
Rhetoric and Writing Studies

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

Emeritus: Hindman, Johns, Miller, Sweedler-Brown

Chair: McClish

Professors: McClish, Ornatowski

Associate Professors: Bekins, Bordelon, Boyd, Poole, Quandahl, Robinett, Werry

Assistant Professor: Miniffee

Lecturers: Annicchairico, Barhoum, Bissegger, Boeck, Borgen, Brown, Brush, Bryson, Cavender, Copeland, Costello, Davies-Morris, Dill, Emery, Fielden, Fimbres, Finn, Fish, Fox, Goodman, Groza, Hoffman, Holslin, Kinkade, Kline, Linfor, Mack, Madden, Maggio, Manley, Merriam, Moorin, Morgan, Nerhan, Owens, Renner, Sager, Sherman, Sigmon, Stagnaro, Taylor, Tempelton, Thompson, Towner, Underwood, Vanderpot, Williams, J., Williams, T.

Offered by the Department

Master of Arts degree in rhetoric and writing studies.

Minor in rhetoric and writing studies.

Certificate in professional writing.

Certificate in advanced teaching of writing
(refer to the *Graduate Bulletin*).

General Information

The Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies offers writing programs at all levels for university students. The department works cooperatively with other academic departments and campus groups to plan and develop a comprehensive writing program integrating writing and reading with critical thinking throughout the curriculum.

Developmental Writing Program: Developmental writing courses in this program prepare students to satisfy SDSU's competency requirements in written English. For more information, refer to "Writing Requirements" in the "Graduation Requirements" section of this catalog.

General Education Program: Completion of courses in this program fulfills the "Written Communication" requirements for the Communication and Critical Thinking portion of the SDSU General Education program.

Upper Division Courses: The department offers expository writing ("W") courses which satisfy the university's Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. The department also offers a required course in the teaching of composition for students in the Single Subject Teaching Credential in English degree program.

Rhetoric and Writing Studies Minor

Designed for students from across the disciplines, the minor in Rhetoric and Writing Studies provides students with an enhanced awareness of the central role of language and textual practices in every discipline. Thus, both students who want to improve their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills, as well as students interested in pursuing graduate work or entering more writing-intensive professions, will benefit from the minor. The minor includes three core courses intended to introduce students to the study of rhetoric, which incorporates a broad range of topics, including rhetorical theory, cultural rhetoric, and literacy and technology. The minor is also interdisciplinary in nature and includes coursework in rhetoric, communication, linguistics, and education. Students select the courses that best suit their future career and educational goals.

While virtually all professions are enhanced by skills in writing, critical reading, and analytical thinking, the minor is particularly beneficial to students seeking careers in areas such as law, politics, journalism, business, science, engineering, public administration, and education.

The minor in rhetoric and writing studies consists of a minimum of 15 upper division units. The first two strands, *Literacies and the Teaching of Writing* and *Rhetoric*, require Rhetoric and Writing Studies 500W, 510, 511 as the core courses and six units selected from one of two strands. The *Professional Writing* strand requires two of the three core courses (Rhetoric and Writing Studies 500W, 510, 511) and nine units selected from the *Professional Writing* strand.

Literacies and the Teaching of Writing: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 509, Education 451, Linguistics 430*, 530*, or 550*.

Rhetoric: Communication 441*, 446*, 450*, 470*, 482*, 492*, 508*, Journalism and Media Studies 589*.

Professional Writing: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 305W, 501, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, or 508W.

A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University. In designing the minor, students may not include courses drawn from their major department.

* Additional prerequisites required.

Certificate in Professional Writing

The purpose of this certificate program is to prepare students for careers in professional writing, or for other careers where advanced writing and document design skills are desirable. The program is designed both for students working on degrees in technical or non-technical fields and for professionals seeking career advancement or change.

Applicants to the program must have excellent general writing skills (in specific cases, applicants may be required to take additional coursework to improve writing proficiency) and basic computer literacy.

