

WRIT Courses

Winter 2026

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. 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, including the Sand Creek massacre in Colorado. Note: this is a hybrid course; we will meet face-to-face on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the class will work online and asynchronously on Fridays.

Instructor: Brad Benz

CRN: 1420, Time: M,W,F 10:00AM-10:50AM

Writing About Music and Culture. Although Woody Guthrie famously wrote, “I ain’t a writer,” many of the most influential arguments in human history have come from musicians. This section of WRIT 1122 uses music as a lens to explore the fields of rhetoric and academic writing. Across four units, you will analyze, interpret, and create texts (both written and multimodal) that critically engage with music and its impact on culture and on our daily lives. This course is designed to strengthen your writing abilities while also fostering critical thinking, inquiry, and public engagement through writing.

Instructor: Russell Brakefield

CRN: 1419, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 1415, Time: M,W 4:00PM-5:50PM

Writing Matters. This section will investigate the kinds of writing that matter in academic, professional, civic, and personal life and what matters in good writing. We’ll analyze and practice writing in multiple genres and media—essays, resumes and cover letters, blogs, etc.—honing the rhetorical skills you need to make effective arguments about issues that matter to you, from campus life and local causes to national news and global concerns.

Instructor: Jennifer Campbell

CRN: 1430, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 1431, Time: M,W 4:00PM-5:50PM

CRN: 4674, Time: M,W 6:00PM-7:50PM

Craft, DIY, and the Making of Movements. What does knitting have in common with scholarly argument? More than you think: for the Greeks, *technê* encompassed everything from ceramics to debate, each understood as a craft with practical effects. That sense of craft is the basis for rhetoric, an art of persuasion that informs our sense of argument for every audience we encounter. This course looks to craft, DIY, and social movements to develop rhetorical strategies for different publics, primarily in situations requiring defense of arguable claims. Projects include formal and informal writing, e.g., editorials, grant proposals, and craft-based ethnographies.

Instructor: Libby Catchings

CRN: 1433, Time: T,R 8:00AM-9:50AM

CRN: 1717, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 2779, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

Your Story, Our Story: A Persuasive Narrative. What does our interpretation of a story tell us about ourselves or about the storyteller? How might we reinterpret stories through the context of persuasion? We encounter stories every day and while they may seem like simple forms of entertainment they can be incredibly powerful rhetorical devices. Stories are the method by which we understand the world, our place within it, and how we affect change. From unsolved mysteries, to visual, autobiographical, and public narratives, students in this course will affect change through encountering, deconstructing, and readapting stories to persuade multiple audiences.

Instructor: April Chapman-Ludwig

CRN: 2761, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

The focus of this particular section is “**Social Media & Culture.**” The course introduces students to key rhetorical concepts, fundamentals of argumentation, and strategies for writing toward specific audiences. Students will read and analyze strategies that other writers use in various situations and adopt the best of these within their own writing.

Instructor: David Daniels

CRN: 1426, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1781, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 1782, Time: T,R 2:00PM-3:50PM

Connections and Representations. How do we define ourselves? How do we represent others? How can we then draw meaningful connections between them all? In this themed section of WRIT 1122, we’ll highlight the rhetorical concepts of ethos and identification to explore how we persuade--and are persuaded by--people (and sometimes their ideas and arguments), conventional ideas about the world, and how we fit into it. We’ll explore how ethos or identity derives from locations and spaces, from portrayals of ourselves and others in various media, and all the situations that call us to write and think in college and beyond.

Instructor: Rob Gilmor

CRN: 2778, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

What can and should it mean to write in this current age of AI? We will apply rhetorical tools to read about, write about, and try to understand how AI, generally, and large language models like ChatGPT, specifically, have already shaped the written possibilities of our shared world(s). Students will engage with historical, critical, and practical articles about AI and will experiment with what it allows and disallows us as writers.

