

Program in Writing and Rhetoric Stony Brook University
Fall 2019 Advanced Writing Courses

Writing Across Contexts and Cultures
WRT 302.01

Shyam Sharma
MW 4:00-5:20 pm

Due to rapid globalization, increased connectivity, intercultural conflicts, hyperspecialization and cross-breeding of disciplines of knowledge today, we face increasing demands of communicating with people across cultures and contexts. Whether it is while working with fellow students and professionals from around the world in person or for collaborating virtually with others elsewhere in the world, today's students (and tomorrow's professionals) need greater ability to understand different communicative situations, analyze rhetorical practices, and get work done by using new genres and rhetorical strategies. This course addresses the above challenges by helping students study some scholarship and engage in ample exercises on these subjects. Assignments involve researching issue of global significance, using cross-cultural perspectives, and situating the research and writing in the context of different disciplines and professions. Given that emerging media increasingly mediate communication across contexts and cultures, students also read and write about (and with) new media. The class uses the notion of "context" as an analytical tool that helps to study and write about writing and communication in and across academic disciplines, professional fields, sociocultural spaces, and geopolitical borders.

Fiction Writing
WRT 302.06

Jessica Karbowski
MW 2:20-3:50 pm

In this course we will focus on the reading and writing of fiction. Good fiction doesn't just fall from the sky: you have to make conscious choices. The writer decides what goes on the page; what stays; what gets erased, re-written, erased again; and so on. This class will focus on detail, language, character, setting, and voice, among other fundamentals necessary for building the fictional world of a compelling story. Students will write two substantive short stories in this course between 6-10 pages in length each, as well as get the chance to substantially revise each by the end of the semester.

The Personal Essay
WRT 303.01

Michelle Whittaker
TuTh 11:30am-12:50pm

The personal essay is a form that has recently come back into fashion. In this class we will engage the form by writing our own personal essays as well as reading and responding to the work of writers who have come to define the genre: examples include Michel de Montaigne, Charles Lamb and E.B. White, as well as more contemporary writers such as Joan Didion and Scott Russell Sanders. We will explore the differences between shaping experience as truth in a personal essay or memoir and as a work of fiction. As a definition of personal essay evolves, we will consider whether personal writing and essay writing (or "essaying") have a place in academic writing. Students in this class will also be able to prepare a personal statement for their application for graduate or professional school.

The Personal Essay
WRT 303.02

Sarah Azzara
MWF 12:00-12:53 pm

The personal essay is a form that has recently come back into fashion. In this class we will engage the form by writing our own personal essays as well as reading and responding to the work of writers who have come to define the genre: examples will include a range of authors from the Enlightenment to contemporary such as Montaigne, E. B. White, Langston Hughes, Raymond Carver, Virginia Woolf, Jamaica Kincaid, Joan Didion and many others. We will explore the differences between shaping experience as truth in a personal essay or memoir and as a work of fiction. As a definition of personal essay evolves, we will consider whether personal writing and essay writing (or 'essaying') have a place in academic writing. Students in this class will also prepare a personal statement for their application for graduate or professional school.

Writing for Your Profession
WRT 304.01

Laura Lisabeth
TuTh 2:30-3:50 pm

Professionals of all kinds consistently attest to the significance of strong writing and communication skills in their field. In fact, a national study shows that about 70% of paid jobs involve writing. This is verified by data from a 2012 survey of over fifty employers of Stony Brook University graduates. So in this course students learn about types of documents, rhetorical principles, and composing practices necessary for writing effectively in and about professional contexts. Coursework emphasizes each student's career interests, but lessons also address a variety of general professional issues, including audience awareness, research methods, ethics, collaboration, and verbal and visual communication. Students complete the course with practical knowledge and experience in composing business letters, proposals, and various kinds of professional reports. A creative, self-reflexive assignment also contextualizes each individual's professional aspirations within a bigger picture of his/her life and culture.