Students in the program complete 21 units of coursework approved by the director of the program. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 or better must be maintained in certificate coursework, with no less than a C grade in any course. All courses completed with a grade of B or better are applicable to the Master of Arts degree in rhetoric and writing studies with a specialization in technical and professional writing. For further information, contact the Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies.

Required courses (9 units):

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|---------|-----------------------------------|
| RWS 503 | Professional Writing (3) |
| RWS 504 | Advanced Professional Writing (3) |
| RWS 505 | Writing Project Management (3) |

Recommended Electives: (12 units)

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| RWS 501 | Editing (3) |
| RWS 506 | Writing Internship (3) Cr/NC |
| RWS 507 | Professional Communication in Nonprofit Organizations (3) |
| RWS 508W | Scientific Writing (3) |
| RWS 511 | Literacy, Rhetoric, and Technology (3) |

Other electives may be selected with the approval of the program director. A maximum of six units of transfer credit may be applied to the program. Students should consult with the program director before selecting any courses so that an individualized program of study can be developed.

Rhetoric and Writing Studies

Courses (RWS)

Refer to *Curricula and Courses* and *University Policies* sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES (Non-Baccalaureate Credit)

NOTE: Rhetoric and writing studies courses numbered below 100 may not be used to satisfy graduation requirements.

RWS 92A. Developmental Writing: Fundamentals of Writing (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: A score of 142-150 on the EPT.

Academic prose, emphasizing purpose, structure, and style of academic essays. Designed to improve student skills in planning, drafting, revising, editing essays. Open to students who have scored between 142-150 on the EPT and who have not satisfied the SDSU lower division writing competency requirement. Students attaining a score of 8 or better on the final examination will earn a grade of "Cr" and satisfy the SDSU writing competency requirement. Students attaining a score of 7 or less with completion of all course requirements earn a grade of "RP" (Report in Progress). Students receiving an "RP" grade should enroll in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92B. Not open to students with credit in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97. Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A is equivalent to Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97.

RWS 92B. Developmental Writing: Intermediate (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Open only to students who have earned "RP" (report in progress) in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A but have not satisfied the Writing Competency requirement.

Evaluation based on student writing portfolio. Credit in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92B satisfies the SDSU writing competency requirement.

RWS 94. Developmental Writing for International or Bilingual Students (3) Cr/NC/RP (Same course as Linguistics 94)

Intermediate written English with emphasis on problems of nonnative speakers; discussion of sentence, paragraph, and essay writing skills. Open only to ESL students who have not satisfied the SDSU Writing Competency requirement. Students attaining a score of 8 or better on the final examination earn a grade of "Cr" and satisfy the SDSU writing competency requirement. Students attaining a score of 7 or less with completion of all course requirements earn a grade of "RP" (Report in progress). Students receiving an "RP" should re-enroll in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 94 or Linguistics 94.

RWS 97. Developmental Reading and Writing (Learning in Communities) (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: A score of 141 and below on the EPT.

Follows prescribed Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A curriculum. Students must be concurrently enrolled in the Learning in Communities program, which integrates instruction in the reading process with the contents of a General Education course. Students attaining a score of 8 or better on the final examination will earn a grade of Cr and satisfy the SDSU writing competency requirement. Students attaining a score of 7 or less with completion of all course requirements earn a grade of RP (Report in Progress). Students receiving an RP grade should enroll in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92B. Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97 is equivalent to Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A.

RWS 98. Mini-Course: Selected Topics (1) Cr/NC

Assorted short courses which will meet three hours a week for five weeks and will cover a variety of academic skills through intensive - lectures and laboratory work. Evaluation based on student writing portfolio.

Suggested topics: Research paper, communication skills, research tools, vocabulary development, learning skills, spelling, grammar, and speed reading. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Credit earned in courses from this series is not applicable to a bachelor's degree.