Instructor: Matthew Hill

CRN: 2758, Time: M,W 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 2759, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 2760, Time: M,W 4:00PM-5:50PM

How do words and images influence our perspectives on the world and our place in it? How does language enable and restrict the ways we interact with and understand each other? How does storytelling construct our identities, reflect our values, and shape our relationships? In this course, we consider these questions as we identify and practice the rhetorical strategies used by writers, activists, artists, and other change makers to create more inclusive, sustainable, and just communities. Through individual projects and group activities, we will explore how stories guide us in remembering the past, understanding the present, and reimagining the future.

Instructor: Megan Kelly

CRN: 1422, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1429, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 1780, Time: T,R 2:00PM-3:50PM

Writing and Clothes. In the course, Writing and Clothes, we will learn about writing through an examination of clothing and personal style. In order to do this, we will draw from rhetoricians, writers, activists, and artists situated in a variety of disciplines. We will practice writing as museum curators, street style journalists, and creative writers to study the audiences, purposes, and genres for writing. Collaboration, accessibility, and justice are important to our class community so, if you have any questions about the course, feel free to contact me.

Check out a [short video](#) course description.

Check out a [visual course description](#).

Instructor: Calley Marotta

CRN: 1660, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1425, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

The Rhetoric of Humor is a writing class designed to arm students with new methods and practices for critical thinking and writing. Using the work of humorists, stand-up comics, satirists, and filmmakers, we will identify and practice strategies toward persuasive written and visual communication in the public sphere. We will read challenging theoretical texts and create our own arguments using humor.

WARNING: The materials in this class are provocative. They may contain profanity, and references to sexuality, religion, and stereotypes, among other topics.

Instructor: Heather Martin

CRN: 1416, Time: M,W,F 10:00AM-10:50AM

CRN: 1421, Time: M,W,F 11:00AM-11:50AM

Sonic Rhetorics. Sound saturates all aspects of our worlds. Not only do we make meaning with our voices, music, and sound effects, but our social environments provide sonic information to us all the time. While dominant narratives about writing and rhetoric often suggest that writing is something we do with a pen and paper or through typing on a screen, in this section of WRIT 1122, we'll explore how to write with sound itself. Whether through authoring music reviews, composing soundscapes, creating music, and/or imagining other multimodal projects involving sonic rhetorics, we'll work toward reimagining what it means to write soundly. Note: You neither need musical expertise nor previous audio editing experience to enroll in this course.

Instructor: Logan Middleton

CRN: 1417, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 2756, Time: T,R 2:00PM-3:50PM

CRN: 1655, Time: T,R 4:00PM-5:50PM

Protest songs become anthems that rally people for change (like Star's War); many are controversial (like Aldean's Try that in a Small Town). This class will help you develop writing strategies by exploring song lyrics and their rhetorical relationship with social movements (e.g., independence, civil rights & feminist movements). You will write extensively (~25 pages), analyze the rhetoric of protest songs, write lyrics to support a movement of your choice, and reflect on the rhetorical strategies you use in composing. Finally, you will compose a text in a genre of your choice that highlights the importance of any social movement in your life.

Instructor: Alfred Owusu-Ansah

CRN: 4640, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 2058, Time: T,R 2:00PM-3:50PM

Re-reading and Re-writing (Pop)Culture. WRIT 1122 emphasizes how writers work with a variety of texts to develop effective projects across rhetorical situations. This section will focus on the popular artifacts that shape, reflect, and complicate our understanding of culture and the genres writers use to engage with them. Across four projects, students will evaluate, interrogate, and remix texts in order to make arguments about (popular) culture. Beyond the standard learning objectives for 1122, the goal for this section is twofold: 1) students will become more critical and socially-aware readers of their world, and 2) through thorough inquiry, rhetorical analysis, and reflection, students will learn to take ownership of their ideas.

Instructor: Lauren Picard

CRN: 3978, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 2379, Time: T,R 2:00PM-3:50PM

World-building and Collaborative Storytelling. The first commercially available tabletop role-playing game, Dungeons & Dragons (D&D), was published in 1974. In most role-playing games, players take on the roles of characters and tell a collaborative story, whether fantasy, science fiction, horror, romance, realism, etc. RPGs range from massively popular commercial projects like D&D, which includes 100s of source books, to much smaller indie projects with a single book as short as a chapbook (or even a single page). In this class, we'll play, analyze, write, and release short RPGs. The shape our games take and the stories they tell will be driven by a careful consideration of the rhetorics of the genre. We'll imagine worlds, experiment with game mechanics, and play-test our own creations.

