

Writing and Rhetoric Program

Department of English
Florida International University



*Upper-Division Course Offerings Spring
2018*

Academic Requirements

Requirements for BA in English, Writing and Rhetoric Track:

[https://catalog.fiu.edu/2017-2018/undergraduate/College of Arts Sciences and Education/Undergraduate English.pdf](https://catalog.fiu.edu/2017-2018/undergraduate/College%20of%20Arts%20Sciences%20and%20Education/Undergraduate%20English.pdf)

Requirements for Certificate in Professional and Public Writing:

[https://catalog.fiu.edu/2017-2018/undergraduate/College of Arts Sciences and Education/Undergraduate College of Arts Sciences and Education Certificate Programs.pdf](https://catalog.fiu.edu/2017-2018/undergraduate/College%20of%20Arts%20Sciences%20and%20Education/Undergraduate%20College%20of%20Arts%20Sciences%20and%20Education%20Certificate%20Programs.pdf)

Spring 2018 Course Offerings

Professional and Technical Writing

ENC 3213 Multiple Online and F2F Sections

Requirement for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Writing Core for Professional and Public Writing Certificate Program

Catalog Description: Principles and practices of effective workplace writing. Students learn audience analysis in order to become more effective writers. Genres include memos, business letters, proposals, and reports. Written work meets the state composition requirement.

Advanced Writing and Research

Elective for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Writing Core for Professional and Public Writing Certificate Program

Pre-Law Certificate Option

ENC 3311 U01 TR 2:00-3:15pm MMC Professor Vanessa Sohan

ENC 3311 U02 MWF 9:00-9:50am MMC Professor Ming Fang

This is an upper division course for students who have already mastered the skills learned in FIU's two-course writing sequence (ENC1101 and ENC1102). This course focuses on presenting and designing advanced research, critical response, and argumentation. The course work for this class includes a series of research-related assignments that build toward the completion of a final research project. Students are encouraged to follow their research interests, to improve writing and research abilities, and to engage in critical inquiry, which are required in advanced undergraduate and graduate-level writing.

Introduction to Writing Studies

Requirement for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Writing Elective for Professional and Public Writing Certificate Program

ENC 3334 U02 R 9:30-10:45am Hybrid MMC Professor Vanessa Sohan

Intro to Writing Studies examines key issues and questions related to the field of rhetoric and composition. These include:

- How do rhetoric and writing relate with one another?
- Where do our ideas about reading and writing come from?
- What counts as writing, who decides these questions, and how do we incorporate the diversity of language, media, and cultures we represent as writers in our classrooms, workplaces, and everyday lives?
- How have the field's ideas about composition pedagogy (the art, occupation, and practice of teaching writing) developed?
- What changes can writing make in diverse public, private, and professional contexts?

As a group, we explore and participate in ongoing debates in the field of writing studies (alternatively known as rhetoric and composition), about how writing should be practiced, taught, and assessed in college, K-12, and extracurricular contexts. Over the course of the semester, you will pursue a project related to your own intellectual, professional, and/or pedagogical interests.

This course functions as part of the core for the newly established Writing Studies track in the English major and so can help incoming Writing Studies students better understand the field. However, the course also serves students of all majors who are simply interested in becoming better writers. In the past, these students have taken the class as an opportunity to discuss the best practices for writing and the teaching and sharing of writing, and were able to apply their work in the class in their academic and professional lives in diverse ways.

Writing as Social Action

Elective for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Writing Core for Professional and Public Writing Certificate Program

Pre-Law Certificate Option

ENC 3354 U01 TR 11:00-12:15pm MMC Professor Paul Feigenbaum

In the Information Age, anyone with access to a computer and an internet connection can start a business and/or broadcast ideas to the world. However, just because we have access to public forums does not mean people will pay attention to us, especially when millions of others are trying to circulate their own work and ideas. Consider, for example, how many YouTube videos never receive more than a handful of views. Or how many etsy shops never sell any merchandise. To put it another way, *publishing* one's message is not the same as *circulating* it; moreover, creating a storefront online is not the same as developing a successful business. In light of these evolving affordances and constraints regarding what it means for people to use writing as a form of social action, this course helps students increase the likelihood that their ideas will not be "silenced" amid the noise of so many competing messages. To achieve this goal, students will explore various literacy practices associated with cultural entrepreneurship. Similar to social entrepreneurs, "Cultural entrepreneurs [...] use persuasive communications and peer influence to shift attitudes, beliefs, and behavior and, in doing so, change the world for the better" (Martin and Witter para. 5). In other words, cultural entrepreneurs foster changes in societal values. In this class, students will strategically evaluate the costs and benefits of using different genres, media, and rhetorical tools to reach different publics in different contexts for different purposes while developing projects congruent with cultural entrepreneurship.

Specific objectives associated with this process will include:

- Examining cultural entrepreneurship from a rhetorical perspective
- Thinking through a cultural issue you want to change
- Analyzing the landscape of existing organizations also trying to create change on your issue
- Building your team and establishing strong team dynamics
- Developing your public pitch

Writing about the Environment

Elective for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Writing Core for Professional and Public Writing Certificate Program

ENC 3363 RVC Online Professor Darrell Elmore

The media today is flooded with information about the environment, with some sources more legitimate than others. This course will help students analyze environment issues through reading, critical analysis, research, and writing. Writing activities will include rhetorical analysis and evaluation of sources as well as generating original arguments and producing multi-media texts. The course will feature a community engagement writing component, so that students may practice working collaboratively while promoting advocacy working with an organization of their choice.