- A. Learning Skills
- C. Tutorial

LOWER DIVISION COURSES (Acceptable for Baccalaureate Credit)

RWS 100. Rhetoric of Written Argument (3) [GE] (Same course as English 100)

Prerequisite: Satisfaction of the SDSU writing competency requirement. (See Graduation Requirements section of catalog.) **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of EPT or competency scores or verification of exemption; proof of credit (Cr) in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A or 92B or 97.

International students are advised to take Linguistics 100. Writing and reading as critical inquiry, designed to help students undertake university-level writing projects. Focus on rhetoric of written arguments. Students learn to use sources in their writing and make appropriate decisions about structure, cohesion, and rhetorical conventions. Not open to students with credit in a higher-numbered composition course or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 101 or Africana Studies 120 or American Indian Studies 120 or Chicana and Chicano Studies 111B or English 100 or General Studies 260A or Linguistics 100.

RWS 101. Rhetoric of Written Argument (3) [GE]

Prerequisites: A score of 146-150 on EPT and a score of 4 or better on EPT essay. Only for students who have not passed EPT.

Follows the prescribed Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100 curriculum. In addition, students are required to attend eight individual tutoring sessions throughout the semester. Students must be concurrently enrolled in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 98A or 98C. Not open to students with credit in a higher-numbered composition course or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100 or Africana Studies 120 or American Indian Studies 120 or Chicana and Chicano Studies 111B or English 100 or General Studies 260A or Linguistics 100.

RWS 200. Rhetoric of Written Arguments in Context (3) [GE] (Same course as English 200)

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the SDSU writing competency requirement and Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100 or 101 or Africana Studies 120 or American Indian Studies 120 or Chicana and Chicano Studies 111B or English 100 or General Studies 260A or Linguistics 100. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

International students are advised to take Linguistics 200. Further practice in writing, reading, and critical thinking. Emphasis on rhetoric of written arguments in context and using multiple sources in writing. Continued attention to structure, cohesion, and rhetorical conventions. Not open to students with credit in Africana Studies 200, Chicana and Chicano Studies 200, English 200, General Studies 260D, or Linguistics 200. Completion of Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200 may require completion of the library workbook assignment.

RWS 253. Grammar and Usage for Writers (2) (Same course as Linguistics 253)

Prerequisite: Passage of EPT or transfer writing assessment.

Instruction in sentence structure with attention to integrating sentences into their logical and rhetorical contexts. Identifying and understanding source of sentence-level writing problems.

RWS 279. Introduction to Academic Reading and Writing (3) (Offered only at IVC)

Prerequisite: Open only to students who have score of 4 or less on the Writing Proficiency Assessment and whose examinations have been formally reviewed.

University-level reading and writing, with emphasis on argumentation, analysis, and learning to write through revision process. Designed for U.S.-resident language minority students.

RWS 280. Academic Reading and Writing (3)

Prerequisite: Score of 7 or below on Writing Proficiency Assessment (WPA).

Academic prose, emphasizing purposes, structures, and styles of academic writing, with particular emphasis on elements of argument. Designed to improve students' ability to plan, draft, revise, and edit essays, as well as to improve their ability to read and analyze complex academic texts.

RWS

RWS 281. Academic Reading and Writing for Second Language Learners and International Students (3) (Same course as Linguistics 281)

Prerequisite: Open only to students who qualify for Rhetoric and Writing Studies 280 and whose first language is not English.

Academic prose, emphasizing purposes, structures, and styles of academic English writing. Designed to improve students' ability to plan, draft, revise, and edit essays, as well as to read and analyze complex academic texts. Additional emphasis on grammatical features of English relevant to the second language population.

RWS 296. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

RWS 299. Special Study (3)

Prerequisites: Consent of department chair and instructor. Individual Study.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

RWS 305W. Writing in Various Settings (3)

Prerequisites: Satisfies Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement for students who have completed 60 units; completed Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 8 or higher (or earned a C or higher in RWS 280, 281, or LING 281 if score on WPA was 7 or lower); and completed General Education requirements in Composition and Critical Thinking. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

International students are advised to take Linguistics 305W. Composing effective texts for a wide range of situations in and out of the university. Learning to adjust textual elements for specific purposes, audiences, and settings. Enhances critical reading and writing skills by exploring how content contributes to meaning and effectiveness.