Instructor: David Riche and Jesse Stommel

CRN: 1436, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 1423, Time: T,R 2:00PM-3:50PM

Online Magazine. have you ever wanted to design or write for a magazine? In this class, we will be using the rhetorical principles of logos, ethos, and pathos to help you design your own online magazine with some help from your friends in the class. You will have free reign to let your imagination soar and design the magazine of your dreams, writing editorials, reviews, and profiles. You are going to be in charge of designing what the magazine is about, who the magazine is targeted toward, and what the design and layout, including the cover art, will look like.

Instructor: Rebekah Shultz Colby

CRN: 1424, Time: M,W 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1464, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

In the **Rhetoric of Games**, you will be playing and designing games to learn about procedural rhetoric: how gameplay persuades players. After learning about the rhetorical principles of pathos, logos, and ethos, you will analyze how a persuasive game – a game designed with a social message – persuades through its gameplay. Finally, with a partner, you will choose an editorial to design your own persuasive game about: a game that persuades players about the editorial's social issue through its gameplay.

Instructor: Rebekah Shultz Colby

CRN: 1432, Time: M,W 2:00PM-3:50PM

What can you accomplish by simply yelling louder than the opposition? TV hosts would probably like us to think the answer is "everything," but while there are many ways to form arguments, research shows us that most traditional forms of argument seldom actually change minds. In this course, we'll investigate multiple modes of persuasion and consider effective rhetorical and writing strategies for a wide variety of audiences, keeping in mind that our end goal isn't always to "win" the argument, but is often to spur real change in our world.

Instructor: Angie Sowa

CRN: 1434, Time: M,W 8:00AM-9:50AM

CRN: 2271, Time: M,W 10:00AM-11:50AM

Writing Processes and Procedures. Processes and procedures are all around us- from methods sections in lab reports to how-to guides for computer programs, from SOPs for company tasks to Instagram reels of recipes. In this section of WRIT 1122, you'll practice writing processes and procedures in a range of genres and disciplines, but you'll also work on developing your own writing processes and procedures to prepare yourself for future writing in academic and public contexts. Some projects will be primarily in writing, and some will offer options to create a range of multimodal texts, from videos to podcasts to comic strips.

Instructor: Olivia Tracy

CRN: 1412, Time: M,W 8:00AM-9:50AM

Rhetoric and Literacies of Stress and Trauma. All WRIT 1122 classes are about rhetoric; they're intended to help students recognize how people craft their communication to create an intentional effect, and hone their toolkits for doing so themselves across the various contexts you-all may find yourselves through college and beyond. This particular section will do so with a focus on the topics of stress and trauma. Over the course of the quarter, students in this section will collaborate to learn how to productively analyze a variety of texts (including a non-fiction book, academic article, webpage, Instagram account and more) that center the topic of stress and trauma. You'll end the quarter creating your own persuasive texts using what you've learned about trauma and about rhetoric.

Instructor: Nicole Turnipseed

CRN: 1779, Time: M,W,F 10:00PM-10:50PM

CRN: 2377, Time: M,W,F 11:00PM-11:50PM

WRIT 1122 Rhetoric and Academic Writing (Online)

Writing Arguments is a course in rhetoric; the focus will be on reading and writing arguments in academic, public, and professional contexts. 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, including the Sand Creek massacre in Colorado. Note: This section is an online, asynchronous course.

Instructor: Brad Benz

CRN: 1418, Time: Online

Your Story, Our Story: A Persuasive Narrative. What does our interpretation of a story tell us about ourselves or about the storyteller? How might we reinterpret stories through the context of persuasion? We encounter stories every day and while they may seem like simple forms of entertainment they can be incredibly powerful rhetorical devices. Stories are the method by which we understand the world, our place within it, and how we affect change. From unsolved mysteries, to visual, autobiographical, and public narratives, students in this course will affect change through encountering, deconstructing, and readapting stories to persuade multiple audiences.

