
Rhetoric and Writing Studies

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

Ann M. Johns, Ph.D., Professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies
Carol O. Sweedler-Brown, Ph.D., Professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies
Cezar M. Ornatowski, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies, Director of the Technical Writing Program (Graduate Adviser)
Deborah Poole, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies
Ellen Quandahl, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies, T.A. Program Director
E. Jane Robinett, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies
Richard B. Boyd, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies
Jane E. Hindman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies

General Information

The Department offers graduate courses in rhetoric, composition studies, and writing and culture. It also offers a specialization in rhetoric and writing within the master's degree in English. Refer to English and Comparative Literature in this section of the bulletin.

The department is in the process of securing approval to offer a M.A. degree in Rhetoric and Writing Studies. For further information, contact the Graduate Adviser, Cezar M. Ornatowski.

Associateships

Graduate teaching associateships in rhetoric and writing studies are available to a limited number of qualified students from departments offering graduate degrees. With the guidance of department faculty, teaching associates teach in the lower division writing program. Application forms and additional information may be secured from the Rhetoric and Writing Studies department office.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

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)

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.

503W. Technical Writing (3) I, II

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) I, 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.

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.

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.

GRADUATE COURSES

600. Writing, Knowledge, and Culture (3)

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Intersection of language, epistemology, and culture. Role of written language in the formation of community knowledge, identity, norms, and values.

601. History of Rhetoric (3)

Selected major works on rhetoric from antiquity through nineteenth century. How these works inform pedagogy and public life. Relationship of historical texts to contemporary rhetorical practices. (Formerly numbered Rhetoric and Writing Studies 741.)

602. Modern Rhetoric and Composition Studies (3)

Twentieth century rhetoric and composition theory, and their relationship to study and teaching of written discourse. (Formerly numbered Rhetoric and Writing Studies 742.)

609. Seminar in Theory and Practice of Teaching Composition (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to an approved SDSU graduate program.

Research and theory in field of teaching composition. Links research to classroom practice. Prepares students to teach composition at SDSU and other post-secondary settings. Prerequisite for teaching associateships in Rhetoric and Writing Studies.

696. Topics in Rhetoric and Writing Studies (3)

Intensive study in specific areas of rhetoric and writing studies. May be repeated with new content and consent of instructor. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree. Maximum combined credit of six units of 596 and 696 applicable to a 30-unit master's degree.

744. Seminar: Issues in Rhetorical Theory and Practice (3)

Prerequisites: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 600, 601, 602.

Problems in teaching of rhetoric and writing, both practical and theoretical. Advanced study of topics such as teaching practices, genres, stylistics, or a major figure. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

745. Advanced Seminar: Research Methods in Rhetoric and Writing (3)

Prerequisites: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 600, 601, 602.

Research methods and critical approaches common to advanced graduate study of rhetoric and writing, with attention to basic reference works, scholarly journals, bibliographical techniques. Recommended for students planning a thesis within the rhetoric and writing emphasis in English.

796A. Teaching Internship (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisite: Completion of Rhetoric and Writing Studies 609 and consent of graduate adviser.

Teaching experience while student is under joint supervision of college-level teacher and academic instructor. Involves completing a minimum of 150 hours, and conferences with instructor and field supervisor. Maximum credit three units. (Formerly numbered Rhetoric and Writing Studies 796.)

796B. Writing Internship (3)

Prerequisites: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 501, 503W, 504, 600, 601, 602, and consent of graduate director.

Intensive experience in writing and editing documents while student is under joint supervision of an academic instructor and a professional coordinator. Maximum credit three units applicable to a master's degree.

798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/SP

Prerequisite: Consent of staff; to be arranged with department chair and instructor.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.
