Writing and Rhetoric

Program in Writing and Rhetoric, College of Arts and Sciences

INTERIM DIRECTOR: Kathleen Welch  ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: TBA  E-MAIL: writing@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

Faculty

Jennifer Albanese, Lecturer, A.B.D., Stony Brook University: Comparative studies.
Anne Beaufort, Associate Professor and Associate Director of the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Ph.D., Stanford University: Language; literacy; culture.
Richard Buch, Lecturer, M.A., Humboldt State University: Teaching writing.
Jody Cardinal, Lecturer, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin: Composition; 20th century literature.
Dennis Clarke, Lecturer, M.A., Louisiana State University: Composition and rhetoric; fiction; writing; film.
Safet Dabovic, Lecturer, A.B.D., Stony Brook University: 19th-century American literature; African American literature; critical theory.
Cynthia Davidson, Lecturer and Director, Electronic Writing Classrooms, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago: Creative writing; composition and rhetoric; writing and technology.
Harry Denny, Assistant Professor and Director, Writing Center, Ph.D., Temple University: Rhetoric of social movements; composition and rhetoric; writing center theory and practice; research methods.
Virginia Draper, Visiting Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: Composition; rhetoric; writing in the disciplines.
Clare Frost, Lecturer, M.A., Stony Brook University: Composition and rhetoric; writing in the health professions; interdisciplinary writing; English as a second language.
Wilbur Farley, Lecturer, M.A. Boston College: English literature; composition; poetry and Victorian fiction.
Kathleen Kern, Lecturer, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Contemporary American literature; women’s fiction; composition and rhetoric.
Peter H. Khost, Lecturer, A.B.D., City University of New York Graduate Center: Composition studies; utopian literature; textual theory.
William Mardener, Lecturer, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Classical rhetoric and literature; composition; literary theory; mythology.
Sharon Marshall, Lecturer, M.A., City College of the City University of New York: Creative writing; composition and rhetoric; workshop for teachers of writing and writers.
Amy Nishimura, Lecturer, Ph.D., University of Oregon: Composition; Asian American and Asian Pacific American literature.
Ronald Overton, Lecturer, M.A., Stony Brook University: Contemporary poetry; crime fiction; jazz criticism.
Jon Plaisted, Lecturer, M.S., Southern Oregon University: Composition/rhetoric; modern American poetry.
Carolyn Sofia, Lecturer, M.S.W., Adelphi University: Composition; American Jewish literature.
Barrie Stevens, Lecturer, M.Ed., Harvard University: Composition; academic writing.
David Todd, Lecturer, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago: Creative writing; drama; film.
Thomas Tousley, Lecturer, M.A., Stony Brook University: Composition; rhetoric.
Elizabeth Weaver, Lecturer, M.F.A., Columbia University: Composition and poetry.
Astrid Wimmer, Lecturer, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Composition and rhetoric; literary criticism.
Marilyn Zucker, Lecturer, Ph.D. English, Stony Brook University: Composition; Virginia Woolf.

Adjunct Faculty

Estimated number: 10

Teaching Assistants

Estimated number: 35

Writing courses stress collaborative learning in the classroom and are designed as workshops. Students work in small groups to learn aspects of writing analysis and criticism to better analyze their own writing as well as the writing of fellow students. By learning how to analyze their writing, students learn to improve their writing. All group work is supervised by writing instructors experienced in workshop teaching and in critical commentary on student writing. The primary goal of all writing courses is effective communication, orally and in writing.

Facilities

The Writing Center

The Writing Center provides free, individual help with writing to all members of the University community, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. Tutors assist with writing projects ranging from freshman composition essays to dissertation proposals. Tutors receive ongoing training in all aspects of the teaching of writing and are prepared to mentor a whole host of issues (e.g., getting started, developing arguments, revising, editing, learning techniques for editing and proofreading, understanding specific aspects of grammar, and addressing the needs of English as a second language students). Although the Center does not provide proofreading or copyediting services, the tutors are always willing to teach strategies to help writers eliminate error on their own.

Sessions generally take three forms: weekly appointments with the same tutor that students can extend through the semester; drop-in sessions that depend on the availability of tutors, and e-tutoring sessions that students can access through the Center's Web site at http://www.stonybrook.edu/writrhet. All tutoring sessions are approximately 50 minutes long.

For hours of operation or to schedule an appointment, call (631) 632-7405.
Electronic Writing Classrooms

The Program in Writing and Rhetoric has two computer labs that are used for instructional purposes. The Life Sciences EWC, located in L-112, contains 26 personal computers. The History EWC, located in SBS S316, has 22 PCs. Both are open to scheduled classes only. MS Office, Dreamweaver, and Photoshop, along with teaching and Internet tools, are installed on all machines, and both labs have projection capability and access to networked laser-quality printing. Class times are posted at http://www.sunysb.edu/writrhet.

Placement

The Program in Writing and Rhetoric offers a placement examination, given at orientation and during Prime Time, to determine the first writing course a student must take. All incoming freshmen are required to take this placement examination. Transfer students must take the examination if they have not satisfied either Entry Skill 2, Basic Writing Competence, or D.E.C. category A, English Composition. Students may not re-take the examination. Transferred composition courses are automatically evaluated by the Transfer Office for applicability to Skill 2 and D.E.C. A. The placement examination result does not affect the number of credits transferred or the transfer evaluation.

Placement Level 1:
Required Course: ESL 192, for students who would benefit from intensive work on basic sentence structure and paragraph development.

Placement Level 2:
Required Course: ESL 193, for students who would benefit from work on sentence construction; students improve skills in descriptive and argumentative writing.

Placement Level 3:
Satisfies Skill 2 Basic Writing Competence.
Required Course: WRT 101, for students whose composition skills reveal appropriate preparation. Students develop fluency and correctness and are introduced to academic writing.

Placement Level 4:
Satisfies Skill 2 Basic Writing Competence.
Required Course: WRT 102, for students who composition skills are strong. Students learn strategies for completing extended writing assignments at the University.

Placement Level 5:
Satisfies Skill 2 Basic Writing Competence.
Required Course: WRT 103, for students whose composition skills are exceptional. Students engage in in-depth practice with specific types of academic writing.

Courses Offered in Writing

See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

WRT 101-A1 Introductory Writing Workshop
WRT 102-A2 Intermediate Writing Workshop A
WRT 103-A2 Intermediate Writing Workshop B
WRT 201 Writing in the Disciplines: Special Topics
WRT 381 Advanced Analytic and Argumentative Writing
WRT 392 Theories and Methods of Mentoring Writers
WRT 487 Independent Project
WRT 488 Internship