Instructor: April Chapman-Ludwig

CRN: 3225, Time: Online

The Rhetoric of Journalism explores multiple facets of journalistic writing. We will study and apply different styles of writing for diverse rhetorical situations, from the succinct and straightforward prose of the op-ed to the creative nonfiction narrative techniques typical of feature articles. The course will also include a unit on the rhetoric of humor. In this online, asynchronous course, you will receive regular feedback on your work from your professor and peers.

Instructor: Kamila Kinyon

CRN: 1427, Time: Online

CRN: 1428, Time: Online

What can you accomplish by simply yelling louder than the opposition? TV hosts would probably like us to think the answer is “everything,” but while there are many ways to form arguments, research shows us that most traditional forms of argument seldom actually change minds. In this course, we’ll investigate multiple modes of persuasion and consider effective rhetorical and writing strategies for a wide variety of audiences, keeping in mind that our end goal isn’t always to “win” the argument, but is often to spur real change in our world.

Instructor: Angie Sowa

CRN: 1658, Time: Online

WRIT 1622 Advanced Rhetoric and Writing

Rhetoric of Games, Gamers, and Gaming. Games are not just a pastime—they are a powerful means of persuasion. They are in our advertisements, our schools, and our civic lives. In this section of WRIT 1622, we will look at the rhetoric or art of persuasive communication of games, gamers, and gaming. You don't have to be a gamer to enjoy this class. After all, this is a writing class—we are using this focus to give us a shared topic from which to draw upon as we work on improving writing and your understanding of rhetoric.

Instructor: Richard Colby

CRN: 4714, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

Writing and Clothes. In the course, Writing and Clothes, we will learn about writing through an examination of clothing and personal style. In order to do this, we will draw from rhetoricians, writers, activists, and artists situated in a variety of disciplines. We will practice writing as museum curators, street style journalists, and creative writers to study the audiences, purposes, and genres for writing. Collaboration, accessibility, and justice are important to our class community so, if you have any questions about the course, feel free to contact me.

Check out a [short video](#) course description.

Check out a [visual course description](#).

Instructor: Calley Marotta

CRN: 4732, Time: T,R 2:00PM-3:50PM

Re-reading and Re-writing (Pop)Culture. WRIT 1622 emphasizes how writers work with a variety of texts to develop effective projects across rhetorical situations. This advanced section will focus on the popular artifacts that shape, reflect, and complicate our understanding of culture and the genres writers use to engage with them. Across four projects, students will evaluate, interrogate, and remix texts in order to make arguments about (popular) culture. Beyond the standard learning objectives for 1622, the goal for this section is twofold: 1) students will become more critical and socially-aware readers of their world, and 2) through thorough inquiry, rhetorical analysis, and reflection, students will learn to take ownership of their ideas.

Instructor: Lauren Picard

CRN: 3977, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

Creative + Persuasive. Conventional wisdom suggests that creativity is a rare and exclusive talent, but this is misleading. In reality, creative thinking is rhetorical thinking – it channels awareness and imagination into culturally mediated action. In this WRIT course, we will take a rhetorical approach to creativity. For example, what can storytelling teach us about cognition, tradition, and persuasion? What can games and songs teach us about becoming literate? How do spoken word poets weave argument into expressive writing? Your ultimate assignment will be a freeform project – a chance to exercise rhetorical principles in creative ways. Other assignments may include a literacy memoir and an open letter addressed to someone who has influenced you.

Instructor: David Riche

CRN: 2378, Time: M,W 2:00PM-3:50PM

This advanced writing course emphasizes rhetorical strategies for different academic and civic audiences and purposes; critical reading and analysis; and research. The extensive reading and writing we will do in this class will focus on how lexicography, grammar, and other ways of regulating and controlling language can be related to class, gender, and ideology.

