

Rhetoric and Writing Studies

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

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Assistant Professors: Bekins, Bordelon, Werry

Lecturers: Boeck, Borgen, Brown, Brush, Bryson, Bucky, Cavender, Costello, Emery, Fielden, Finn, Fish, Fox, Hoffman, Kilcrease, Kline, Mack, Maggio, Manley, Miller, Moorin, Renner, Sherman, Sigmon, Stagnaro, Taylor, Thompson, Underwood, Williams, J., Williams, T.

Offered by the Department

Master of Arts degree in rhetoric and writing studies.

Certificate in technical and scientific writing (refer to *Bulletin of the Graduate Division*).

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 Upper Division Writing 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.

Courses (RWS)

LOWER DIVISION COURSES (Non-Baccalaureate Credit)

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

92A. Developmental Writing: Fundamentals of Writing (3) Cr/NC/RP I, II, S

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

*92B. Developmental Writing: Intermediate (3) Cr/NC I, II, S

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 lower division writing competency requirement.

94. Developmental Writing for International or Bilingual Students (3) Cr/NC/RP I, II

Intermediate written English with emphasis on problems of non-native 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 lower division writing competency requirement. Students attaining a score of 7 or less with completion of all course requirements earn a grade of "RP." Students receiving an "RP" should re-enroll in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 94.

95. Developmental Writing for International or Bilingual Transfer Students (3) Cr/NC/RP I, II

Prerequisite: Open to ESL transfer students who have not satisfied the lower division writing competency requirement.

Academic prose, emphasizing purpose, structure, and style of academic writing. Issues relevant to non-native speakers of English. Designed to improve transfer students' ability to plan, draft, revise, and edit essays, and to read and analyze texts. Students attaining a score of 8 or better on the final examination earn a grade of "Cr" and satisfy the SDSU lower division writing competency requirement. Students attaining a score of 7 or less with completion of all course requirements earn a grade of "RP." Students receiving an "RP" should enroll in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92B or 95, as advised by the instructor. Credit in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 95 satisfies the SDSU lower division writing competency requirement.

96. Developmental Writing: Fundamentals of Writing for Transfer Students (3) Cr/NC/RP

Prerequisite: Open only to transfer students who have not satisfied the lower division writing competency requirement.

Academic prose, emphasizing purpose, structure, and style of academic writing. Designed to improve students' ability to plan, draft, revise, edit essays, and improve ability to read and analyze complex academic and public texts. Credit in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 96 satisfies the SDSU lower division writing competency requirement.

97A. Developmental Reading and Writing (Integrated Curriculum) (4) Cr/NC/RP I

Three lectures and two hours of activity.

Students enrolled in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97A must also be enrolled in the Intensive Learning Experience (Integrated Curriculum), which integrates instruction in the writing process and academic prose with the content of a General Education course. Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97A is designed to provide students with writing and critical thinking skills essential to academic achievement. Emphasizes individualized instruction to meet the unique needs of each student.

The final examination in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97A is the Developmental Writing Proficiency Examination. Students attaining a score of 8 or better on the final examination earn a grade of "Cr" and

* Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92B is not offered at the Imperial Valley Campus. Students who do not attain a Cr in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A at the Imperial Valley Campus should repeat Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A.

satisfy the SDSU lower division writing competency requirement. Students attaining a score of 7 or less with completion of all course requirements earn a grade of "RP." Students receiving an "RP" grade should enroll in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92B or 97B. Not open to students with credit in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A.

97B. Developmental Reading and Writing (Integrated Curriculum) (4) Cr/NC/RP II

Three lectures and two hours of activity.

Prerequisites: Open only to students who earned "RP" (report in progress) in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97A but have not satisfied the SDSU lower division writing competency requirement.

Instruction in intermediate writing skills. Evaluation based on student writing portfolio. Credit in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97B satisfies the SDSU writing competency requirement. Not open to students with credit in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92B.

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)**

100. Writing and Reading as Critical Inquiry (3) I, II (CAN ENGL 2)
International students are advised to take Linguistics 100.