Advanced Research Writing
WRT 380.01

Robert Kaplan
MW 5:30-6:50 pm

Good research skills are critical to academic success. Most disciplines require writing based upon research, as arguments and explanations make little impact on audiences without effective supporting evidence, drawn from relevant scholarship on the subject. This involves knowing how to use appropriate databases, source materials, and composing processes, as well as negotiating the values, genres, and languages of the scholarly communities in which one is researching. In this course, students will learn fundamentals of research methods, practice these methods in a series of integrated research and writing assignments, and engage in critical reflection about research and writing. Students will focus on an area of disciplinary interest to them, and practice these essential research and writing skills through a series of projects: library assignments, research log, research proposal, annotated bibliography, literature review, abstract, research paper and reflection paper.

Program in Writing and Rhetoric Stony Brook University
Summer 2019 Advanced Writing Courses

Summer Session 1:

Visual Rhetoric
WRT 302.30

Cathleen Rowley
Online

This course will explore the use of visual rhetoric. In our daily lives, we are surrounded by images of all types--photos, advertisements, websites, videos, and so on. These images or visual texts can be seen as presenting arguments. How does persuasion work when it is done through images rather words? Students will learn strategies for reading visual texts and analyzing the rhetorical techniques the authors/creators have used. In the second half of the semester, students will create their own texts that incorporate the visual. Assignments will include short analytical essays, an infographic, and a longer multimodal project.

Fiction Writing
WRT 302.31

Jessica Karbowski
Online

In this course we will focus on the reading and writing of fiction. Good fiction doesn't just fall from the sky: you have to make conscious choices. The writer decides what goes on the page; what stays; what gets erased, re-written, erased again; and so on. This class will focus on detail, language, character, setting, and voice, among other fundamentals necessary for building the fictional world of a compelling story. Students will write two substantive short stories in this course between 6-10 pages in length each, as well as get the chance to substantially revise each by the end of the semester.

The Personal Essay
WRT 303.30

Jennifer Albanese
Online

This Personal Essay course focuses on different tasks - reading and responding to models of personal essay writing, considering advice from experienced writers themselves, and drafting personal writing. Readings and writing assignments are coordinated to complement one another and help students achieve their own goals for personal writing. Concentrating mainly on contemporary authors such as Ariel Levy, Lauren Slater, Philip Lopate and Mary Karr, we'll consider the use of personal writing for memoir and using personal stories to bring attention to social and cultural issues. Students in this class will also prepare a personal statement for their application for graduate or professional school.

Summer Session 2:

Grammar and Style for Writers
WRT 200.30

MaryAnn Duffy
Online

In this course we will concentrate on grammar as it applies to both student writing and published writing. Although we will consider individual grammatical issues, such as subject-verb agreement and pronoun case, our larger concern will be locating these issues in the context of actual sentences, paragraphs, and complete works. With each grammatical issue, you will dissect and create sentences, using published material as models. You will be expected to participate actively, complete in-class assignments, and present your own formal writing for workshop.

Writing for the New Media
WRT 302.30

Cynthia Davidson
Online

In this course we will explore online networked reading and writing practices. We will examine the social, cultural, educational, and ethical dimensions of digital texts. The topics we cover, the readings we do, and the discussions we have should help us to understand digital spaces as deeply rhetorical spaces, become more sophisticated navigators of the information available to us in digital spaces, and become more effective writers and communicators in print and digitally mediated spaces. Digitally mediated spaces to be explored may include, but are not limited to, blogging, You Tube, Facebook, Twitter, Second Life, networked video games, and memes. Students will write reading responses and several shorter essays, and have the opportunity to engage a specific issue in depth through a final project with a multimodal component.

The Personal Essay
WRT 303.30

Jennifer Albanese
Online

This Personal Essay course focuses on different tasks - reading and responding to models of personal essay writing, considering advice from experienced writers themselves, and drafting personal writing. Readings and writing assignments are coordinated to complement one another and help students achieve their own goals for personal writing. Concentrating mainly on contemporary authors such as Ariel Levy, Lauren Slater, Philip Lopate and Mary Karr, we'll consider the use of personal writing for memoir and using personal stories to bring attention to social and cultural issues. Students in this class will also prepare a personal statement for their application for graduate or professional school.

***All 300 level courses will fulfill the second half of the Writing Pre-Med/Pre-Health prerequisite.

***WRT 302 fulfills the University DEC G or SBC HFA+ requirement