

Specialized Composition Courses

These courses can be used to meet your specific academic writing needs, including writing in your discipline, writing for international students, and more. English majors may be particularly interested in the two courses in writing about literature and the course Writing Careers for English Majors in which you can explore your career options.

WR 121 College Writing for International Students (4)

A writing course that lower division international students may wish to take. It is identical to regular sections of WR 121, but is also designed to address the special cultural needs that students may have in adjusting to North American academic writing. If you have a student in your class who is having significant writing and perhaps speaking problems, you can recommend this course.

WR 200 Writing about Literature (4)

An introductory writing course for lower division students studying literature in English or foreign language departments. It covers the reading and interpretation of texts, critical approaches, the conventions of writing about literature, and documentation. Also ways of integrating formal research into a written analysis of literature. Uses a portfolio approach with special attention paid to writing processes, peer review in workshops.

WR 300 Topic: Hands on Portland (4)

In this course students will read and write about communities and have the opportunity to gain "hands on" experience in helping to create a better Portland Metro Area by participating in well-managed, fulfilling volunteer projects through the Hands On Portland agency. Students will contribute articles about their community-based learning experiences to be published in the Hands On Portland monthly newsletter.

WR 323 Writing as Critical Inquiry for International Students (4)

A writing course that upper division international students may wish to take. It is identical to regular sections of WR 323, but is also designed to address the special cultural needs that students may have in adjusting to North American academic writing. For upper division students who may need additional writing practice and reflection on cultural practices in academic writing.

WR 300 Topic: Writing in the Disciplines (4)

For students wishing to focus on practicing the conventions of writing in their discipline. Students do their own research into their field's writing, practice writing processes, exchange writing with other students. In addition to exploring your major's writing, the class will focus too on critical reading, note-taking, citation of secondary sources, and bibliography style that are common to all fields. For upper division students who want to improve and practice their writing or to prepare for graduate school.

WR 394 Writing Careers for English Majors (4)

A community based learning course for English majors who want to practice writing on the job and to plan how to use their English major to get a job. Students volunteer in the community, learn about and practice public relations writing and writing on the job, and share writing and community experiences with one another. Beyond that, they will get first-hand experience in performing community service for a nonprofit organization. If there are social causes that students care about, they can use their writing to make a difference. Speakers who were themselves English majors and now have found careers in which they use their degrees will also share their strategies and experiences. For students who are wondering what in the world to do with their English major. Special attention to every student's concerns, with each student completing the course with a career path in mind.

WR 300 Topic: Writing and the Nineteenth Century (4)

This course also fulfills one course requirement for the Nineteenth Century Junior Cluster as well as the Freedom, Privacy and Technology Junior Cluster. Among authors to be studied are Marx and Engels, Whitman, Wordsworth, Perkins Gilman, Darwin, Thoreau, Checkhov and others. The Nineteenth Century was a vibrant time in which voices for social change realized in the twentieth century took root. Reading and writing about these materials will make students aware of how it is a time fully alive in the present.

WR 300 Topic: Reading and Writing the Visual (4)

A writing course that emphasizes the visual. To turn images into words effectively is not an easy task. This course focuses on ways to describe and interpret the visual, and then to put these ideas into language. For students interested in writing about the visual, of special interest to students in art, architecture, art history, engineering, computer science, and others

WR 300 Topic: Writing and Critical Reasoning (4)

For students wishing to learn critical reasoning and develop the ability to construct persuasive ideas. Persuasion, argumentation, and critical reasoning are the most powerful forms of discourse in our culture. Not only do these form the very basis of academic writing, but they are at the heart of business and civic discourse—and perhaps the most valuable life skill to have in language. Ideal for any student who wants to improve academic writing, or especially for students anticipating a career in law, or anyone who wants to sharpen up reasoning and persuasive skills.

WR 324 Advanced Writing about Literature (4)

For upper division students studying literature in English or foreign language departments. It covers advanced issues in reading and interpreting literary texts, critical approaches, and the conventions of writing about literature, including documentation. Emphasizes writing and research processes, includes peer workshops. A companion course to English 300 Critical Theories.

WR 199 Grammar Refresher (2)

Brush up your grammar skills. Work on your own nagging problems and learn ways to put grammar all together.

WR 199 Tutorials for FRINQ students (1)

Students in Freshman Inquiry who need extra help with their writing can sign up to work with a writing consultant for one hour each week of a quarter. The tutor helps them set goals, meet the demands of their FRINQ course, and generally progress as writers. Each quarter the student earns one credit.