UA LITTLE ROCK

Department of Rhetoric and Writing

Spring 2027

Course Descriptions

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Table of Contents

Undergraduate Courses ***3***

Narrative Descriptions **3**

ENGL 30193: Editing for Usage, Style, and Clarity :: Dr. Tiffani Tijerina 3
ENGL 30203: Technical Writing :: Dr. Nicole Ramer 3
ENGL 40573: Document Design :: Dr. Nicole Ramer 3
ENGL 40773: Writing Software Documentation :: Dr. Karen Kuralt 4
ENGL 41773: The Personal Essay :: Prof. Gregory Graham 4
ENGL 42273: Production for Editors :: Dr. Barb L'Eplattenier 4
ENGL 43573: Grant Writing :: Dr. Barb L'Eplattenier 5
ENGL 43273: Usability Testing and Design :: Dr. Joe Williams 5
RHET 44673: Self-Publishing (Topics in Technical Communication) :: Dr. Tiffani Tijerina 5
ENGL 44773: Writing about Trauma (Topics in Nonfiction Writing) :: Dr. Heidi McCauley 6

Graduate Courses ***7***

Narrative Descriptions **7**

RHET 50573: Document Design :: Dr. Nicole Ramer 7
ENGL 50773: Writing Software Documentation :: Dr. Karen Kuralt 7
ENGL 51773: The Personal Essay :: Prof. Gregory Graham 7
ENGL 52273: Production for Editors :: Dr. Barb L'Eplattenier 8
RHET 53273: Usability Testing and Design :: Dr. Joe Williams 8
RHET 54673: Self-Publishing (Topics in Technical Communication) :: Dr. Tiffani Tijerina 8
RHET 71073: Composition Theory :: Dr. Allen Brizee 9
RHET 71173: Rhetorical Theory :: Dr. Martha Karnes 9
RHET 71573: Proposal Writing Seminar :: Dr. Martha Karnes 9

Questions should be directed to Dr. Jennifer Dawes, Chair, Rhetoric and Writing: jdawes@ualr.edu

Undergraduate Courses

Narrative Descriptions

ENGL 30193: Editing for Usage, Style, and Clarity :: Dr. Tiffani Tijerina

Format: Online **Day/Time**: Asynchronous

This course is an introduction to editing technical and professional documents for grammatical correctness, stylistic consistency, clarity, and usability. Emphasizing real-world applications, students will gain practical experience editing for various audiences and purposes, using both manual and digital tools. Online engagement is choose-your-own adventure with an option of either weekly asynchronous discussion prompts or monthly synchronous group discussions. Assignments include personal, peer, and client editing assignments as well as a reflective essay. The textbook for this class is freely available online with a low-cost print option available.

ENGL 30203: Technical Writing :: Dr. Nicole Ramer

Format: In person **Day/Time**: TR 1:40-2:55

How do we turn complex information into communication that people can use? This course introduces students to the principles and practices of technical and professional writing, with an emphasis on audience, clarity, accessibility, and effective document design. Students will develop practical communication skills through projects involving research, data storytelling, and the creation of documents for real-world audiences. Along the way, we'll explore how technical writing can help organizations and communities share information, tell their stories, and address practical needs.

ENGL 40573: Document Design :: Dr. Nicole Ramer

Format: Online **Day/Time**: Asynchronous

How do the documents we encounter shape what we understand? This course explores how visual design influences the ways people interpret and use information. Students will analyze and create documents for different audiences and purposes, developing skills in layout, typography, visual hierarchy, accessibility, and information design. We'll also consider how design choices matter when communicating complex, sensitive, or high-stakes information.

ENGL 40773: Writing Software Documentation :: Dr. Karen Kuralt

Format: Online	**Day/Time**: Asynchronous

Nearly every workplace relies on software, and someone has to teach people how to use it. In this class, you'll learn to create clear, effective instructions that help people accomplish tasks using unfamiliar software. You'll learn to analyze users' needs, organize complex information, write step-by-step tutorials, use visuals to explain complicated processes. You'll also discover how to make instructions accessible, easy to navigate, and useful to different audiences. Whether you plan to work in technology or another field, this course will help you communicate technical information in ways that make other people's work easier.

