Spring Quarter 2016
WRD Courses Eligible for Credit in
The WRD Major and the
Professional Writing Minor*

LSP 200, Sophomore Seminar in Multiculturalism: The Rhetoric of Disability
Sophomore Seminar Credit in the LSP—does not count for credit in the Minor or Major
Beth Ann Bryant-Richards
Loop, Tuesday, 5:45-9:00pm

The Rhetoric of Disability: The background of the rhetoric of disability and the language we use to speak and write about people with differences goes back to ancient times. In the United States, much of this rhetoric is enmeshed in litigation and federal law enacted to protect people with disabilities. The disability rights movement in many ways mirrored the civil rights movement, the women’s movement, and the quest for equality by the LBGTQA community. Like others seeking justice, people with differences and disabilities ardently wish to dictate the rhetoric and discourse about their lives and identity. This power to direct the rhetoric is necessary for full inclusion in U.S. society and culture. What gives some the power to dictate the language used to describe and identify individuals? How have public policies and education reform influenced cultural norms for people with and without disabilities? How have representations of the disabled in popular culture, literature, art, and film influenced the rhetoric and discourse surrounding the community? By learning about and examining past rhetorical standards, students will begin to understand how language can help shape social movements, and they can also discover their role in speaking up for (and writing about) a more equal role for those with differences.

WRD 201, Digital Writing
Major Elective; Minor Requirement*
Sarah Brown
LPC, MW 2:40-4:10

Digital writing might seem like a redundant phrase, as many of the writing processes that we currently engage in—text messages, emails, social media posts, and even “papers”—occur in digitally mediated spaces. But, this is a relatively recent development, and we’re currently writing in an environment that is still connected to the foundational trappings of a physically print world. In this class, we’ll explore what it means to start from a digital framework and to write with all of the available affordances in mind. You will develop skills to support your navigation of, and content creation in, a variety of composing contexts.*This course is a requirement for all Professional Writing minors who declared the program after the end of Summer Quarter, 2014. Ongoing minors who have not yet taken WRD 301 may substitute WRD 201 without requesting to do so.
WRD 204, Technical Writing
Major Elective; PW Minor Elective
LPC, MW 9:40-11:10,  Professor Antonio Ceraso
Loop, TTH 3:10-4:40, Amy Hornat-Kaval
Online, Alan Ackmann, MFA
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When we think of writing in school or academic settings, we often imagine a standard “paper”—an argument about a historical event, or an analysis of a novel. But what do we imagine when we think of writing in workplaces? In a recent annual survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the ability to write and edit reports was considered “important” to “very important” by employers. Such survey data only confirms an ongoing trend: your ability as a competent workplace writer is deeply valued by all types of companies, and could be a crucial element of your career. In WRD204, students practice the kinds of writing that will be expected in technical professions. The course will focus on understanding audience needs and crafting written documents that meet the needs of clients, coworkers, managers, and other stakeholders in technical workplaces. Students will learn by practicing how to write effective instructions, tutorials, specifications, and technical reports. The course will also focus on the design of professional documents, and how that differs from writing most students do in academic settings. By taking the course, you will develop the kinds of facility in workplace writing that employers in technical professions consistently say they are seeking when they recruit college graduates.

WRD 206, Professional Writing
Major Elective; PW Minor Requirement
LPC, TTH 2:40-4:10 Professor Jason Kalin

In WRD 206, students will learn the fundamentals of professional writing, including audience analysis, genre norms, concise, action-oriented prose, and document design, with a special focus on how workplace writing differs from academic writing. Through assignments that ask students to explore the structure and design of professional writing, the course provides a solid foundation that students can build on as they develop specializations in their professional fields. Documents produced may include memos, emails, letters, resumes, short reports, proposals, online texts, and collaborative projects.

WRD 281, Writing Censorship
WRD Major Elective; PW Minor Elective; AL Domain in Liberal Studies (for non-majors only)
 Professor Antonio Ceraso

The terrorist attack against the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo sparked numerous debates about what kinds of artistic expressions are free, or offensive, or even fearless. At the heart of these debates we often find the question of censorship. Censorship can be understood most broadly as some method of constraint placed on our expression. This course explores the issue of censorship through a rhetorical lens: if rhetoric examines the affordances and constraints of symbolic expression and action in “any given case” (as Aristotle thought of it), then it necessarily addresses the question of the limits put on our speech and expression, including our artistic and literary expression. We usually understand such limits to be “enforced” by governments, or customs, or other powerful institutions and forces, but a rhetorical viewpoint also means we must explore the limits we put on our own expression as we navigate complex rhetorical situations. Students will examine major statements on censorship and free expression in Western thought, and map ways we argue about censorship today. Students will also explore arguments
for censorship in artistic contexts, and practice rhetorical strategies and techniques writers have developed for various kinds of “censored” rhetorical situations.