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the English Placement Test and Writing Competency requirements. (See Graduation Requirements section of catalog.) **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Copy of EPT or competency scores or verification of exemption; proof of credit (Cr) in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A or 92B or 97A or 97B.

Introduction to writing and reading as critical inquiry, designed to help students successfully undertake writing projects that have depth and complexity of university level work. Students learn to use sources 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, Africana Studies 120 or Chicana and Chicano Studies 111B or Linguistics 100.

101. Writing and Reading as Critical Inquiry (3)

Prerequisites: A score of 146-150 on EPT and a score of 8 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. Not open to students with credit in a higher numbered composition course or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100, Africana Studies 120 or Chicana and Chicano Studies 111B or Linguistics 100.

200. Writing from Sources (3) I, II

International students are advised to take Linguistics 200.

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the English Placement Test and Writing Competency requirements and Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100 or Africana Studies 120 or Chicana and Chicano Studies 111B or Linguistics 100. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

Further practice in academic and professional writing, reading, and critical thinking. Emphasis on using multiple sources, finding relationships among them and generating analytical responses to them

through writing. Continued attention to decisions about structure, cohesion, and rhetorical conventions. Not open to students with credit in Africana Studies 200, Chicana and Chicano Studies 200, or Linguistics 200. Completion of Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200 may require completion of the library workbook assignment.

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.

296. Experimental Topics (1-4) Cr/NC

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.

299. Special Study (3)

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

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Intended for Undergraduates)**

305W. Writing in Various Settings (3)

International students are advised to take Linguistics 305W.

Prerequisites: Satisfies University Upper Division Writing requirement for students who have completed 60 units, fulfilled the Writing Competency requirement, and completed the General Education requirement in Communication and Critical Thinking. It is strongly recommended that the course be taken at the beginning of the junior year, so that students have an opportunity to demonstrate their writing proficiency in upper division courses taken after they pass Rhetoric and Writing Studies 305W. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

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.

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.

499. Directed Study (1-3) I, II

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and approval of department chair.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)**

500W. Advanced Composition (3) I, II

Prerequisites: Satisfies University Upper Division Writing requirement for students who have completed 60 units, fulfilled the Writing Competency requirement, and completed the General Education requirement in Communication and Critical Thinking. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

The theory and practice of expository writing, including the contributions of semantics, rhetoric, and logic.

501. Editing (3) I

Prerequisites: 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.

502. Tools for Technical Communicators (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 503W.

Fundamental software tools for technical communicators. Electronic document style and format. Preparing text electronically for publication and production. Developing on-line and Internet documentation. Rhetorical issues in electronic writing technologies.

503W. Technical Writing (3) I, II, S

Prerequisites: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200. Satisfies University Upper Division Writing requirement for students who have completed 60 units, fulfilled the Writing Competency requirement, and completed the General Education requirement in Communication and Critical Thinking. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

Principles and practices of writing required in technical and scientific fields or professions, including technical writing style and rhetorical strategies of designing technical documents.

504. Problems in Technical Communication (3) II

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

Problems in technical writing, including graphics, printing, and reproduction of technical documents; types of technical communication, including reports, manuals, and proposals; manuscript editing and proofreading; audience analysis and readability; writing and recognition of clear technical prose.

506. Writing Internship (3) Cr/NC I, II, S

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.

507. Technical Communications in Nonprofit Organizations (3) II

Prerequisite: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 503W.

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.

508. Scientific Writing (3)

Prerequisite: Upper Division Writing requirement for undergraduates. **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript. Intended for those entering a career in scientific writing.

Developing specific writing skills for scientific research and communication. Learning scientific documentation: research paper, case report, review, abstract, promotional material. Adhering to standards and regulations.

509. Introduction to the Teaching of Composition (3) I, II

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

Techniques for teaching and evaluation of written composition. Provides a theoretical base for these techniques.

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.

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. Maximum credit of six units of 596 applicable to a master's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

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

Directed individual study. Maximum credit six units.

GRADUATE COURSES

Refer to Bulletin of the Graduate Division.

NOTE:

Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97A is equivalent to Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A.

Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97B is equivalent to Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92B.

Enrollment in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97A and 97B is restricted to students participating in the Integrated Curriculum program.