Writing Center Program, Core Courses

WCS 150: Rhetoric and Composition

This course familiarizes students with the skills and process involved in writing an academic research paper. With a focus on the steps of the writing process, students will complete two major research papers while practicing skills in summarizing, paraphrasing, and citation. In addition to the mechanics of writing, the course emphasizes the development of critical thinking skills through reading, response, and discussion. WCS 150 focuses on helping students develop an original and distinctive writing voice, one that allows synthesis of personal experience, opinion, and reading.

- This is a core course in the First Year Curriculum.
- Successful completion of this course (C- or higher) is a prerequisite for courses that satisfy the Core Curriculum Year 2 Writing and Communication requirement.
- This course is offered in Fall and Spring semesters. A limited number of sections may be open in the Summer term.

WCS 200: Introduction to Public Speaking

This course focuses on extemporaneous speaking. It requires the development of rhetoric, research, and organizational skills to facilitate the delivery of information to specific audiences. Delivery is supported by advanced preparation, practice, and the use of outlines. This course is suitable for all majors.

- This course satisfies the Core Curriculum Year 2 Writing & Communication requirement.
- Prerequisite: WCS 150 (C- and above)
- This course is offered in Fall and Spring semesters.

WCS 210: Technical and Professional Writing

This course presents students with practical information about communicating in different kinds of workplace environments and professional and technical discourse communities. Building on the principles and practices developed in WCS 150, this course highlights key characteristics of technical writing and emphasizes the importance of planning, drafting, and revising texts. Students will analyze and produce common professional and technical writing genres while considering the rhetorical, ethical, and technical aspects of developing and producing texts. This course is designed for students in STEM and the Social Sciences who are interested in becoming skilled writers of IMRAD (research) reports and professional documents like CVs, Cover letters, and Memos.

- This course satisfies the Core Curriculum Year 2 Writing & Communication requirement.
- Prerequisite: WCS 150 (C- and above)
- This course is offered in Fall and Spring Semesters.

WCS 220: Science Writing

This course teaches students in the Social and STEM sciences to become more effectivescience-genre specific writers. Building on the principles developed in SHSS 150, this course highlights key characteristics of science writing and emphasizes the importance of organizing writing around research outcomes, communicating difficult discipline and statistical concepts clearly and effectively and representing data across genres for scientific and general audiences. Focused on the writing stages of planning, drafting, and revising tests, this course teaches through engagement with scientific literature and activities based on practical examples and exercises.

- This course satisfies the Core Curriculum Year 2 Writing & Communication requirement.
- Prerequisite: WCS 150 (C- and above)
- This course is offered in Fall and Spring Semesters.

WCS 230: Say What You Mean: Clarity, Precision, and Style in Academic Writing

In this course, students will build on the writing skills acquired in WCS 150 and develop their voices in academic writing. They will learn to craft their own style of writing with an emphasis on clarity, audience, and purpose. Students will become familiar with the principles of strong and clear writing, e.g., cohesion, coherence, accuracy, and concision by reading selected texts across genres and time periods to identify how different writers express themselves while also

effectively communicating with their audience. In analyzing the way these authors write, students will develop an eye for style and clarity, progressing from mere sentences to lengthier pieces of writing. Students will then be required to draw on this knowledge when producing their written works. This course is designed to appeal to students from any major who wish to focus on developing their writing voice.

- This course satisfies the Core Curriculum Year 2 Writing & Communication requirement.
- Prerequisite: WCS 150 (C- and above)
- This course is offered in Fall and Spring Semesters.

WCS 240: Writing for Digital Media

In this course, students will learn how to build and break down arguments and information in a variety of different modalities including text, image, audiovisual and web. This course combines the application rhetorical analysis to design, focusing on expanding students' communication abilities beyond text and speaking. Students will develop composition skills across media through individual and group projects. Writing for Digital Media is suitable for students from any major who want to learn how to present their ideas and their research effectively to different audiences in multi-modal environments. Coding and/or advanced proficiency with computers are not requirements for this course.

- This course satisfies the Core Curriculum Year 2 Writing & Communication requirement.
- Prerequisite: WCS 150 (C- and above)
- This course is offered in Fall and Spring semesters.

WCS 250: Advanced Composition

This course builds upon the research skills, rhetorical concepts, and thesis-driven writing introduced in WCS 150, with an aim toward situating writing within the social sciences and humanities. Students will critically read and practice writing in various genres they are likely to encounter in the social sciences and humanities. Students will analyze and discuss genres and rhetorical strategies within and across disciplines. Through a process of planning, drafting, and revision, students will develop their writing voice and produce rhetorically aware texts that are appropriate to their field including essays, a literature review, and a research paper.

- This course satisfies the Core Curriculum Year 2 Writing & Communication requirement.
- Prerequisite: WCS 150 (C- and above)
- This course is offered in Fall and Spring Semesters.

WCS 260: Creative Writing: Introduction to Fiction I

This introduction to creative writing: fiction is primarily a seminar with a workshop emphasis. Students will work together as a group reading and critiquing not only the published fiction that will be assigned but also the exercises and short stories they will write. The course requires reading a significant amount of published fiction from the canonical to the contemporary with an eye on how these stories work and what students, as writers, can learn about the fundamentals of fiction from them. Students will also write exercises that will deepen their understanding of the basic elements of craft and hopefully develop their creative interests. By the end of the semester students will not only have a collection of exercises, but two fully edited and polished short stories that we will all have read and discussed in class.

- This course satisfies the Core Curriculum Year 2 Writing & Communication requirement.
- Prerequisite: WCS 150 (C- and above)
- This course is offered in Fall and Spring semesters.