WRD 284, Sports Writing in America: Myths, Memories, Heroes, Villains
WRD Major Elective; PW Minor Requirement; Liberal Studies AL Domain credit (non-majors only)
Justin Staley, MFA
LPC, TTH 11:20-12:50

The influence of sports as an American institution is far-reaching and powerful. This modern form of myth, tribalism, and religion often serves as a microcosm of society as a whole. In this course, you will read, analyze, and discuss multiple genres of writing including reporting, memoir/nonfiction, profile, and argument, on a wide range of sports and sports figures. In exploring writers’ pursuits of narratives on and off the field, of both heroes and villains, we will reflect on the ways that sports have both reported on and impacted American society through the lenses of cultural, social, racial, and economic issues throughout America’s history. You will develop greater insight into how writers create compelling narratives and posit effective arguments, and by writing in these genres, you will explore the role of sports in your own life, as well as part of the wider cultural institution in America.

WRD 285, Truth in Disguise: The Rhetoric of Satire
WRD Major Elective; PW Minor Requirement; Liberal Studies AL Domain credit (non-majors only)
Justin Staley, MFA

This course focuses on satire as a rhetorical device used to persuade, convince, inform, and provoke change or action. Drawing on multiple media such as television shows, editorial cartoons, newspapers, magazines, and literature, students will explore satirical commentary on social and political issues such as race, religion, health, and gender to explore how absurd representations of reality call into question what we take to be real, true, or natural. From Jonathan Swift and Mark Twain to Stephen Colbert, and South Park, satire has long held the power to inform contemporary issues through the use of irony, sarcasm, and ridicule. You will develop the ability to think critically about and respond meaningfully to satire as argument across a range of media and modes. You will also compose satire, with attention to rhetorical context and genre awareness, in order to inform, persuade, and provoke audience(s).

WRD 286, Writing with Photographs
WRD Major Elective; PW Minor Requirement; Liberal Studies AL Domain credit (non-majors only)
Professor Lisa Dush
LPC, TTH 1:00-2:30

In this course, we will explore how writers can use photographs and photography in their writing process and in their texts. We will consider both the act of writing with photographs, where photographs are used to spur memory and imagination, and the texts that result from the combination of writing and photographs. Our work will revolve around the analysis and production of four distinct types of “PhotoTexts”—some that ask you to use writing to explore photographs from your personal archives and from public collections, others that ask you to shoot photographs and write accompanying text. The course will also introduce you to literary, documentary, and theoretical works that model how photographs and language can work together, and ask you to use both the techniques and the theoretical language of these works to conceive of and reflect on your own projects. The course requires no prior experience with photography, though you must have access to a digital camera or camera phone.
WRD 321, Topics in Professional Writing: Writing in the Legal Profession  
Major Elective; Minor Elective  
**Ms. Andrea Yelin, JD**  
LPC, MW 4:20-5:50

This course explores the role of writing in legal contexts. You will learn about various genres of professional legal writing: case summaries, objective memoranda, briefs, judicial opinions, oral arguments, and contracts. We will focus on developing clear, direct, succinct, and precise writing for the legal context, in objective and persuasive formats. The course is not designed to teach substantive law, but to explore narrative and persuasive writing styles within a legal framework. Consider this course a preview of legal writing in the law school environment.

**Andrea B. Yelin** is an attorney, author and writing specialist. She is the co-author of *The Legal Research and Writing Handbook, 6th edition* (Wolters Kluwer 2012), *Basic Legal Writing, 4th edition* (Wolters Kluwer 2013), and the author of *Contract Law for Legal Professionals* (Pearson 2011). She is also an Adjunct Professor at the School of Law, Loyola University Chicago, where she teaches legal writing to first year law students and directs the Legal Writing Workshop. Ms. Yelin conducts writing workshops at law firms and writes materials for a financial services and litigation consulting firm.

WRD 390, Rhetoric and Public Writing  
Senior Capstone; Major Elective (if Capstone is taken in another department); Minor Elective  
**Professor Julie Bokser**  
LPC, TTH 11:20-12:50

In this capstone course, we will focus on writing for the public by creating a museum exhibit that will explore how the DePaul community writes. Using field research, we’ll interview and study DePaul professors, students, and staff to learn what, why, and how they write. We’ll then compose and design displays that transform what we’ve learned about writers and writing at DePaul into a lively, interesting set of findings addressed to the DePaul public. Displayed in a campus location (last year it was the Student Center), the “DePaul Writes” exhibit will involve creativity, collaboration, and multimodal composing (cameras provided). As we study DePaul writers, you’ll also examine your own liberal studies and major course work, thinking about how your education has prepared you for a range of writerly roles. Overall, course projects—analysis, research, exhibit writing, exhibit preparation, and reflection—will give you the opportunity to hone and finesse your writing and production skills as you prepare for life after graduation.

