

WRIT Courses

Winter 2027

WRIT 1122 Rhetoric and Academic Writing

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: Brakefield, Russell

CRN: 1398, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 1394, Time: M,W 4:00PM-5:50PM

Craft, DIY, and the Making of Movements. What does knitting have in common with scholarly argument? More than you think: for the Greeks, *technè* 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: Catchings, Libby

CRN: 1412, Time: T,R 8:00AM-9:50AM

CRN: 1681, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

Media Bias, Disinformation, and Fake News. 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: Daniels, David

CRN: 1405, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1743, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 1744, Time: T,R 2:00PM-3:50PM

Challenging Concepts Across Audiences: How do we explore complicated, difficult, or challenging ideas, and how can those ideas inform productive discourse with others? To model this idea, we’ll look into how younger readers encounter tough concepts and work with them to foster cross-generational conversations. We’ll work in partnership with a local middle school to explore how difficult and complicated ideas are communicated to younger audiences through carefully crafted narratives and focused analysis. Then, we’ll collaborate with 8th grade students to analyze and produce projects that bring our topics to multiple audiences. To wrap up the term, we’ll challenge our thinking through DU’s Debate Across the Curriculum program and complete a final project remixing, repurposing, and/or subverting public works on the complex ideas we’ve covered.

Instructor: Gilmor, Rob

CRN: 2619, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

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: Hill, Matthew

CRN: 2603, Time: M,W 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 2604, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 2605, 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: Kelly, Megan

CRN: 1401, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1408, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 1742, 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.

Instructor: Marotta, Calley

CRN: 1627, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1404, 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: Martin, Heather

CRN: 1400, 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: Middleton, Logan

CRN: 1624, Time: M,W,F 10:00AM-10:50AM

CRN: 1396, Time: M,W,F 11:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 2602, Time: M,W,F 12:00PM-12:50PM

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: Picard, LP

CRN: 3283, Time: T,R 12:00PM-1:50PM

CRN: 2269, Time: T,R 2:00PM-3:50PM

Rhetoric + Creativity. 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: Riche, David

CRN: 1414, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

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 an editorial and a creative nonfiction piece, and, finally, critically using and then critiquing AI for writing. 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: Shultz Colby, Rebekah

CRN: 1403, Time: M,W 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1442, 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: Shultz Colby, Rebekah

CRN: 1411, 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: Sowa, Angela

CRN: 1413, Time: M,W 8:00AM-9:50AM

CRN: 2172, 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: Tracy, Olivia

CRN: 1393, Time: M,W 8:00AM-9:50AM

CRN: 3638, Time: M,W 10:00AM-11:50AM

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: Turnipseed, Nicole

CRN: 1741, Time: M,W,F 10:00AM-10:50AM

CRN: 2267, Time: M,W,F 11:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1399, Time: M,W,F 12:00PM-12:50PM

WRIT 1122 Rhetoric and Academic Writing (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: Kinyon-Kuchar, Kamila

CRNs: 1406, 1407, or 4678

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: Sowa, Angela

CRN: 1625

Horror. The horror genre is distinctly rhetorical, working carefully to produce visceral effects in its audience. It's a popular genre, but also a marginalized one, creating space for writers and artists to ask difficult questions, political questions, personal questions, questions about gender, race, disability, queer bodies, identity formation, history, etc. Horror reveals something about who we are as humans, reminding us we have both outsides and insides, skin and guts, eyes and gray matter, ideas and appetites. The critics of horror are usually too distracted by blood and guts to notice the more radical potentials of the genre. Note: The subjects of this course will lead us through difficult terrain (monsters, slashers, dead things, etc.). Our work will be thoughtful and cathartic, but we'll have to sludge through some gore along the way.

Instructor: Stommel, Jesse

CRNs: 1409, 1410, 2606, 1397

WRIT 1622 Advanced Rhetoric and Writing

Mysteries & Memories. We encounter stories every day, from true crime media to personal anecdotes. While they may seem like simple forms of entertainment, they can be incredibly powerful rhetorical devices. So, what does the craft of storytelling have to teach us about rhetoric, and vice versa? In this course, we will practice storytelling as a mode of rhetorical thinking, with a special focus on two genres: mystery and memoir. While these genres may seem far apart, they both focus on turning hidden truths and fragile recollections into compelling narratives. We will examine how human beings use narrative to confront the unknown, reconstruct the past, and navigate the fragile boundaries of memory.

Instructor: Chapman-Ludwig, April

CRN: 3672, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

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: Colby, Richard

CRN: 1415, Time: T,R 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.

Instructor: Marotta, Calley

CRN: 3687, 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: Picard, LP

CRN: 3282, Time: T,R 10:00AM-11:50AM

Rhetoric + Creativity. 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: Riche, David

CRN: 2268, Time: M,W 10:00AM-11:50AM

WRIT 1133 Writing and Research

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: Benz, Brad

CRN: 3588, Time: Online

CRN: 1995, Time: Online

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: Gilmor, Rob

CRN: 1417, Time: M,W 10:00AM-11:50AM

CRN: 1418, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

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: Brakefield, Russell

CRN: 3204, 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: Martin, Heather

CRN: 2969, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

Additional Writing Courses

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

WRIT 2625 Food Writing

Food writing emerges in many forms—from (written or oral/embodied) recipes we’ve inherited from relatives, to restaurant reviews we might consider when going on a trip or a special dinner out, to cooking blogs we peruse for dinner ideas (or just the beautiful photographs), to the labor and food systems exposés that help us understand the complex origins of our food, and lead us toward food activism. Many people write about food as a hobby or passion, and some turn that into a career. In Food Writing, you’ll practice composing in many different food-related genres.

Instructor: Tracy, Olivia

CRN: 4420, Time: M,W 12:00PM-1:50PM

ENGL 3817 The History of Rhetoric

Rhetoric. Persuasion. Argument. What comes to your mind when you read these words? A thesis-driven essay with body paragraphs? A Lincoln-Douglas debate with two competing sides? A game of Monopoly with a forgotten lesson? What, exactly, is rhetoric? In this course, we will take a long view of the rhetorical tradition, approaching rhetoric not only as a practice but also as an idea, one that has (ironically) generated copious arguments. Each student will work to develop a rhetorical theory (i.e., an argument about “argument”) in conversation with historical and contemporary theories. Along the way, students will put their theories into practice.

Instructor: Riche, David

CRN: 4421, Time: M,W 2:00PM-3:50PM