

# WRD Courses Spring Quarter 2020

## Quick Reference

### Major Requirements

WRD205: History of Literacies and Writing M W 1:00-2:30 Lincoln Park

WRD209: Genre and Discourse T TH 2:30-4:10 Lincoln Park

### Minor Requirements

WRD201: Digital Writing ONLINE

WRD206: Professional Writing ONLINE

### Arts and Literature Designated Courses

WRD285: Truth in Disguise: The Rhetoric of Satire T TH 9:40-11:10 Lincoln Park

### Social, Cultural, and Behavioral Inquiry Designated Courses

WRD265: Social Movement, Social Media, and American Identities M W 9:40-11:10-4:10 Lincoln Park

### Junior Year Experiential Learning Courses

WRD377: Writing and Social Engagement (Writing Across Borders) T TH 4:20-5:50 Lincoln Park

WRD398: Internship in Writing and Rhetoric

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## WRD201: Digital Writing (**ONLINE**)

Online

**Fulfills Minor Requirement.** Major elective course.

**Instructor:** Jason Kalin

**Course Description:** Writing today requires more than just skill with written words. Successful digital-age writers understand how to strategically compose with a variety of modes and media, including still images, moving images, social content, sound, and written text. This course aims to increase your flexibility and confidence with this expanded range of modes and media. You will learn relevant design and rhetorical theories, get instruction and hands-on practice with new digital production and distribution tools, and tackle projects that develop your capacity to create persuasive digital texts for professional and civic purposes.

## **WRD204: Technical Writing**

Tuesday/Thursday 10:10-11:40 Loop Campus (Instructor: Jacob Friedman)

Tuesday/Thursday 11:50-1:20 Loop Campus (Instructor: Jacob Friedman)

Monday/Wednesday 3:10-4:40 Loop Campus (Instructor: Timothy Elliott)

[ONLINE](#) (Instructor: Amy Hornat-Kaval)

**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, manuals, reports, product/process descriptions, proposals, and oral presentations.

## **WRD205: History of Literacies and Writing**

Monday/Wednesday 1:00-2:30 Lincoln Park Campus

[Fulfills Major Requirement](#). Minor elective course.

**Instructor:** Antonio Ceraso

**Course Description:** Literacy is traditionally defined as the ability to read and write. This course will expand that definition to also explore the technological, cultural, and political aspects of literacy from the earliest archeological record of writing to modern information technology and digital literacy. Students will examine practices and narratives surrounding literacy, learn how both physical media and social power constrain what information gets recorded and how, and explore the implications of these constraints on the ways we define and engage literacy and writing.

This course will focus especially on the materiality of writing—the physical medium through which people have written and read—from clay tablets to letterpress to digital encoding. To get a feel for the material, we will practice hands-on writing with a variety of such media. We will explore not only the way technologies of writing affect what can be written or how we read, but also the cultural and political roles of writing in society.

## **WRD206: Professional Writing (ONLINE)**

Online

**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.

## **WRD209: Genre and Discourse**

Tuesday/Thursday 2:40-4:10 Lincoln Park Campus

**Fulfills Major Requirement.** Minor elective course.

**Instructor:** Erin Workman

**Course Description:** In this course, we will explore theories of *genre* and *discourse*, focusing on how genre and discourse shape our ways of writing, thinking, being, and doing. We will consider the implications of each theoretical approach for how we understand the functions of text, language, and identity in relationship to context. Through rhetorical and linguistic analyses of your own daily writing, as well as academic, professional, and public texts, you will gain facility with tools for making visible how language(s) and text(s) are socially situated and constituted. You will begin this work with an analysis of your current discourses; you will then perform a critical genre analysis of the texts that mediate users' actions within a discourse of your choosing. This work will culminate in a collaboratively planned, conference-style presentation for other DePaul students, faculty, and staff.

## **WRD241: The Essay from Print to New Media (ONLINE)**

Online

Major and minor elective course.

**Instructor:** Peter Vandenberg

**Course Description:** You've been writing "essays" in school for as long as you can remember. Want to try something different that goes by the same name? In this class, we'll explore the elasticity of this genre—from its origins in sixteenth-century alphabetic text to contemporary renditions in film, audio, and interactive media. With close attention to social, political, and historical contexts, we will consider how essayists work simultaneously within loose genre boundaries to meet aesthetic and persuasive (rhetorical) ends. By designing your own essays (the sort without "thesis statements"), which draw in part on

elements of story, you'll try on the skeptical, exploratory, and experimental authorial stance of the modern essayist.

