and evaluate the rhetoric of poems, essays, related media, and music lyrics; and explore poets of different ethnicity, race, gender, and class. Students will write and revise a series of poems and short essays. Final project required.

Rhetoric and Culture Roger Thompson

WRT 302.04 MW 4:00-5:20 pm

This course is an introduction to the history of rhetoric that highlights its relationship to reading, writing, and speaking in modern contexts. Emphasis will be placed on defining rhetoric—its traditions, forms, and enduring realms of influence. The course provides a foundation in the principles of classical rhetoric that will be explored in order to understand their application to contemporary circumstances. Students will write and revise a series of short essays focused on the application of rhetorical theory to contemporary culture.

Writing for the New Media Cynthia Davidson

WRT 302.5 TuTh 11:30 am-12:50 pm

In this course we will explore online networked reading and writing practices. We will examine the social, cultural, educational, and ethical dimensions of digital texts. The topics we cover, the readings we do, and the discussions we have should help us to understand digital spaces as deeply rhetorical spaces, become more sophisticated navigators of the information available to us in digital spaces, and become more effective writers and communicators in print and digitally mediated spaces. Digitally mediated spaces to be explored may include, but are not limited to, blogging, You Tube, Facebook, Twitter, Second Life, networked video games, and memes. Students will write reading responses and several shorter essays, and have the opportunity to engage a specific issue in depth through a final project with a multimodal component.

Feminist Rhetoric Kristina Lucenko

WRT 302.06 TuTh 10:00-11:20 am

This course is an introduction to feminist rhetorical and writing studies. We will survey major feminist works and concerns related to three major goals: the recovery of female-authored texts, speeches, and activities; the reevaluation of women’s and feminist rhetorical histories; and the re-visioning of feminist research practices and objects of study. Students will write several short essays, work on Wikipedia pages, and use archival methods to undertake a final research project.

The Personal Essay Jessica Karbowiak

WRT 303.01 MW 5:30-6:50 pm

What is the role of personal vision in the University and in your life? This course will explore how you express and define yourself through composing processes. Almost every child loves to write, because children feel the power of creating an identity through writing, but many of us lose that feeling in school. In this course, we will explore the composing of ourselves and our stories in a variety of genres and media, including a digital autobiography or argument suitable for sharing on the Internet. Readings and viewings will include powerful pieces by both known and emerging writers and artists, including Tom Bissell, Cynthia Ozick, Joyce Carol Oates, and Zora Neale Hurston. We will try to be eclectic and look beyond the expected resources for inspiration. Assignments will include several essays and a final project including a multimodal presentation.

The Personal Essay Thomas Tousey

WRT 303.02 MWF 12:00-12:53 pm

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 Michel de Montaigne, Charles Lamb and E.B. White, as well as more contemporary writers such as Joan Didion and Scott Russell Sanders. 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.

The Personal Essay MaryAnn Duffy

WRT 303.03 TuTh 10:00-11:20 am  
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 will include a range of authors from the Enlightenment to contemporary such as Montaigne, E. B. White, Langston Hughes, Raymond Carver, Virginia Woolf, Jamaica Kincaid, Joan Didion and many others. 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 prepare a personal statement for their application for graduate or professional school.

The Personal Essay Matthew Miranda

WRT 303.04 TuTh 5:30-6:50 pm  
This class explores personal narrative from within & without, and considers the parallels & contrasts in the presence & absence of truth in memoir versus fiction. We will trace along a history of personal essays, and discuss what place, if any, the form has in academia today. Students will write three or four essays in addition to some smaller writing prompts. By the end of the course, students will apply what they've learned and produced toward either a personal statement for grad school, a cover letter for a job application, or a reflective piece for a human interest angle.

The Personal Essay Kevin Clouther

WRT 303.05 MW 2:30-3:50 pm  
In this course we will concentrate on the reading and writing of narrative non-fiction; you will have the opportunity to improve your own craft, discuss your peers’ personal essays, and learn from contemporary masters such as Charles D'Ambrosio, Joan Didion, Leslie Jamison, Mary Karr, John Jeremiah Sullivan, and David Foster Wallace. In all of the work, we will examine together what makes a piece of writing worth reading, focusing on issues of voice, structure, and language. You will be expected to participate actively, complete in-class writing assignments, and present your creative writing twice for workshop. You will submit at least twenty pages—you may submit a personal statement for application for graduate school—and thoroughly revise one piece.

Writing for Your Profession Shyam Sharma

WRT 304.01 MW 2:30-3:50 pm

Professionals of all kinds consistently attest to the significance of strong writing and communication skills in their field. In fact, a national study shows that about 70% of paid jobs involve writing. This is verified by data from a 2012 survey of over fifty employers of Stony Brook University graduates. So in this course students learn about types of documents, rhetorical principles, and composing practices necessary for writing effectively in and about professional contexts. Coursework emphasizes each student’s career interests, but lessons also address a variety of general professional issues, including audience awareness, research methods, ethics, collaboration, and verbal and visual communication. Students complete the course with practical knowledge and experience in composing business letters, proposals, and various kinds of professional reports. A creative, self-reflexive assignment also contextualizes each individual’s professional aspirations within a bigger picture of his/her life and culture.

Advanced Research Writing Robert Kaplan

WRT 380.01 TuTh 4:00-5:20 pm

Good research skills are critical to academic success.  Most disciplines require writing based upon research, as arguments and explanations make little impact on audiences without effective supporting evidence, drawn from relevant scholarship on the subject. This involves knowing how to use appropriate databases, source materials, and composing processes, as well as negotiating the values, genres, and languages of the scholarly communities in which one is researching.  In this course, students will learn fundamentals of research methods, practice these methods in a series of integrated research and writing assignments, and engage in critical reflection about research and writing.  Students will focus on an area of disciplinary interest to them, and practice these essential research and writing skills through a series of projects: library assignments, research log, research proposal, annotated bibliography, literature review, abstract, research paper and reflection paper.

\*\*\*All 300 level courses will fulfill the second half of the Writing Pre-Med/Pre-Health prerequisite.

\*\*\*WRT 302 fulfills the University DEC G or SBC HFA+ requirement