

Rhetoric and Writing Studies

In the College of Arts and Letters

OFFICE: Extended Studies Center 303
TELEPHONE: 619-594-6515
FAX: 619-594-6530

Faculty

Emeritus: Johns, Miller, Sweedler-Brown

Chair: McClish

Professor: McClish

Associate Professors: Bekins, Boyd, Hindman, Ornatowski, Poole, Quandahl, Robinett

Assistant Professors: Bordelon, Werry

Lecturers: Allen, Annicchairico, Boeck, Borgen, Brush, Bryson, Cavender, Costello, Davies-Morris, Dill, Emery, Fielden, Finn, Fish, Fox, Goodman, Hoffman, Jendian, Jones, Kilcrease, Kline, Linfor, Mack, Maggio, Manley, Merriam, Moorin, Owens, Renner, Richardson, Sager, Sherman, Sigmon, Sipp, Stagnaro, Taylor, 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 advanced technical and scientific 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

The minor in rhetoric and writing studies consists of a minimum of 15 upper division units to include Rhetoric and Writing Studies 500W, 510, 511, and six units selected from one of three strands:

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

Professional Discourses: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 501, 502*, 503W*, 504*, 506*, 507*, or 508*.

Rhetoric and Culture: Communication 355*, 360*, 450*, 508*, 545*, 580*, 589*, 592*.

A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

* Additional prerequisites required.

Courses (RWS)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula 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)

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 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 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 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 writing competency requirement.

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

(Same course as Linguistics 94.)

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 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 - LINC) (4) Cr/NC/ RP I**

Three lectures and two hours of activity.

Registration in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97 is restricted to students participating in the Learning in Communities (LINC) program which integrates instruction in the writing process and academic prose with the content of a General Education course. Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97 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 97 is the Developmental Writing Proficiency Examination. 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." Students receiving an "RP" grade should enroll in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92B. Not open to students with credit in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A. Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97 is equivalent to Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A. (Formerly numbered Rhetoric and Writing Studies 97A.)

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] I, II

(Same course as English 100.)

International students are advised to take Linguistics 100.

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the SDSU writing competency requirement. (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 97.

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 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 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. 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 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] I, II**

(Same course as English 200.)

International students are advised to take Linguistics 200.

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the SDSU writing competency requirement and Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100 or 101 or Africana 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.

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 280. Academic Reading and Writing (3)

(Selected sections offered as distance education.)

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 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) 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.

RWS 299. Special Study (3)

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

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

RWS 305W. Writing in Various Settings (3)

(Selected sections offered as distance education.)

International students are advised to take Linguistics 305W.

Prerequisite: Satisfies Graduation Writing Assessment Requirements for students who have completed 60 units; completed Writing Proficiency Assessment or Transfer Writing Assessment (taken after June 2002) with a score of 8 or higher (or earned a C or higher in RWS 280, RWS 281, or LING 281 if score on WPA or TWA 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.

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) 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)

RWS 500W. Advanced Composition (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Satisfies Graduation Writing Assessment Requirements for students who have completed 60 units; completed Writing Proficiency Assessment or Transfer Writing Assessment (taken after June 2002) with a score of 8 or higher (or earned a C or higher in RWS 280, RWS 281, or LING 281 if score on WPA or TWA 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.

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

RWS 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.

RWS 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 online and Internet documentation. Rhetorical issues in electronic writing technologies.

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

Prerequisites: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200. Satisfies Graduation Writing Assessment Requirements for students who have completed 60 units; completed Writing Proficiency Assessment or Transfer Writing Assessment (taken after June 2002) with a score of 8 or higher (or earned a C or higher in RWS 280, RWS 281, or LING 281 if score on WPA or TWA 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.

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

RWS 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 translation of technical documents; types of technical communication, including reports, manuals, and proposals; manuscript editing and proofreading; audience analysis, readability and usability; writing and recognition of clear technical prose.

RWS 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.

RWS 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.

RWS 508W. Scientific Writing (3)

Prerequisites: Satisfies Graduation Writing Assessment Requirements for students who have completed 60 units; completed Writing Proficiency Assessment or Transfer Writing Assessment (taken after June 2002) with a score of 8 or higher (or earned a C or higher in RWS 280, RWS 281, or LING 281 if score on WPA or TWA was 7 or lower); and completed General Education requirements in Composition and Critical Thinking. **Proof of completion of prerequisite 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. 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.

RWS 510. Rhetoric and Culture (3) I, II

Prerequisite: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 500W.

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. 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.

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

Directed individual study. Maximum credit six units.

GRADUATE COURSES Refer to the *Graduate Bulletin*.
