



WRITING RHETORIC & DISCOURSE

WRD Courses Winter Quarter 2020

Quick Reference

Major Requirements

WRD203: Style for Writers T TH 1:00-2:30 Lincoln Park

Minor Requirements

WRD201: Digital Writing T TH 2:40-4:10 Lincoln Park

WRD206: Professional Writing Online

Arts and Literature Designated Courses (*Domain credit for non-Majors*)

WRD266: The Social Rhetoric of Videogames T TH 11:50-1:20 Loop

WRD284: Sports Writing in America T TH 11:20-12:50 Lincoln Park

WRD286: Writing with Photographs T TH 9:40-11:10 Lincoln Park

Social and Behavioral Inquiry Designated Courses (*Domain credit for non-Majors*)

WRD261: Digital Culture M W 2:40-4:10 Lincoln Park

Junior Year Experiential Learning Courses

WRD371: Mentoring Youth in Community Writing Groups T TH 11:20-12:50 Lincoln Park

WRD378: Teaching English as a Second Language in Chicago M W 9:40-11:10 Lincoln Park

WRD398: Internship (Arranged)

WRD201: Digital Writing

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

Fulfills Minor Requirement. Major elective course.

Instructor: Timothy Elliott

Course Description: An introduction to the study and practice of reading and 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 produce argumentative digital texts by themselves and in groups. No prior digital production experience is necessary.

WRD203: Style for Writers

Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:30 Lincoln Park Campus

Fulfills Major Requirement. Minor elective course.

Instructor: Julie Bokser

Course Description: This course provides students with opportunities to explore stylistic choices in written prose. Students will examine both published work and their own writing to explore how to manipulate language in specific contexts to achieve specific ends. Writing workshops will help students provide and receive constructive comments aimed at revision of drafts.

WRD204: Technical Writing

Monday/Wednesday 11:50-1:20 Loop Campus (Instructor: Jacob Friedman)

Monday/Wednesday 1:30-3:00 Loop Campus (Instructor: Jacob Friedman)

Online (Instructor: Amy Hornat-Kaval)

Major and Minor elective course.

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.

WRD206: Professional Writing (ONLINE)

Online

Fulfills Minor Requirement. Major elective course.

Instructor: Alan Ackmann

Course Description: 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.

WRD261: Digital Culture

Monday/Wednesday 2:40-4:10 Lincoln Park Campus

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

Instructor: Jason Kalin

Course Description: 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. Indeed, the big five technology companies—Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, and Microsoft—have become social, economic, and political institutions altering the nature of human relationships and social behavior. 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 Video Games (NEW COURSE!)

Tuesday/Thursday 11:50-1:20 Loop Campus

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

Instructor: Alan Ackmann

Course Description: The Social Rhetoric of Video Games will consider video games as rhetorical artifacts, asking questions about what writing, design, mechanics, and narrative reveal about the games' context, players and the games themselves. Games from a wide variety of genres will be explored, ranging from marquee titles and indie games to games in political, advertising, and persuasive contexts. We will also explore the rhetorical dynamics of video games as physical and virtual spaces, as well as the language surrounding games, considering how video games both reflect and create a culture.

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

Tuesday/Thursday 11:20-12:50 Lincoln Park Campus

Major and Minor elective course. **Arts and Literature designation** (Liberal Studies 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.

WRD286: Writing with Photographs

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

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

Instructor: Justin Staley

Course Description: In this course, we will explore how writers can use photographs and photography in their writing process and in their texts. You will write to engage with photographs from your personal archives and from public collections, as well as shoot your own photographs and write accompanying text. The course also introduces autobiographical, theoretical, documentary, and everyday texts that model how photographs and language can work together. In our two major creative projects, you will apply techniques and concepts from those works we study to create your own photo-essays. No prior experience with photography is necessary, though you must have access to a camera or camera phone.

WRD321: Writing in the Legal Profession (ONLINE)

Online

Major and Minor elective course.

Instructor: Andrea Yelin

Course Description: This course explores the role of writing, thinking, and problem-solving in legal contexts. Students will gain an understanding of the principles involved in writing effective narrative and persuasive prose for a variety of legal purposes; students will gain the ability to apply these principles to their own writing. The class will also explore the crucial skills of case briefing and analysis. Finally, students will have the opportunity to draft an objective memo and a contract.

WRD371: Mentoring Youth in Community Writing Groups

Tuesday/Thursday 11:20-12:50 Lincoln Park Campus

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

Instructor: Jennifer Finstrom

Course Description: This course is for any student who is interested in both mentoring young writers and understanding how writing in community functions as an identity-building process. In this class, you will have the opportunity to provide extensive online feedback for young writers engaged in imaginative work, and to occasionally visit their school. Course readings will address the value found in writing groups and communities, as well as how to best provide effective feedback. You will also reflect extensively on the intersection of identity, community, and mentoring through writing. This course fulfills the Experiential Learning domain requirement in the Liberal Studies Program and provides an active learning experience as a productive member of a writing community.

WRD378: Teaching English as a Second Language in Chicago

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

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

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, and you will apply what you have learned as an ESL teacher/tutor for immigrants at a community center in Chicago. You will also learn about various dimensions of immigrant experience. Through this

combination of classroom study and community-based service learning, you will deepen your understanding of second language learning, local immigrant lives, and your own potential to make positive contributions to local communities.

WRD390: Rhetoric and Public Writing

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

Senior Capstone designation.

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. We will assume that writing instruction grounded in a conventional understanding of argumentation may not be well suited to our changed and changing conditions – those brought about by digital technologies as well as the increasing privatization of interests and institutions once understood to make up the public domain. We will assume as well that public life will increasingly be dominated by questions of power, difference, and representation. The course will function initially like a seminar and later as a practicum: we will expect an initial study of how we might engage meaningfully in public deliberation to inspire a blueprint for individual or collective rhetorical action.

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 Winter Quarter internship, arrange a meeting with Professor Ceraso aceraso@depaul.edu.