RWS 496. Topics in Rhetoric and Writing Studies (1-3)

Selected topics. May be repeated once with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

RWS 499. Directed Study (1-3)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and approval of department chair.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)

RWS 500W. Advanced Writing Strategies (3)

Prerequisites: Satisfies Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement for students who have completed 60 units; completed Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 8 or higher (or earned a C or higher in RWS 280, 281, or LING 281 if score on WPA was 7 or lower); and completed General Education requirements in Composition and Critical Thinking. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

Advanced writing course focusing on how meaning is negotiated and claims are argued in academic and public discourse.

RWS 501. Editing (3)

Prerequisite: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 305W or 500W.

Fundamentals of professional editing. Functions of an editor. Document development, style, and style guides. Editing tools and technologies. Preparing text for publication and production.

RWS 503. Professional Writing (3)

Prerequisite: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 305W or 500W.

Principles and practices of professional writing, including clear and concise style and rhetorical strategies of designing effective workplace documents. Practice composing memos, reports, proposals. (Formerly numbered Rhetoric and Writing Studies 503W.)

RWS 504. Advanced Professional Writing (3)

Prerequisite: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 503. Recommended: Graphics or drawing course.

Advanced principles in professional writing, including user and task analysis for interface design; document design and typography; collaboration and interpersonal communication; ethical and cultural issues; usability testing; and small group management.

RWS 505. Writing Project Management (3)

Prerequisite: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 504.

Managing technical documentation projects. Collaborative writing. Managing writing teams. Conducting task analysis, estimating cost and schedule, preparing document plans, gathering information, testing documents, and managing project documentation. (Formerly numbered Rhetoric and Writing Studies 605.)

RWS 506. Writing Internship (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and successful completion of a 500-level writing course with a grade of B or better.

Intensive experience in writing and editing documents while student is under the joint supervision of an academic instructor and a professional coordinator.

RWS 507. Professional Communication in Nonprofit Organizations (3)

Prerequisite: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 503.

Developing specific technical communication skills for nonprofit organizations. Learning nonprofit documentation: proposals, mission statements, advertising, member surveys, capital campaigns. Promoting volunteerism. Interacting with nonprofit boards. Adhering to requisite state and federal regulations.

RWS 508W. Scientific Writing (3)

Prerequisites: Satisfies Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement for students who have completed 60 units; completed Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 8 or higher (or earned a C or higher in RWS 280, 281, or LING 281 if score on WPA was 7 or lower); and completed General Education requirements in Composition and Critical Thinking. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

Developing specific writing skills for scientific research and communication. Learning scientific documentation: research paper, case report, review, abstract, proposal, conference presentation. Adhering to standards and regulations. (Formerly numbered Rhetoric and Writing Studies 508.)

RWS 509. Teaching Composition in Secondary Schools (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor based on writing sample and/or test.

Theory and practice of teaching and assessing composition in secondary schools and comparable contexts.

RWS 510. Rhetoric and Culture (3)

Interplay of rhetoric, writing, and culture, including race/ethnicity, gender, class, and other cultural considerations. Role of texts in shaping and shifting community knowledge, identity, norms, and values.

RWS 511. Literacy, Rhetoric, and Technology (3)

Role that technologies of communication have played in concepts of language, literacy, and cognition. Histories and theories of literacy (with emphasis on rhetorical tradition), and their relevance to research on electronic text.

RWS 596. Special Topics in Rhetoric and Writing Studies (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Selected topics in rhetoric and writing studies. May be repeated with new content and consent of instructor. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

RWS 599. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC

Directed individual study. Maximum credit six units.

GRADUATE COURSES Refer to the *Graduate Bulletin*.