WRD 398, Internship  
Major Elective; Minor Elective  
**Dana Dunham**  
Arranged

Ready for a challenge? Take your writing into the workplace. Doing an internship can help you explore career options, build your professional portfolio, and give you a head start in a job search. This independent study course will help you explore the connections between WRD and the world by examining the relationship between your WRD courses and the rhetorical challenges you encounter as a professional writer. Coursework will ask you to document your internship experience, analyze your
writing, expand your professional network, and create a portfolio that will communicate the value of your internship experience to a professional audience.

Any internship opportunity that coincides with your role as a WRD major or Professional Writing minor is eligible to be coordinated for course credit with WRD 398, Internship. For a complete explanation of Internship guidelines, see http://las.depaul.edu/wrd/StudentResources/Internships/index.asp. For additional information on WRD internships, see http://depaulwrd.wordpress.com/category/internships/. For questions or to register, contact WRD Internship Coordinator Dana Dunham ddunham2@depaul.edu.

Summer 2016
WRD Courses Eligible for Credit in the WRD Major and Professional Writing Minor*

First Summer Session (June 15-July 19)

WRD 204, Technical Writing
Major Elective; PW Minor Elective
Lauren Hahn
Loop, TTH 5:45-9:00pm

When we think of writing in school or academic settings, we often imagine a standard “paper” - an argument about a historical event, or an analysis of a novel. But what do we imagine when we think of writing in workplaces? Maybe we think that people don’t write that much in workplace settings. However, in a recent annual survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the ability to write and edit reports was considered “important” to “very important” by employers. Such survey data only confirms an ongoing trend: your ability as a competent workplace writer is deeply valued by all types of companies, and could be a crucial element of your career. In WRD204, students practice the kinds of writing that will be expected in technical professions. The course will focus on understanding audience needs and crafting written documents that meet the needs of clients, coworkers, managers, and other stakeholders in technical workplaces. Students will learn by practicing how to write effective instructions, tutorials, specifications, proposals, and technical reports. The course will also focus on the design of professional documents, and how that differs from writing most students do in academic settings. By taking the course, students will develop the kinds of facility in workplace writing that employers in technical professions consistently say they are seeking when they recruit college graduates.

WRD 240, Argumentative Writing online!
Major Elective; PW Minor Elective
Dana Dunham

The arguments we encounter in our daily lives shape us, and in turn argument offers us a powerful tool for shaping our lives and our world. In this online course you will learn how to recognize and create strong arguments by studying major theories of argumentation throughout history and applying them to contemporary texts and issues. Throughout the course you will be encouraged to experiment with a variety of strategies as you design arguments that will function effectively across a range of contexts.
Examining argument through these lenses will empower you to interrogate your own argumentative techniques and become a more sophisticated consumer and creator of argumentative texts.

**WRD 320, Topics in Professional Writing**

**Persuasive Graphics: Writing about and Visualizing Data**

Major Elective; PW Minor Elective  
*Professor Antonio Ceraso*  
LPC, TTH 6:00-9:15

When the *Washington Post* wanted to show the toxicity of Flint, Michigan’s water supply, it did so with a visual representation of lead levels in Flint’s water. When the Center for Disease Control and Prevention wanted to engage the public more effectively on health statistics, it created a data visualization pilot that helped show users the statistics on topics like drug poisoning and natality. The *New York Times* used maps and bar charts to show how guns travel from states with lenient gun laws to states with stricter laws. The examples, of course, could go on forever; data visualizations and infographics have become an expected feature of our media content. We are, in short, informed and persuaded by visual representations of data.

This class examines data visualizations as persuasive acts—which is to say, as deeply rhetorical. We will explore how written and visual content work together to persuade us, focusing especially on the tradition of visual rhetorical analysis. We will examine current practices and rhetorical techniques in data visualizations, analyzing a wide variety of graphical forms, particularly as they seek to provide popular audiences with images of complex social and scientific data. Finally, we will practice building some infographics / data visualizations using a series of tools, ranging from basic Excel and Word charts, to Google interactive chart tools, to advanced techniques and coding practices (though we’ll mainly just explore this last set of tools). No previous experience with graphic design, coding, or statistics is required or expected for this class.

The course provides both new media /digital content developers, as well as professional and technical writing specialists, with core skills for their content toolkits.

**WRD 398, Internship**

Major Elective; Minor Elective  
*Dana Dunham*  
Arranged

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