

# WRD Courses Winter Quarter 2021

## Quick Reference

### Minor Requirements

[WRD206: Professional Writing](#) | Online Asynchronous

### WRD Capstone Seminar

[WRD390: Rhetoric and Public Writing](#) | Monday 11:20-12:50 Online Hybrid

### Arts and Literature Domain Courses

[WRD266: The Social Rhetoric of Videogames](#) | Tuesday 11:50-1:20 Online Hybrid

[WRD281: Writing Censorship](#) | Online Asynchronous

[WRD284: Sports Writing in America](#) | Thursday 11:20-12:50 Online Hybrid

### Social, Cultural, & Behavioral Inquiry Domain Courses

[WRD261: Digital Culture](#) | Monday 2:40-4:10 Online Hybrid

### Junior Year Experiential Learning Courses

[WRD378: Teaching English as a Second Language in Chicago](#) | Tuesday 1:00-2:30 Online Hybrid

[WRD398: Internship in Writing and Rhetoric](#)

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## **WRD204: Technical Writing**

Major and minor elective course.

**T/Th 10:10-11:40 Online Synch**

Instructor: Jacob Friedman

**T/Th 1:30-3:00 Online Synch**

Instructor: Jacob Friedman

**Online Asynchronous**

Instructor: Amy Hornat-Kaval

**Monday 3:10-4:40 Online Hybrid**

Instructor: Timothy Elliott

**Course Description:** In this course, students learn to communicate and interpret specialized information for readers' practical use. The course highlights the action-orientated goals of technical writing and the importance of accurately communicating information to users. The course provides an overview of key issues related to technical writing such as usability, audience analysis, designing pages and screens, effective collaboration with peers, interpreting and presenting data, and writing clearly and persuasively. Students learn to write, revise and present common technical writing genres such as instructions, tutorials, reports, product/process descriptions, and proposals.

## WRD206: Professional Writing

Online Asynchronous

Fulfills Minor Requirement. Major elective course.

**Instructor:** Alan Ackmann

**Course Description:** In this course, you 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 you to explore the genres of professional writing, the course provides a solid foundation that you can build on as you develop specializations in your professional fields and prepare for work beyond school.

## WRD240: Argumentative Writing

Monday 9:40-11:10 Online Hybrid

Major and minor elective course.

**Instructor:** Monica Reyes

**Course Description:** Students in this course will learn techniques for constructing argumentative writing, working with rhetorical methods of inventing and arranging written arguments. Students will examine different genres of argument, but the focus in the course will be on student production and revision. This course builds on and extends skills in argumentative writing that students gain in the First-Year Writing program.

## WRD261: Digital Culture

Monday 2:40-4:10 Online Hybrid

Major and minor elective course.

### Social, Cultural, & Behavioral Inquiry Domain

*(Liberal Studies domain credit for non-Majors)*

**Instructor:** Jason Kalin

**Course Description:** Why are all these people tweeting? Why is anyone still on social media? What were they thinking? What were they hoping to accomplish? What is TikTok? We live in a culture in which digital technologies form a fundamental part of everyday life, shaping how we work and play, live and learn, think and write. This course offers a rhetorical approach to our contemporary digital culture, asking you to think about how digital technologies connect and disconnect us and what kinds of digital innovations are shaping individual and social behaviors. You will learn about the history of digital media and their influence on communication practices. You will investigate and reflect upon how we develop, present, and manage our identities and communities in digital spaces. And throughout the course, you will be encouraged to be active participants in digital culture by exploring its technologies and media of connection and expression.

## WRD266: The Social Rhetoric of Videogames

Tuesday 11:50-1:20 Online Hybrid

Major and minor elective course.

### Arts and Literature Domain

*(Liberal Studies domain credit for non-Majors)*

**Instructor:** Alan Ackmann

**Course Description:** From the 1980s upright arcade to the modern MMO or arena combat system, video games have consistently moved beyond the spaces of simple entertainment, becoming increasingly valuable cultural artifacts. In the Social Rhetoric of Video Games, we will explore the role that games and game culture play as artistic or persuasive texts, considering their genre traits of specific games, their larger audience and context, and their impact within various discourse communities. By the end of the course, you'll have a fuller sense of games as rhetorical texts, and of the arguments they make. WRD 104 or its equivalent is recommended as a prerequisite.

## WRD281: Writing Censorship

Online Asynchronous

Major and minor elective course.

### Arts and Literature Domain

*(Liberal Studies domain credit for non-Majors)*

**Instructor:** Antonio Ceraso

**Course Description:** While our politics today may be polarized, the one thing nearly everyone can agree on is that their opponents are censoring them. The accusation that some nefarious power—the media, corporations, the government—is censoring information and viewpoints might be the most common political charge we encounter (and make!) today. Of course, we tend to disagree on the who is doing the censoring, and why...

