

Division of Writing

Specific goals:

- To improve writing instruction for undergraduates.
- To develop a program in expository writing with pragmatic, theoretical, and historical components.
- To support an expository writing concentration in the undergraduate English major.
- To define our offerings more carefully so that students know precisely what our courses cover.
- To provide a coherent and non-overlapping sequence for students who wish to pursue a concentration in expository writing.
- To develop writing courses as part of a program.
- To evaluate and refine existing writing courses regularly and systematically.
- To provide AIs with more detailed teaching instruction, more and better teaching materials, and more careful evaluation.
- To offer AIs a greater variety of courses to teach.
- To provide a writing lab for all students in writing courses.
- To pay more attention to students preparing to be elementary and secondary teachers of writing and English.
- To provide specific standards for writing performance for all writing courses and substantial writing component courses.
- To provide instruction to teachers and TAs assigned to substantial writing component courses.
- To provide an institutional focus for undergraduate students interested in expository writing.
- To invite speakers and writers concerned with writing and publishing in non-literary, non-journalistic areas.
- To invite speakers specifically concerned with topics in the E 306 and E 309 courses.
- To sponsor conferences on expository writing, composition, rhetoric, computers and writing, etc.

Collegiality

The division will pay deliberate attention to the needs and concerns of its faculty and students. Faculty will meet regularly. Accomplishments will be formally recognized. Common courtesies will be observed. Communication will be kept open.

Courses

E 306--Argumentation

Much more comprehensive support for this course. Class materials available in office. Routine evaluation. Steady refinement of assignments and approaches. Systematic evaluation of texts. Move more sections onto the computer.

E 309--Topics in Writing

Focuses on writing about literature. Offerings would vary, but would be based upon some significant body of literature.

E 309--The Writing Process

A pre-technical writing course focusing specifically on writing in non-humanities disciplines.

E 309--Thinking and Writing

The most theoretical of the E 309s, focusing on the way meaning gets made and transmitted in our culture. Common syllabus with varying emphases to support different approaches (from classical rhetoric to contemporary social rhetorics).

E 325M--Advanced Expository Writing.

Writing courses focusing on the development of general professional skills, though individual sections may focus on specific disciplines: law, government, education. E 309 becomes a prerequisite.

*E 3XX--History of Rhetoric

Surveys figures and movements in the history of rhetoric, from classical to modern times.

*E 3XX--Rhetorical Theory

Examines contemporary theories of rhetoric and the relationship of rhetoric to related fields.

*E 360L--Composition for English Majors.

A writing course specifically for students planning to enter graduate school, especially in English. Focus on scholarly conventions of writing, research, and documentation. Applies theories of literature and language to writing.

E 360M--Rhetoric and Composition for High School Teachers of English

Uses resources of division to prepare future teachers of writing. Includes new component in grammar/mechanics. Students work in both writing labs. Students introduced to E 306.

E 368E--Topics in Editing

--see current description

E 379C--Topics in Composition

--see current description. A series of individual and repeated topics.

SWC

The division would coordinate SWC course in first in the liberal arts and, according to its means, other colleges on campus.

The division would train AIs in basic approaches to composition and develop common standards, techniques, and materials for SWCs.

The division would assist SWC instructors, providing support services as needed--seminars, training sessions, grading sessions, etc.

The division would serve as a clearinghouse for SWC information: course materials, instructors, texts, assignments, etc.

Writing Labs

The division would direct a drop-in writing center for UT students in all writing and SWC courses.

The division will continue to develop a state-of-the-art computer program with the long-term goal of making such instruction available to students in most writing courses.

Honors Writing Concentration

The division will look for ways to promote the writing skills of undergraduate English majors, beginning with students taking an honors writing concentration. Portfolios will be kept for these students and their work evaluated by a permanent faculty supervisor.

Graduate Program in Rhetoric

The division of writing will offer graduate students in rhetoric additional training and opportunities.

Training will be based upon a more fully defined program in both E 306 and E 309, with AIs receiving syllabi and curriculum instruction at each level.

AIs will be exposed to more types of courses, including a pre-technical writing class not currently available. AIs will serve more systematically as mentors to colleagues in the training program. AIs will serve in the writing labs.

A prestigious teaching award will be established specifically for AIs.