

PROGRAM IN WRITING AND RHETORIC

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Courses given in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric have the subject code PWR.

The Program in Writing and Rhetoric (PWR) designs and teaches courses that meet the Writing and Rhetoric requirement for undergraduates at Stanford as well as intermediate and advanced writing and rhetoric classes. For more information on the requirement, see the "Courses" section below and the "Writing and Rhetoric Requirement" section of this bulletin.

PWR courses engage students in rhetorical and contextual analysis of texts and substantive research-based argument. Students in PWR courses learn and practice time-tested rhetorical principles to gain increasing control over the intellectual and stylistic elements of their writing; they learn to analyze the ideas and persuasive strategies of others and to apply those insights to their own writing.

Toward these ends, PWR 1 focuses on elements of academic argument: understanding a writer's stance; developing a supportable argumentative thesis; discovering, developing, and deploying cogent proofs; making appropriate organizational and stylistic choices; and understanding the expectations of audiences. The course emphasizes research-based writing, including the effective use of print and non-print sources, primary and secondary sources, and data based on fieldwork. Students enrolled in PWR 1 carry out significant research and use it as the basis for a polished and persuasive research-based argument.

PWR 2 further develops students' skills in writing and oral presentation, emphasizing the ongoing development of content, organization, and style. The course addresses the dynamic interdependence of writing and speaking, as well as the importance of visual and multimedia elements in the effective presentation of research. Students enrolled in PWR 2 have opportunities to draft and revise written assignments and oral presentations as well as opportunities to present the results of scholarly inquiry, with an emphasis on how to work purposefully and well with a variety of presentation media.

As a general rule, students complete a minimum of three major assignments in both PWR 1 and 2. Written assignments vary from 5 to 15 pages in length, and students work intensively on revising each piece of writing. Oral presentations may involve collaborative work as well as multimedia elements. All assignments involve analyzing a

range of texts as well as identifying, evaluating, and using multiple sources in support of academic and research-based arguments. In-class work focuses on how to read with an increasingly critical eye and how to identify, evaluate, integrate, and cite sources effectively.

Writing and Rhetoric classes enroll no more than 15 students, and all classes are conducted as seminars in which participation is crucial. In-class activities include close reading of and responding to the writing of peers; these workshops are augmented by a minimum of three individual or small group conferences with the PWR instructor during the quarter.

COURSES

The Writing and Rhetoric requirement includes courses at three levels.

The first-level course, taken in the first year, can be satisfied by courses in PWR or Structured Liberal Education; the curriculum emphasizes analysis and research-based argument.

1. The second-level course, to be completed by the end of the sophomore year, is a writing and oral/multimedia presentation course taught by the Program in Writing and Rhetoric and by other programs and departments; completion of Structured Liberal Education also satisfies the second-level requirement.

2. The third-level course is a Writing in the Major (WIM) course taught in each major, providing students with systematic opportunities to develop skills for writing in their chosen fields. A list of certified WIM courses may be found in the table of "Undergraduate Major Unit Requirements" in the "Undergraduate Degrees and Programs" section of this bulletin. WIM course descriptions may be found under individual department and program sections.

The sequence of required courses provides a coordinated approach responsive to how students mature as writers, researchers, and presenters during their undergraduate years. At each level, students develop greater sophistication in conducting inquiry and producing scholarly work in progressively more specific disciplinary contexts.

Before the term in which students enroll in the first two levels of the requirement, they review course descriptions on the web site at http://ual.stanford.edu/AP/univ_req/PWR/Courses.html. After reviewing the offerings, students submit a list of top choices, and the PWR office assigns students to courses based on these preferences.

WRITING AND RHETORIC 2 REQUIREMENT

The Writing and Rhetoric 2 requirement may be satisfied through completion of courses offered through PWR or by other programs and departments. Before the quarter in which students are assigned to enroll in the second-level course, they will be able to review all available courses that meet the requirement on the web site at http://ual.stanford.edu/AP/univ_req/PWR/Courses.html. In addition to PWR 2, designated Center for the Teaching of Learning (CTL) courses and Stanford Introductory Seminars (SIS) satisfy the second-level Writing and Rhetoric requirement (Write-2). SIS courses require an additional application form; see http://ual.stanford.edu/OO/intro_seminars/IntroSemsCurrent.html and the SIS Winter and Spring supplements for more information.

HUME WRITING CENTER

The Hume Writing Center, located in Room 20 of Margaret Jacks Hall (Building 460), supports student writing in the full range of academic and extracurricular contexts. The center emphasizes support for students writing for PWR, Introduction to the Humanities, and Stanford Introductory Seminars, while also serving all Stanford undergraduates through one-to-one and group tutorials, workshops, and seminars. Other events sponsored or hosted by the center include regular Writers' Nights featuring fiction and poetry readings, the "How I Write" series of dialogues with Stanford faculty, and spoken word performances. For further details on the center, see http://ual.stanford.edu/ARS/help_writing/WritingProject.html.

PWR PEDAGOGY PROGRAM

PWR offers ENGLISH 397A, a pedagogy seminar for all graduate students (TAs) from English, Modern Thought and Literature, and Comparative Literature who teach PWR courses as part of their graduate studies. Taught in the Autumn Quarter, the pedagogy seminar focuses on syllabus design, developing writing assignments, and responding to student writing. The history of rhetoric and writing supplies a theoretical foundation as well as practical lessons for how to teach writing and research most effectively. In the Winter and Spring, graduate students continue their pedagogical development through a series of workshops and seminars focused on specific issues in the teaching of writing. Elements of the pedagogy program include class visits; group evaluation of writing assignments; workshops and lectures; a handbook on teaching; a library of teaching materials; a program web site with links to other writing program sites; and individual work with mentors and peers.

PEER WRITING CONSULTANTS

The Program in Writing and Rhetoric offers PWR 195, a course on the tutoring of writing for undergraduates chosen to serve as peer writing consultants in the Hume Writing Center and across the campus.

COMMUNITY WRITING PROJECT (CWP)

Students may elect to enroll in a section of PWR 1 or 2 designated as “CWP” on the PWR web site. Students in CWP sections complete at least one project during the term (a grant proposal, pamphlet, news article, profile, or web site) for a local community service agency. The program provides an orientation for each CWP section, including a description of participating agencies. Community Writing Project assignments are then made in consultation with the instructor, the agencies, and the program.