Why does fear of and belief in censorship play such a large role in our cultural and political imagination? Why do we find claims of censorship so persuasive and powerful? And how do we write effectively in an environment where either censorship is prevalent, or people believe it is? This class will explore censorship in its artistic, rhetorical, political, and technological dimensions. We will sample historical cases of censorship to figure out how our current understanding of and discourse about censorship developed. We will look at artistic works—stories, novels, television, and films—that take up censorship as their theme, or that were themselves censored or challenged. We will also look to how arguments about censorship work in our current media (and social media) landscapes.

## WRD284: Sports Writing in America: Myths, Memories, Heroes, and Villains

Thursday 11:20-12:50 Online Hybrid

Major and minor elective course.

### Arts and Literature Domain

*(Liberal Studies domain credit for non-Majors)*

**Instructor:** Justin Staley

**Course Description:** 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.

## WRD309: Topics in Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse: Writing about Rights

Thursday 9:40-11:10 Online Hybrid

Major and minor elective course.

**Instructor:** Jason Schneider

**Course Description:** We hear rights claims from all directions these days, including the political left (immigrant rights, a woman's right to choose), the political right (the right to bear arms, the right to not wear a mask during the coronavirus pandemic), and from less obviously partisan positions (the right to privacy, the right to free speech). In this course we will examine such claims from a language and discourse perspective, asking questions such as these: What are some common linguistic and discursive features of rights claims? What are underlying assumptions that give rights arguments their force? How do such claims move people to political and social action? Throughout the quarter, you will be writing about rights, both by analyzing some of the public discourses circulating today, and by building arguments in favor of rights that are of special importance to you.

**WRD321: Topics in Professional Writing: Legal Writing**

Online Asynchronous

Major and minor elective course.

**Instructor:** Andrea Yelin

**Course Description:** This course will expose you to the mechanics and rhetoric of legal writing. You will learn about the legal system and sources of legal writing. We will learn to brief and analyze cases, write objective memos, persuasive letters, and draft contracts. We will use movies to illustrate the courtroom experience. This course previews the law school writing experience yet it is very helpful for all students. You will feel comfortable writing to your landlord after taking this class. Students say that the course helped them to write strong memos and craft clear arguments.

**WRD323: Editing**

Monday 1:00-2:30 Online Hybrid

Major and minor elective course.

**Instructor:** Timothy Elliott

**Course Description:** Students will explore a range of practices and approaches to revising documents for publication. Students will learn to edit for style and consistency at the document, paragraph, and sentence levels. This course will focus on various standard editing practices, including corresponding with clients, editing according to different style guides, and applying technologies central to modern editorial practice. Students will use a mix of exercises and client-based projects to improve their editing skills and to explore related topics such as the Plain Language Movement, technical editing, and preparing documents for translation.

**WRD 378:  
Teaching English as a Second Language in Chicago**

Tuesday 1:00-2:30 Online Hybrid

Major and minor elective course.

**WRD Junior Year Experiential Learning designation****Instructor:** Jason Schneider

**Course Description:** The teaching of English is a worldwide phenomenon today, as English has become a global language for business, technology, education, and popular culture. Teaching English is also very important in Chicago, where more than 20% of residents were born abroad and use English as a Second Language (ESL). In this class, you will discover theories and methods of second language teaching. Through a combination of classroom study and practical experience, you will deepen your understanding of both second language learning and local immigrant communities. By the end of the quarter, you will have expertise that could support a wide range of future endeavors, including the teaching of English in the U.S. or abroad.

## WRD390: Rhetoric and Public Writing

Monday 11:20-12:50 Online Hybrid

Major and minor elective course.

WRD Senior Capstone course

**Instructor:** Jason Kalin

**Course Description:** In this section of WRD's LSP Capstone, we will explore current scholarship that seeks to define “the public” or “publics” and the possibilities for using rhetorical action to explore, understand, and engage in the co-construction of public life with others. Studying publics and their “problems,” we will ask: How do we cultivate a rhetorical sensibility to everyday life? What are the available means of persuasion in our contemporary digital media environment? What new rhetorical theories and practices do we need for this moment? This course will encourage us to critique and to apply rhetorical principles so that we may better understand our actions and responsibilities as rhetorical agents – as publics and as citizens – that influence the world around us.

## WRD398: Internship

Arranged

Major and Minor elective course.

Junior Year Experiential Learning designation

**Course Description:** 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. If you're interested in looking ahead to a Spring Quarter internship, arrange a meeting with Professor Ceraso [aceraso@depaul.edu](mailto:aceraso@depaul.edu).