Rhetorical Theory and Practice

Requirement for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Requirement for Certificate in Public and Professional Writing Program

Pre-Law Certificate Option

ENC 3371 B52 TR 12:30-1:45pm BBC Professor Vernon Dickson

Rhetorical Theory and Practice surveys western rhetorical theory as a means to better understand and effectively engage in a wide range of writing and rhetoric practices. As a gateway to skillful writing practice, rhetorical theory informs decisions writers make on a daily basis. Students will investigate and inform their own writing choices with an emphasis on social practices. Our focus gives students an opportunity to investigate rhetorical theory as it impacts their daily experiences in meaningful ways, helping them come to learn more about productively participating in practical writing situations.

Writing and New Media

Elective for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Writing Core for Professional and Public Writing Certificate Program

ENC 3416 RVC Online Professor Chet Breaux

ENC 3416 focuses on composing for the web using established web-based technologies. Students will build on the skills they have developed in ENC 1101 and 1102 to produce polished, published nonfiction work native to new media formats. The primary media may include blogs, wikis, video compositions, or other developing formats. Students will also learn to support composing in these primary media with other kinds of networked communication.

An advanced ENC course, the class assumes that students are familiar with writing in different genres and can address the needs of various audiences in their writing, understand how to support ideas with reasons and evidence, can use research to develop and explore ideas, can participate effectively in peer review, and understand how to analyze rhetorical strategies. Furthermore, it is assumed that students can produce clear, grammatically correct prose using standard spelling and punctuation. Instruction will focus

on building on this foundation to develop advanced rhetorical skills appropriate for new media compositions.

This course begins with a survey of popular new media genres. After reading theory and analyzing examples, students will produce content appropriate for these genres. The second part of the course involves producing an original research project about new media. Each week, students will receive instruction on the processes of completing a major research project. Finally, we will work as a class to re-mediate our research projects into new media genres.

The Processes of Writing

Elective for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Writing Elective for Professional and Public Writing Certificate Program

ENC 3491 B51 TR 11:00-12:15pm BBC Professor Glenn Hutchinson

ENC3491 helps you reflect upon and improve your own writing and prepares you to work as an undergraduate consultant (tutor) at the Center for Excellence in Writing. We will (a) examine what researchers and theorists have said about writing, (b) examine what theorists and practitioners have said about teaching in a conference setting/writing center, and (c) observe, examine, and reflect upon our own experiences as writers and tutors. For more information, please contact gchutchi@fiu.edu.

Interdisciplinary Writing for Writing Fellows

Elective for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Writing Elective for Professional and Public Writing Certificate Program

ENC 3492 U01 TR 11:00-12:15pm MMC Professor Charles Donate

Catalog Description: For students who will become Peer Writing Fellows for Gordon Rule classes in various disciplines. For further information, please contact cadonate@fiu.edu.

Advanced Professional Writing

Elective for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Elective for Certificate in Public and Professional Writing Program

ENC 4260 U01 R 5:00-7:40pm MMC Professor Michael Creeden

Advanced Professional Writing is a project- and team-based course that helps students develop practical, workplace-ready skills professional and technical writing. Working individually and collaboratively, students will write in professional writing genres that may include report, proposal, and grant writing; information design; blogging and web writing; and end-user documentation. Upon successful completion of the course, students will improve their skills in persuasion, writing, design, critical thinking, and project management.

Writing about Film

Elective for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Elective for Certificate in Public and Professional Writing Program

ENC 4355 U01 W 5:00-7:40pm MMC Professor Andrew Strycharski

Catalog Description: Introduces students to writing critical reviews and analyses of film narrative.

Special Topics: Foundations of Technical and Professional Communication

Elective for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Writing Elective for Professional and Public Writing Certificate Program

ENC 4930 U01 MW 3:30-4:45pm MMC Professor Luke Thominet

In this course, you'll examine the theoretical debates that have shaped and that continue to shape our understanding of what technical and professional communication is as a field. In doing so, you'll develop new frames for understanding and questioning common conceptions of communication practice.

This course will revolve around the central research question of technical communication: How do texts (print, digital, multimedia, verbal, visual) and related communication practices mediate knowledge, values, and action in a variety of social and professional contexts?

In pursuing this question, we will also engage with a range of other topics, including:

- Genre
- Rhetoric
- Information Design
- Usability
- New Media
- International Writing

Through exploring these central research questions and experimenting with a range of practical heuristics, this course will function as a useful primer for those seeking advance study or practice in the field.

Special Topics: Legal Writing and Thinking

Elective for Writing and Rhetoric BA Program

Writing Elective for Professional and Public Writing Certificate Program

Pre-Law Certificate Option

ENC 4930 B51 TR 9:30-10:45am BBC Professor Natalie Havlina

This upper-level course introduces undergraduates to the fundamentals of effective legal writing. Attention will be directed to the role of writing in the American legal system, the mechanics of producing clear and concise prose that has a distinct rhetorical purpose. Through reading, writing and class discussion, students will explore different types of legal writing –informative, persuasive, memorial. And finally, in the last weeks of class, we will turn our efforts to the art and science of writing a compelling personal statement for

admission into law-related programs, asking and attempting to answer the question “What is a personal statement and why are some more compelling than others?”