

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

Principles of Professional Writing
WRT 201.01

Cynthia Davidson
TuTh 2:30-3:50pm

An introduction to the principles and practices of professional writing, this course is designed to teach students about foundational skills and approaches needed for a variety of professional writing situations. Students learn and apply core concepts, analytical skills, and strategies of effective workplace writing through genres common to a range of fields, such as business, industry, education, the arts, publishing, nonprofit organizations, law, international affairs, and public service and health-related professions. Through engagement with writing studies theory and research, and exposure to different types of professional writing, students will develop an understanding of relevant rhetorical, social, cultural, and ethical considerations.

Creative Non-fiction
WRT 302.04

Jennifer Albanese
TuTh 2:30-3:50 pm

In this course we will explore a series of different Creative Non-Fiction sub-genres, including memoir, biography, travel writing, and science writing. In each unit, students will read and explore a series of short essays and excerpts from larger texts in order to analyze and cultivate strategies for their own writing projects. In addition to published work, students will also be exposed to blogs and other Creative Non-Fictional media to consider future opportunities for public writing. Students will be required to write three papers over the course of the semester.

Visual Rhetoric
WRT 302.05

Cathleen Rowley
MW 2:20-3:50 pm

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. How does persuasion work when it is done through images rather words? How do images create meaning? How do images use communication in ways that writing and speech do not? 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.

The Personal Essay
WRT 303.01

Thomas Tousey
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 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 303.04

MaryAnn Duffy
TuTh 1:00-2:20 am

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.

Advanced Analytic and Argumentative Writing
WRT 381.01

Robert Kaplan
MW 5:30-6:50 pm

Argumentative writing involves making a claim and supporting it with specific, related points and appropriate evidence—in other words, it is thesis-driven writing. Whenever we don't quite like someone else's idea and we want him or her to come closer to ours, argumentative writing is the most efficient method for such persuasion, in whatever profession you're considering. This class, therefore, will focus on learning how to effectively utilize argumentative and counter-argumentative writing strategies. Students will explore an area of disciplinary interest to them through several stages—proposal, preliminary draft, multiple versions, literature review—culminating in a 20-30 page piece of writing in which they make a claim about a particular subject in that area of interest and support it with scholarly research and extensive elaboration. Also offered as EGL 381.

***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