ENGL 41773: The Personal Essay :: Prof. Gregory Graham

Format: Online	**Day/Time**: Asynchronous

In Personal Essay, we will read and write personal essays. We'll approach the personal essay as "a story of your thinking." Rather than simply a personal story, this class gives you an opportunity to share your own unique observations of the world and our existence on this rotating ball in space. As essayist Phillip Lopate says, "How the world comes at another person, the irritations, jubilations, aches and pains, humorous flashes—these are the classic building materials of the personal essay." If that sounds broad, that's because it is. The possibilities are limitless. The challenge is to present your thinking in a way that is compelling to the reader. The purpose of this class is to give you the knowledge and the tools to do so.

ENGL 42273: Production for Editors :: Dr. Barb L'Eplattenier

Format: Main Campus (via Zoom)	**Day/Time**: MW 7:00-9:00 PM
Format: Online	**Day/Time**: Asynchronous

Production for Editors copyedits and lays out Quills & Pixels (quillsandpixelsualr.com) using InDesign. You will learn how to do systematic copyediting and how to use InDesign. The main campus section of this class meets in Zoom two days a week.

ENGL 43573: Grant Writing :: Dr. Barb L'Eplattenier

Format: Online	**Day/Time**: Asynchronous

Grant Writing teaches you how to write a grant from start to finish. Working for and with a local non-profit, you will learn how to gather information, find funders, evaluate possible projects, and write a completed grant. The class has raised over a million dollars, one or two grants at a time, in 25+ years.

ENGL 43273: Usability Testing and Design :: Dr. Joe Williams

Format: Main Campus (via Zoom)	**Day/Time**: TR 10:50-12:05
Format: Online	**Day/Time**: Asynchronous

Usability Testing and Design is a course where you'll learn how to systematically improve the user experience of websites, apps, games, and other designed artifacts. You'll do this by working on a team to design user profiles and recruit real users based on them. You will design and conduct tests with those users to better understand their experience. You'll analyze the data from the tests and write a report recommending changes to the artifact that you tested. The course will give you lots of practice in critical thinking, analysis, and collaborative writing and editing related to digital user experience. The class is also available on Zoom for main campus students and online for online students.

RHET 44673: Self-Publishing (Topics in Technical Communication) :: Dr. Tiffani Tijerina

Format: Online	**Day/Time**: Asynchronous

This course is an introduction and comprehensive overview of the process and mechanics of independently publishing your own work. Through a whole-class semester-long self-publishing project, students will both learn and build collective knowledge on independent publishing, ultimately resulting in an openly-licensed and freely-available toolkit for self-publication. Online engagement will include project-based group collaboration, monthly synchronous group discussions, and recorded guest lectures from self-published authors. Assignments include the whole-class semester-long toolkit project, a weekly activity log, and a reflective essay. There is no textbook for this class.

ENGL 44773: Writing about Trauma (Topics in Nonfiction Writing) :: Dr. Heidi McCauley

Format: Online **Day/Time**: Asynchronous

No one gets through life unscathed. But how do we talk about the darkest hours? We will read four memoirs from writers who faced their trauma in different ways: Tara Westover's *Educated,* Cheryl Strayed's *Wild,* Jill Christman's *Darkroom,* and PTW Alumna Cara Brookin's *Rise.* Students will write about trauma (for themselves and/or others), including how to write ethically about difficult situations.

Graduate Courses

Narrative Descriptions

RHET 50573: Document Design :: Dr. Nicole Ramer

Format: Online | **Day/Time**: Asynchronous

This class provides you the opportunity to study and practice using visual elements in technical communication. The class emphasizes typography, page layout, data displays, pictorial communication, and usability testing for print and online documents.

ENGL 50773: Writing Software Documentation :: Dr. Karen Kuralt

Format: Online | **Day/Time**: Asynchronous

Nearly every workplace relies on software, and someone has to teach people how to use it. In this class, you'll learn to create clear, effective instructions that help people accomplish tasks using unfamiliar software. You'll learn to analyze users' needs, organize complex information, write step-by-step tutorials, use visuals to explain complicated processes. You'll also discover how to make instructions accessible, easy to navigate, and useful to different audiences. Whether you plan to work in technology or another field, this course will help you communicate technical information in ways that make other people's work easier.