Instructor: Geoff Stacks

CRN: 1437, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

WRIT 1133 Writing and Research

Student Life and Campus Space. In this themed section of WRIT 1133, we'll explore DU's student life and campus—now and throughout its history—as a way to model an inquiry-driven approach to research and writing. We'll do some field work in the DU community, examine texts and artifacts in our library's Special Collections, and test out methods from a number of research traditions while exploring DU's campus and history. We'll conclude the term with a digital exhibit showcasing your original research to highlight student stories and experiences that, in many cases, have gone untold.

Instructor: Rob Gilmor

CRN: 1439, Time: M,W 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1440, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

WRIT 1133 Writing and Research (Online)

Writing Communities is a course in rhetoric and research. Students will investigate, research, and write about a discourse community – a sub-culture – of their own choosing, employing some of the common research methodologies used in the academic disciplines. After collecting data about their discourse community through primary and secondary research, students will then be asked to explain their findings to expert and non-expert audiences. Note: this is an online, asynchronous course. The class will not meet face to face.

Instructor: Brad Benz

CRN: 4607, Time: Online

WRIT 1533 Writing and Research for Transfer Students

WRIT 1533 provides the same credit as a WRIT 1133 course but is designed exclusively for transfer students and includes mentorship and resources relevant to those students. In this section specifically, we will use writing and research to examine contemporary issues related to nature and the environment. Using a range of primary research methods—interviews, surveys, textual analysis, and observation—you will develop writing projects that examine pressing environmental issues and explore the complex relationships between humans and the non-human world. We will discuss various forms of discourse related to nature and the environment including essays in popular magazines, archival documents, academic and scientific articles, and policy/environmental impact statements. You will develop public and academic facing writing aimed at informing community members, persuading lawmakers, and enacting social change.

Instructor: Russell Brakefield

CRN: 3684, Time: M,W 2:00PM-3:50PM

WRIT 1633 Advanced Writing and Research

Educational Transformations. DU's vision is to be a great private institution dedicated to the public good. In this writing course, students will develop their writing and research skills, while serving as college mentors to local high school students. Part of our learning will happen on campus; and part of our learning will happen in the field, as we conduct community-based research and engage first-generation college-bound students. Because we will be working with children, all DU students will be subject to a criminal background check.

Instructor: Heather Martin

CRN: 3223, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

Additional Writing Courses

The following courses are available for any students who has completed WRIT xx22/xx33 and is interested in a Minor in Writing Practices or elective credit.

WRIT 2000 Theories of Writing

This course introduces a number of theories of writing, providing an overview of complex issues and research into the state and status of writing and writers. It takes up such questions as these: What is writing? Where did it come from? How did it develop--and did it do so the same or differently in other cultures? How do writers develop--and what accounts for differences? What are different types of writing, different situations for writing, different tools and practices--and how do these interconnect? What does it mean to study writing? How have major figures theorized writing, and what tensions emerge among their theories? What are relationships among thought, speech, and writing--and among image, film/video, and sound? How do such theories change our notions of what texts are and what texts do? Students will learn how various theorists, historians, and researchers answer these questions, and they will apply that knowledge to their own projects. Prerequisites: WRIT 1133, 1533, 1633, or 1733.

Instructor: Richard Colby

CRN: 4297, Time: T,R 2:00PM-3:50PM

WRIT 2555 Diverse Rhetorics

Rhetoric's origins in classical texts, in the western canon, developed to serve early forms of democracy and civic participation. Despite classical rhetoric's formative impact, plenty of languages and cultures have their own means of persuasion and civic participation. This course introduces ways that rhetoric is practiced in diverse contexts, not as a stable idea, but as an adaptive practice situated in cultures, identities, and languages, bridging writer, audience and purpose. This course starts with classical Western rhetoric, but then explores the varied practices and theories of, for example, African American, Asian, Latinx, Indigenous, and queer rhetorics, to name a few. This course counts toward the Analytical Inquiry: Society and Culture requirement.

Instructor: Sheila Carter-Tod

CRN: 4298, Time: M,W 2:00PM-3:50PM