

ENGL 3341: Studies in Writing, Rhetoric, and Pedagogy

Overall English Department Mission Statement

The English Department at Dixie State College strives to instill in students an appreciation for the centrality of language and literature in human culture, particularly their function in social, historical, and political contexts. Students who major in English master skills in analyzing and evaluating texts and other media, as well as learning how to produce focused critical essays.

Emphasis Mission Statement (Professional and Technical Writing)

The Professional and Technical Writing program at Dixie State College of Utah prepares students for careers in technical, scientific, medical, legal, and business writing environments. Courses introduce students to the procedures and practices that professional writers and editors use regularly, including grant writing, freelance writing, interactive media development, magazine production, technical editing, and document design. To further enhance their understanding of language and verbal communication, students in our program investigate areas such as composition theory, visual rhetoric, and the history of rhetoric, as well.

Course Description:

Fulfills a requirement for English majors pursuing an emphasis in Professional & Technical Writing, and open to other interested students. Focuses on historical and contemporary connections between rhetoric and composition pedagogies, including emphasis on rhetoricians and theorists in compositional theory from classical to contemporary. Successful completers will be able to describe major trends in rhetoric and composition theory, connect composition theory to originating theorists, and analyze compositions for rhetorical techniques. Students will create a teaching portfolio or compose a conference-ready research paper in composition studies. Prerequisite: ENGL 2010 (Grade C or higher). SP

Course Goals:

Read from major works in composition studies (Aristotle, Cicero, Erasmus, Blair, Derrida)
Read the contemporary theorists (Peter Elbow, bell hooks, Victor Villanueva)
Understand the connections between rhetorical theory and practices in teaching college composition

Course Learning Outcomes:

Identify the origins of rhetoric and composition theories
Describe connections between rhetorical theory and composition theory
Analyze the rhetoric in representative compositions
Synthesize research in composition studies

Methods of Assessment:

Formative Assessment Methods

Midterm: Students will take a midterm to test knowledge gained during the first half of the semester.

Analytical project: Students will complete one or more rhetorical analyses.

Summative Assessment

Final: Students will take a final exam to test knowledge gained the entire semester.

Course Project Options:

1. A teaching portfolio
2. A research paper suitable for conference presentation