### **WRD265: Social Movements, Social Media, and American Identity**

Monday/Wednesday 9:40-11:10 Lincoln Park Campus

Major and minor elective course. **Social, Cultural, and Behavioral Inquiry designation** (Liberal Studies domain credit *for non-Majors*)

**Instructor:** Erin MacKenna

**Course Description:** From civil rights and black power movements to women's liberation and gay rights, Americans have participated in social movements to protest precarious conditions and achieve a more livable life. This course begins with an introduction to the history and theoretical perspectives of social movement rhetoric studies and moves to explore how social media platforms have reoriented American political participation by democratizing access to information; disrupting old models of power distribution; providing a space for the development of subaltern rhetoric; and allowing for rapid, broad coalition building and the immediate deployment of multimodal protest actions.

### **WRD283: Environmental Writing**

Monday/Wednesday 11:20-12:50 Lincoln Park Campus

Major and minor elective course.

**Instructor:** Deborah Weiner

**Course Description:** Environmental Writing instructs students in the development of knowledge, critical thinking skills, and multimodal literacies that define writing practices in the environmental and conservation community. In order to become more proficient writers, students will analyze and practice a range of genres relevant to environmental issues in the workplace and the larger public sphere, from nature writing, to professional documents such as research articles, bios and grants aimed at a wide range of audiences including members of the environmental/ conservation community and the general public.

### **WRD285: Truth in Disguise: The Rhetoric of Satire**

Tuesday/Thursday 9:40-11:10 Lincoln Park Campus

Major and minor elective course. **Arts and Literature designation** (Liberal Studies domain credit *for non-Majors*)

**Instructor:** Justin Staley

**Course Description:** From Jonathan Swift and Mark Twain to Stephen Colbert, South Park, and Charlie Hebdo, satire has long held the power to inform contemporary issues through the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule, and many other rhetorical devices. This course

focuses on satire as a rhetorical strategy 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. By reading and composing satire with attention to rhetorical context and genre awareness, you will develop the ability to think critically about and respond meaningfully to satire as argument across a range of media and modes.

### **WRD290: Writer's Tools Workshop: Presentation Tools (TWO CREDIT COURSE)**

Tuesday 9:40-11:10 Lincoln Park Campus

**Instructor:** Alan Ackmann

**Course Description:** In this Writer's Tools Workshop, we will explore the rhetorical affordances and implications of presentation technologies such as PowerPoint, Keynote, and Prezi in a variety of contexts, including in-person, self-running, and webcast presentations. We will explore visual rhetoric (including slide design, images, the display of quantitative information, and animations), examine the major rhetorical theories on slide use, and study how presentations are managed in a global context. Students will analyze existing presentations and develop their own, learning to take advantage of one of the most used writer's tools.

### **WRD300: Composition and Style**

Monday/Wednesday 11:20-12:50 Lincoln Park Campus

Major and minor elective course.

**Instructor:** Julie Bokser

**Course Description:** In this course, we read and write creative nonfiction texts such as social commentary, reflection, descriptive and personal narrative, and journalistic essays. You will have freedom to choose the subjects you write about, you'll workshop with motivated peers, and you'll think about what prose style is all about. Students end the class with a better sense of themselves as writers who set their own goals and plans.

### **WRD377: Writing and Social Engagement (Writing Across Borders)**

Tuesday/Thursday 4:20-5:50 Lincoln Park Campus

Major and minor elective course. **Junior Year Experiential Learning designation (Liberal Studies)**

**Instructor:** Maria Prikhodko

**Course Description:** This section of WRD 377 is an interactive collaboration between undergraduate students at DePaul and Unichristus University in Fortaleza, Brazil. DePaul students will study topics such as the role of nativism in English rhetoric, writing for a

linguistically and culturally diverse audience, and providing feedback for revision. Unichristus students majoring in engineering, and social and health sciences will study writing and rhetoric with an emphasis on the use of English as a second language for scientific purposes. Students will meet via Zoom each week, and together strengthen their intercultural rhetorical competencies by way of collaborative projects. DePaul students from all majors are encouraged to enroll. The course fulfills the Experiential Learning requirement in the Liberal Studies Program.

### **WRD 398: Internship**

Arranged

Major and Minor elective course. **Junior Year Experiential Learning designation**  
(Liberal Studies)

**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).