



Autumn Quarter 2019 WRD Courses Eligible for Credit in the WRD Major and Professional Writing Minor

WRD 201, Digital Writing

Major Elective; PW Minor Requirement

LPC, TTH 2:40-4:10 *Professor Timothy Elliott*

An introduction to the study and practice of writing in the digital age. Students will consider a range of digital text types, such as web pages, social media, blogs, online videos, and interactive media, to better understand the technologies, rhetorical conventions, and practices that contribute to and emerge from digital texts. Students will also produce digital texts of their own. No prior digital production experience is necessary.

WRD 204, Technical Writing

Major Elective; PW Minor Elective

LOOP, MW 11:50-1:20 *Jacob Friedman*

LOOP, MW 1:30-3:00 *Jacob Friedman*

LOOP, TTH 11:50-1:20 *Alan Ackmann, MFA*

ONL, *Amy Hornat-Kaval*

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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.

WRD 206, Professional Writing

online!

Major Elective; PW Minor Requirement

Alan Ackmann, MFA

In WRD 206, 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. Documents produced may include memos, emails, letters, resumes, short reports, proposals, online texts, and collaborative projects.

WRD 232, The Language of Disability

Major Elective; PW Minor Elective

Liberal Studies SCBI Domain credit (*non-WRD majors only*)

Gabrielle Simons

LPC, MW 11:20-12:50

Have you ever wondered why, in our day and age, public transportation is still difficult to navigate if you use a wheelchair? Or why people with mental illness continue to be stigmatized? It's often said that disability is the only minority group anyone can join at any time, due to age, illness, or accident. So why do people with disabilities still encounter discrimination, stereotyping, and exclusion in the 21st century? Disability is at once a hotly debated term and concept in contemporary society. In this seminar-style course, we'll analyze writings, symbols, popular culture, and images to understand how language shapes our perceptions and definitions of disability. We'll also look at how dominant, emergent, discriminatory, and inclusive cultural discourses regulate actions we take on behalf of—or against those—society defines as disabled. Students will create a multimedia term project to investigate how the rhetorical dynamics in various fields or professions shape the implications of disability—and the consequent impact on people with disabilities.

WRD 241, The Essay from Print to New Media

online!

WRD Major Elective; PW Minor Elective

Liberal Studies AL Domain credit (*non-WRD majors only*)

Justin Staley

An introduction to one of the most elastic of artistic forms, this course explores the history of the essay from its origins in alphabetic text to contemporary renditions in film, audio, and interactive media. With close attention to social, political, and historical contexts, students will consider how essayists join content with form to simultaneously meet aesthetic and persuasive ends. By composing their own essays in varied media, students will explore the essay as both a work of art and a work of social action.

WRD 264, Language, Self, and Society

Major Elective; PW Minor Elective

Liberal Studies AL Domain credit (*non-WRD majors only*)

Professor Jason Schneider

LPC, MW 1:00-2:30

The way we use language reveals a great deal about who we are, what we believe, and the social groups with which we feel affiliated. Moreover, it shapes our everyday interpersonal interactions and positions us in relation to larger ideological forces. In this course we will explore the interplay of language, self, and society through readings, discussions, presentations, and writing assignments. By the end of the class, you will have a range of new perspectives through which to analyze the role of language in your own life and the world around you.

WRD 301, Writing in Workplace Contexts

Major Requirement; PW Minor Elective

Professor Timothy Elliott

LPC, TTH 1:00-2:30

Students study writing in professional contexts in order to form a broader understanding of the many purposes and forms of writing across a wide variety of workplaces. Students will investigate writing at a workplace of their choice and write a formal document reporting on their findings. Class topics include writing and the knowledge economy, contemporary workplace writing practices, the ethics of workplace writing, research methods for doing site research and discussion of how the methods of writing researchers are applicable to the daily practices of workplace writers.

WRD 306, Rhetorical Traditions

WRD Major Requirement; PW Minor Elective

Professor Julie Bokser

LPC, MW 2:40-4:10

In this class, we'll learn the principles and history of rhetoric. We'll focus on key concepts of classical Western rhetoric alongside significant alternatives to this tradition. We'll study this range of rhetorical traditions with an aim to understand:

- how rhetorical approaches have changed over time and across cultures
- how rhetors can be ethical when trying to change other people's minds
- how to be aware of our own susceptibility to persuasion

The course should enhance your historical knowledge, analytic approach to text, ability to succeed in college, and your interactions in the wider world.

WRD 320, Topics in Professional Writing:

Document Design

WRD Major Elective; PW Minor Elective;

Professor Antonio Ceraso

LPC, TH 6:00-9:15

How does the design of a report, a ballot, or an online form make the document easier to access, to understand, and to use? How might the visual design and arrangement of a document cause confusion and error? This course explores the visual and information design of print and digital documents, with a focus on making documents of all kinds easier to access, understand, and use. Students in the course can expect to learn the theory and history of document and information design. Students will also gain hands-on experience in producing usable and attractive documents. Since we are focused on how people actually use documents, students will learn how to conduct usability tests of multiple designs in order to determine which designs work best for particular user groups. Finally, the course will introduce students to principles of accessible and interactive design of information. No prior experience with design or publishing software is needed, but students can expect to build basic to intermediate skills with common design programs. It's rare today to see a job ad for a technical or professional communicator that doesn't ask for skill in designing documents (or, more frequently, re-designing existing documents). This class aims to provide those skills and prepare you for such professional projects.

WRD 372, Digital Storytelling

Major Elective; Major EL Requirement; PW Minor Elective
Liberal Studies Experiential Learning

Professor Lisa Dush

LPC, TTH 9:40-11:10

WRD 372 teaches the theory and practice of digital storytelling, a workshop-based process in which participants create short videos that feature a story-driven autobiographical voiceover and personal photographs. In the first half of the class, we will focus on making our own digital stories: you will learn writing exercises that generate compelling story ideas, employ workshopping techniques and revision strategies commonly used to shape meaningful story arcs, and practice methods for capturing and editing audio narration, images, video, and/or music to the most powerful narrative effect. As an EL course, you will also learn how to help others make digital stories; our class will partner with Marillac St. Vincent Family Services and guide a small group of their program participants through the digital storytelling process. By the end of the course, you will have both a digital story and an expanded ability to teach writing and digital production in community settings.

WRD 398, Internship

WRD Major Elective; Professional Writing Minor Elective

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. If you're interested in looking ahead to an Autumn Quarter internship, arrange a meeting with Professor Ceraso aceraso@depaul.edu.