

WRIT Courses

Fall 2025

WRIT 1122 Rhetoric and Academic Writing

Writing Arguments is a course in rhetoric; the focus will be on reading and writing arguments in academic, public, and professional contexts. The course will emphasize argumentation, and students will gain experience writing in different genres, as well as analyzing and using visual and multimodal rhetoric in their arguments. For one unit, the class will focus on the impacts of U.S. settler colonialism on Native Americans, particularly the Sand Creek massacre in Colorado. Note: This section is an online, asynchronous course.

Instructor: Brad Benz

CRN: 2729 (Online)

WRIT 1133 Writing and Research

This writing and research course explores the role music plays in society. By reflecting on how cultures use, understand, and process music, students analyze visual and textual primary sources (including TikTok and YouTube) to formulate a research question. They then develop and carry out primary qualitative research to support the quantitative and qualitative work done by other scholars.

Instructor: Magan Brody

CRN: 3347 (T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM)

Whether you're a professional scholar or just "doing your own research," you confront the problems of trusting what people say, what you see, and how people reasoning. We will discuss these sources of information, researching the meaning and use of controversial words and offering scientific and emotional explanations. In the major paper, we will examine the research tools and genres of writing in different disciplines seeking to answer similar questions, whether they be about the spread of pandemics or the spread of Tinder. Lively class discussions depend upon your willingness to engage challenging readings and to try out unfamiliar phrases like "linguistic naturalism" and "emotional cadence."

Instructor: Jonathan Fowler

CRN: 1734 (T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM)

Researching Stories: Autoethnography and Oral History. In this section, we will read autoethnographies and oral histories on subjects such as immigration, racial identity, multilingualism, health, and sports. Developing projects on topics of your choice, you will use interviews, textual interpretation, observation, and personal experience in researching and relating other people's stories as well as your own. Working in different genres and media, you will shape not only academic articles but also a multimodal piece for a popular audience, such as a documentary film, comic, or photo essay.

Instructor: Kamila Kinyon-Kuchar

CRN: 2523 (Online)

Hungry? In this section of WRIT 1133, we will research and write about a variety of food-related topics, from food insecurity, to urban farming, to the edible schoolyard. Students will design research projects around food topics of their own interest and compose a policy brief at the end of the quarter. Our class will be conducted entirely online with no formal class meetings (online asynchronous). This course is recommended for independent learners who appreciate the flexibility of working outside the classroom space.

Instructor: Heather Martin

CRN: 3772 (Online)

Bodies, stress, and trauma. In this class, we will be writing and researching about alleviating stress through embodied practice. We'll begin the course by learning about how stress/trauma affects the body, while researching our own experiences engaging in embodied practices aimed at relieving stress (short guided yoga practices or an alternative assignment if yoga is really really not your jam). Next, we'll research DU students' needs and practices around stress. Then, we'll conduct library research on other approaches to alleviating stress / working through trauma. Finally, we'll work together to create resources on managing stress for the DU community. While we won't have synchronous class meetings, we will have time-bound assignments as we move through the course. (Note: though the human experience of trauma is a central topic of this course, we will not be discussing our own personal traumas.)

Instructor: Nicole Turnipseed

CRN: 1735 (Online)

WRIT 1533 Writing and Research for Transfer Students

The “pursuit of happiness” was enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and has become a thriving industry. But how do we define happiness and what cultural and commercial forces shape those ideas? What internal and external conditions influence our subjective well-being, and how much control do we have over them? How might we prevent and treat rising rates of depression and anxiety by building better mindsets, habits, environments, and institutions? As a class, we will explore these questions and build research and writing skills through shared texts from multiple research traditions, disciplines, and genres. You’ll apply what we learn as you conduct primary and secondary research about happiness and mental health topics and share findings with academic and popular audiences. We’ll also explore how you can be happier and more successful as a transfer student at DU. *This course provides the same credit as WRIT 1133 but is designed specifically for transfer students and includes additional activities and mentorship for them.

Instructor: Jennifer Campbell

CRN: 3771 (M,W 4:00PM-5:50PM)

The Question as Quest: Exploring Transfer Student Experiences. All research begins with a question. “Question” always begins with “quest.” This is no accident; in fact, “question” and “quest” are etymologically rooted in the same concept: searching. We ask because we seek something across a gap in our knowledge, and this exploratory approach is not unique to academics. Every year, (re)search writers from diverse backgrounds transform quests for knowledge into nonfiction that informs and entertains. In that spirit, this course will approach (re)search through the lens of autoethnography; students will learn to examine their subject positions, write using “thick description,” and draw conclusions from stories of their lived experiences. Transfer students will particularly benefit from this qualitative research because it focuses on utilizing previous university experience to fully engage with campus culture. *This section is exclusively designed for transfer students, and it includes mentorship for transfer students.

Instructor: April Chapman-Ludwig and David Riche

CRN: 3081 (M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM)