

Writing and Rhetoric (WRT)

Interim Director: Patricia Belanoff, (631) 632-7390

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Graduate Certificate awarded: Graduate Certificate in Composition Studies

The program in Writing and Rhetoric, in conjunction with the Departments of English and Linguistics, offers a course of study that leads to the Graduate Certificate in Composition Studies. The certificate program, a 15-unit graduate program accredited by the State University of New York, is designed to complement graduate work in literary studies or provide further professional development for those already teaching composition.

Composition Studies gained disciplinary status in the early 1970s because of a growing body of research focused specifically on the learning processes involved in gaining writing literacy. It is a multidisciplinary field, drawing its theories, research, and practices from psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, cognitive psychology, language acquisition research, genre theory, rhetorical theory, and linguistic anthropology.

Teachers who are grounded in this body of theory and research will be better equipped to identify students' writing problems and implement effective teaching strategies or to begin a doctoral research project in composition.

Individuals who could benefit from this certificate program include M.A. and M.A.T. candidates in English who are preparing for a teaching career in high school or community college teaching, Ph.D. candidates in English who would like a broad-based degree program and want to do research in Composition Studies, and high school and college teachers seeking advanced training, accreditation, or promotion.

The certificate may, but need not, be completed in four semesters and may be started in the first year of graduate study or in subsequent years. It is recommended that students begin their work in the fall semester, with one of the practicum courses, so that the theoretical work in subsequent courses is grounded in first-hand experience of working with students on their writing. Graduate students who have a teaching assistantship in the Writing and Rhetoric program would take WRT/EGL 698. Master's-level students and public school teachers

with a B.A. or M.A. degree would start with WRT/EGL 592, Problems in Teaching of Writing.

Admission

Admission to the Graduate Certificate Program in Composition Studies is open to any student enrolled in a graduate degree-granting program at Stony Brook University or to students who have completed their B.A.s who meet the admissions criteria.

For applicants already admitted to the University, admission involves filling out a brief form. For direct admission to the Certificate Program in Composition Studies, students are required to have earned a bachelor's degree with a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4-point scale. The following must be submitted to the Program in Writing and Rhetoric for admission to the certificate program:

- A. A letter of application stating the purpose of study
- B. A Graduate School application form
- C. An official transcript of undergraduate record culminating in a bachelor's degree and graduate degree transcript if applicable
- D. Two letters of recommendation from teaching supervisors and/or professors

The forms and additional information are available through the Program in Writing and Rhetoric Office.

Program in Writing and Rhetoric
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, New York 11794-5340

Affiliated Faculty

Bashford, Bruce, *English*, Ph.D., 1970, Northwestern University: Literary theory and the history of criticism; rhetoric and the teaching of composition; the logic of interpretation and critical argument; humanism.

Broselow, Ellen, *Linguistics*, Ph.D., 1976, University of Massachusetts-Amherst: Phonology; phonetics; second language acquisition.

Dunn, Patricia, *English*, D.A., 1991, University at Albany: Composition and rhetoric; English

education; disability studies.

Finer, Daniel, *Linguistics*, 1976, University of Massachusetts-Amherst: Syntax; semantics; language acquisition.

Lindblom, Kenneth, *English, Director of the English Teacher Education Program*, Ph.D., 1996, Syracuse University: English education; theory, history, and practice of composition-rhetoric; discourse pragmatics.

Martinez-Pizarro, Joaquin, *English*, Ph.D., 1976, Harvard University: Literary history of the Middle Ages; classical and medieval backgrounds; comparative studies.

Executive Committee

Glockner, Marvin, *Associate Dean, School of Professional Development*, Stony Brook University.

Joyce, Edward, Department of English, Suffolk Community College.

Kaufman, Dorit, *Chair*, TESOL Certification, Department of Linguistics, Stony Brook University.

Lewis, Lorna, *Executive Director of Teaching and Learning*, Three Village School District.

Rianna, Maria, *Assistant Superintendent of Schools*, Port Jefferson.

Schneider, Howard, *Dean*, School of Journalism, Stony Brook University.

Spector, Stephen, *Chair*, Department of English, Stony Brook University.

Certificate Requirements

The certificate, which can be completed in two years, consists of five required courses:

WRT 506/EGL 506 Studies in Literary Theory

WRT 509/EGL 509 Studies in Language and Linguistics or LIN 527 Structure of English

WRT 612/EGL 612 Composition Theory

WRT 613/EGL 613 Research in Composition

WRT 698/EGL 698 Practicum in Teaching of Writing (for Ph.D. candidates or teachers with an M.A. degree) or WRT 592/EGL 592 Problems in the Teaching of Writing (for M.A. and



M.A.T. candidates or teachers with a B.A. degree)

Note: Up to three units of coursework from another institution comparable to these required courses can be applied toward the certificate.

Courses

WRT 506 Studies in Literary Theory

Prerequisite: Matriculation in a graduate program or the composition studies certificate
3 credits, ABCF grading

WRT 509 Studies in Language and Linguistics

3 credits, ABCF grading

WRT 592 Problems in Teaching Writing or Composition

This course provides an overview of writing pedagogy as applied to tutoring in a writing center or in an English classroom. Included in the course is fieldwork in the campus Writing Center.

Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading

WRT 612 Theories in Composition

This course explores the relationship between reading and writing skills, the differences between speech production and writing production, and the relationship between literacy, culture, and language politics.

Spring, alternate years, 3 credits, ABCF grading

WRT 613 Research in Composition

This course provides an introduction to the nature of empirical research in Composition Studies. Students will survey landmark research studies, learn how to read research reports critically, and conduct a mini-research project in their own classrooms or tutoring situations to analyze underlying causes of students' writing problems.

Spring, alternate years, 3 credits, ABCF grading

WRT 614 Topics in Composition and Writing

This course can be a directed reading in particular areas of interest for classroom teachers, or a pilot study to prepare for the Ph.D. dissertation in Composition Studies. The shape of the course will be geared to the needs of those enrolled.

3 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit

WRT 690 Directed Readings

1-12 credits, ABCF grading
May be repeated for credit

WRT 698 Practicum in Teaching Writing

Students take the seminar in conjunction with teaching a section of WRT 101. This course provides hands-on experience and instruction in the basics of writing pedagogy, including designing writing assignments, sequencing assignments, motivating writing, writing skill development and evaluating writing. Students will also be given a preliminary overview of the major theories driving composition pedagogy.

Fall, 3 credits, S/U grading