ENGL 51773: The Personal Essay :: Prof. Gregory Graham

Format: Online | **Day/Time**: Asynchronous

In Personal Essay, we will read and write personal essays. We'll approach the personal essay as "a story of your thinking." Rather than simply a personal story, this class gives you an opportunity to share your own unique observations of the world and our existence on this rotating ball in space. As essayist Phillip Lopate says, "How the world comes at another person, the irritations, jubilations, aches and pains, humorous flashes—these are the classic building materials of the personal essay." If that sounds broad, that's because it is. The possibilities are limitless. The challenge is to present your thinking in a way that is compelling to the reader. The purpose of this class is to give you the knowledge and the tools to do so.

ENGL 52273: Production for Editors :: Dr. Barb L'Eplattenier

Format: Main Campus (via Zoom)	**Day/Time**: MW 7:00-9:00 PM
Format: Online	**Day/Time**: Asynchronous

Production for Editors copyedits and lays out Quills & Pixels (quillsandpixelsualr.com) using InDesign. You will learn how to do systematic copyediting and how to use InDesign. The main campus section of this class meets in Zoom two days a week.

RHET 53273: Usability Testing and Design :: Dr. Joe Williams

Format: Main Campus (via Zoom)	**Day/Time**: TR 10:50-12:05
Format: Online	**Day/Time**: Asynchronous

Usability Testing and Design is a course where you'll learn how to systematically improve the user experience of websites, apps, games, and other designed artifacts. You'll do this by working on a team to design user profiles and recruit real users based on them. You will design and conduct tests with those users to better understand their experience. You'll analyze the data from the tests and write a report recommending changes to the artifact that you tested. The course will give you lots of practice in critical thinking, analysis, and collaborative writing and editing related to digital user experience.

RHET 54673: Self-Publishing (Topics in Technical Communication) :: Dr. Tiffani Tijerina

Format: Online	**Day/Time**: Asynchronous

This course is an introduction and comprehensive overview of the process and mechanics of independently publishing your own work. Through a whole-class semester-long self-publishing project, students will both learn and build collective knowledge on independent publishing, ultimately resulting in an openly-licensed and freely-available toolkit for self-publication. Online engagement will include project-based group collaboration, monthly synchronous group discussions, and recorded guest lectures from self-published authors. Assignments include the whole-class semester-long toolkit project, a weekly activity log, and a reflective essay. There is no textbook for this class.

RHET 71073: Composition Theory :: Dr. Allen Brizee

Format: Online | **Day/Time**: Asynchronous

This course introduces you to composition theory. Readings cover the history of college writing and the emergence of composition as a distinct field of knowledge production. Specific topics include the following: composition in English departments versus stand-alone departments; process and post-process theories; technology in pedagogy; evaluative feedback; language difference, diverse student populations; transfer theory; threshold theory; high-impact practices; assessment; and community-engaged learning. Assignments will require you to respond to readings in light of your preparations for teaching a college writing course. The mid-term paper will require you to write a conference presentation proposal. The capstone project will require you to develop your proposal into a conference paper.

RHET 71173: Rhetorical Theory :: Dr. Martha Karnes

Format: Online | **Day/Time**: Asynchronous

This course offers students an intensive, theoretically driven exploration into contemporary and practical theories of rhetoric. We will build on rhetorical theories and concepts you have encountered in your undergraduate studies in order to solve real workplace and technical communication problems you may encounter as professionals, both in industry and academic settings. Over the course of the semester we will consider and answer the following questions:

- What is rhetoric and why does it matter in contemporary life?
- How can I use rhetoric in my professional life?
- How do we use rhetoric to solve arguments?
- What are rhetorical considerations of AI?

RHET 71573: Proposal Writing Seminar :: Dr. Martha Karnes

Format: Online | **Day/Time**: Asynchronous

This seminar course prepares students for their MA final project option, including the process of researching a topic, writing a proposal, forming a project committee, and defending the project proposal. Students also produce an essay detailing how they have met the MA requirements and complete a job analysis and résumé update.

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