

Composition

Contact: Lydia McDermott, *Director of the Center for Writing and Speaking*

Instructors: Dana Burgess, Lydia McDermott, Mary Raschko, Katrina Roberts, Adeline Rother, Johanna Stoberock, Jenna Terry.

Courses in Composition serve all students studying in all programs, departments, and divisions. As part of the General Studies program, Composition seeks to help students develop the writing skills they will use for their coursework and for all types of written communication during and after their time at Whitman. Lab reports, artist's statements, research papers, expository essays, blogs, e-mail, senior theses; courses in Composition help students develop skills for all kinds of writing.

Distribution: Courses completed in composition apply to the humanities distribution area.

Writing Proficiency Requirement: Nearly all courses at Whitman require proficiency in writing, so the College will evaluate the writing skills of all entering students before Registration. Students identified as needing additional work on writing are required to enroll in Composition 170, Language and Writing, during their first term at the College. Shortly after arrival on campus, all entering students will write in response to a prompt. Those writing samples, with names removed, will be evaluated by a panel of Whitman writing professors to identify those entering students who need extra attention on writing. Before entering students' first meetings with their advisors, an e-mail will be sent to the Whitman accounts of all students required to enroll in Composition 170. Advisors will get this information at the same time and will help those students get registered into appropriate sections.

107 Syntax and Grammar

Not offered 2018-19

4 credits

This course begins with a grounding in descriptive English syntax and grammar. A brief consideration of historical linguistics will allow students to analyze English syntax within the context of related Indo-European languages. The final section of the course applies close stylistic analysis to texts and utterances from a variety of discourse communities. May be elected as Linguistics 107.

170 Language and Writing

Fall, Spring

Fall: McDermott, Rother, Stoberock; Spring: Terry

4 credits

A course designed to introduce students to analytical writing through extensive writing practice and revision. The course provides strategies for invention, development, and editing. Emphasis is placed on analysis and synthesis, with additional attention to language use at the sentence level, including grammar, diction, and syntax. Open to first-year and sophomore students; open to juniors and seniors by consent of instructor.

210 Writing for Diverse Purposes

Fall, Spring

Fall: Roberts; Spring: McDermott

4 credits

This course offers writers the opportunity to focus on expository writing for varying audiences and for diverse purposes. The course will engage students in the study of genre characteristics and conventions, prosodic style, and adaptation of writing for differing audiences.

300 Special Topics in Composition

1-4 credits

Any current offerings follow.

310 The Theory and Practice of Tutoring Writing

Fall

McDermott

2 credits

This course is designed to prepare you to be an effective and confident writing tutor. It will introduce you to major theories on peer-tutoring, debates concerning the teaching of writing, and practical techniques for dealing with difficult situations in the process of tutoring. You will leave the course having conducted genre-specific research, having developed your own tutoring philosophy, and with a portfolio of strategies for tutoring from yourself and your peers. One of our goals is to

create a community of knowledgeable and supportive writing center tutors who can then work as a team within the writing center. Not open to first semester students.

320 Advanced Writing Studies**Not offered 2018-19****4 credits**

An advanced course in writing studies for students interested both in advancing understanding of their own writing processes and styles as well as in learning broader theories of composition and rhetoric across the curriculum. Students will study and practice rhetorical devices and genre analysis in order to facilitate flexibility in writing for different academic communities. Not open to first-year students.