5-15-2007

Course Descriptions Fall 2007

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WRT 255–ADVANCED ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING
Writing for Local and Global Audiences
How do "Third World" community groups get the "First World" attention? How does the First World understand and act on those arguments? In today's constantly evolving working and cultural contexts, what rhetorical strategies and tactics might (and might not) appeal to audiences across cultures and nations? This course is designed to introduce students to advanced arguments in a variety of genres and settings. In this class, we will address such questions as how to adapt sophisticated academic arguments into auto/biographical, social, political, organizational, or community arguments. Students will analyze and compose different arguments for specific audiences.

WRT 301–CIVIC WRITING
Engagement Through Writing
What happens when writing steps outside the academy and becomes real? When it's about community, about movements, about politics? Come debate the issues, advocate your beliefs and create your own community literacy project in this course. Civic writing will be both theory and practice-based, and will look at the challenges organizations, grassroots groups and communities face in their uses of rhetoric and writing in various media to further their causes. You'll create visual, textual, and digital projects that will both teach you the conventions and issues involved in civic writing and give you a chance to follow your own interests.

WRT 302–DIGITAL WRITING
Writing the Digital Zeitgeist
AT&T promises "Your world. Delivered." LG TVs provide us with life in "true digital reality." Our Zeitgeist (our world and the ways we think about it) is inextricably linked to digital technologies, so how do we write ourselves into this digitized milieu? Through theories and practices of digital technologies we will produce blogs, wikis, digital video, HTML, graphic designs/presentations, etc. We will focus on how these technologies change the ways we think about writing and how these changes alter the ways we think about our world. (Experience with these technologies is not required.)

WRT 303–RESEARCH WRITING
Writing for Enthusiasts
Enthusiasts display two key characteristics when they write: (1) they write compellingly about something they show a passionate engagement with, and (2) they know a lot about it. In this course, you'll expand your knowledge of matters that interest you and your audience using conventional online and archival research. You will write in creative formats using texts and images, develop an informed, reflective voice, and experiment with style and genres (e.g., expert blogs, New Yorker-style panel essays, and multigenre portfolios). The course will include one extended project, based on your own proposal.

WRT 331–PEER WRITING CONSULTANT PRACTICUM
Writing Beyond the Classroom
This course is an excellent resume builder, ideal for those seeking real teaching experiences outside of the classroom. Throughout our course, you will acquire the skills needed to work one-to-one with a variety of writers, helping them shape and form voices which serve the diverse needs of their audiences—classroom or community, professor or politician. You'll accomplish this by exploring your own writing habits, reflecting and comparing our writing experiences (in and out of the classroom), investigating current theories of consulting, and—most importantly—actually applying these consulting practices when working with student writers at SU and in the city of Syracuse.

WRT 422–PEER WRITING CONSULTANT PRACTICUM
Stranger Than Fiction
A class in reading and writing creative nonfiction emphasizing texts and themes from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) lives. Students will gain skills in creative nonfiction, a personal essay form using techniques of narrative fiction, poetry, drama, blogging. Creative nonfiction is a genre particularly congenial to students who write from multiple perspectives, complex bodied identities, varied ethnicities and nationalities, several sexes or sexualities, multiple or trans gender experiences, and layered locations and/or languages. Reading focus will be on LGBT creative nonfiction texts, and writing focus will be on students' exploration of bodies, genders, and sexualities through creative nonfiction.

WRT 428–STUDIES IN COMPOSITION, RHETORIC, AND LITERACY
Writing in Schools and Communities
If you can read this, consider yourself lucky. Your "luck" with reading and writing is embedded with power, and these dynamics configure your relationships to systems, knowledges, and people across borders. This class offers students from all majors a chance to think critically about literacy by participating in various community or school literacy projects arranged through our Center for Community and Public Service. We will explore varying definitions of literacy through identity and power and in relation to a global information technology. Course work will include first-hand research and interviews, projects and collaborations with writers in the community.

WRT 440–STUDIES IN THE POLITICS OF LANGUAGE AND WRITING
Writing About the Media
In this course, we will analyze how political language and writing in the media are deployed strategically by politicians, celebrities, health professionals, educators, religious figures, and by our own communities. We will critically examine how political language is issued by the media to persuade the public toward particular views, actions, ideals, identities, and "lifestyles." In turn, we will develop critical responses and assessments of the role of political language in current media discourse.