Welcome to the English Writing and Rhetoric Studies Emphasis!

Please note: This is information for students who declared an English major before Fall 2018. The English Writing and Rhetoric Studies emphasis deepens your understanding of a range of writing situations, improves your writing abilities, and provides a solid background for a number of career paths, including professional and technical writing, teaching, creative writing, journalism, linguistics, and graduate studies, as well as other communication-related fields.

What emphasis courses should I take and when?

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<th>Emphasis Course</th>
<th>General Purposes</th>
<th>Recommended Timing</th>
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<tr>
<td>English 311: Critical Theory</td>
<td>Introduces you to some of the central ideas and theories in English studies</td>
<td>This course should be taken as early as possible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>English 333: Intro to Writing and Rhetoric Studies</td>
<td>Introduces you to some of the primary thinkers, concepts and genres within writing and rhetoric studies</td>
<td>This course should be taken by your junior year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>English 313: Prose Style and Editing</td>
<td>Helps you develop your awareness of audience, genre and style as you write and analyze writing for different discourse communities</td>
<td>This course ideally should be taken in your sophomore year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>English 497: Seminar in Writing and Rhetoric Studies</td>
<td>Introduces you to key issues and debates which are unfolding within the field of writing and rhetoric studies. The subject of the course will change depending upon the instructor. Check with the 497 instructor for more details on what the focus will be.</td>
<td>This course should be taken during your final year in the program (either fall or spring).</td>
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<tr>
<td>English 413: Writing Portfolio</td>
<td>Provides you an opportunity to construct a portfolio of your past work and reflect on your progress as a writer and thinker. You may also develop a research project addressing an issue in the field.</td>
<td>This course should also be taken during your final year in the program (either fall or spring).</td>
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How can I get involved?

There are numerous organizations you can work with to put your English major to work, build social networks, and contribute to the English department. Here are a few:

- **The English Club** is a student-run organization designed as a space for English majors to meet and discuss issues of literature, writing, and culture. Contact them at englishclub@uwlaex.edu or find their page on Facebook for further information about upcoming meetings.

- **Sigma Tau Delta** is the national English honor society. We promote English studies, create social and professional networks for students of English, and confer distinction on members. Contact Dr. McCracken for more information.

- **The English Department’s William J. and Yvonne Hyde Colloquium series** is a monthly faculty presentation series in which a faculty members present some of their current research or teaching. It’s a good opportunity to get to know what your professors are working on and what people in the field are talking about.

- **Steam Ticket** is a national print and online literary magazine, staffed by a dedicated team of student editors and readers enrolled in English 320: Literary Journal Production/Publication. Students act as editors and readers, and the process is overseen by a professor who has experience in creative writing and publishing (www.steamticket.org).

- **The Catalyst** is an online publication for the La Crosse community sponsored by the UW-La Crosse English Club. The goal of The Catalyst is to showcase the creativity and talent in our community by publishing original fiction and nonfiction, poetry, artwork, photography, videos, and music. You can email the editors at catalyst@uwlaex.edu.

- **The Mercury** is the student news site run by students in ENG 318 (Journalism and New Media). Enroll in ENG 318 for experience in news reporting, editing, and publishing with digital media. Check out the website.

- **The Racquet** is the student news site of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Apply for an internship to gain valuable writing, editing, and publishing experience. Visit the website.
How can I make the most of my English major?

**Save your writing!** You should save multiple versions of your written work, both informal and formal, that you compose throughout the program. This will help you build your English 413 portfolio by allowing you to document and reflect on your process. Get into the habit of saving your planning work, drafts and revisions and save them until you graduate from the program.

**Consider Undergraduate Research!** An undergraduate research project can deepen your understanding of the subject matter you’re studying, build relationships with your professors, and give you an advantage over competing applicants for jobs, scholarships, and graduate school. Undergraduate Research Grants are given each year to support research and writing. If you are interested in undergraduate research, begin collaborating with a professor during your junior year.

**Consider an internship!** Internships offer a way to apply and showcase your knowledge outside of Wimberly. Writing and Rhetoric Studies emphasis majors and writing minors have held paid and unpaid internships with organizations such as Gundersen Lutheran, Franciscan Skemp, SleepNumber Industries, the Trane Company, UWL’s Writing Center, Kaplan, Family Broadcasting, Thomson Reuters, YMCA, Klutch Chronicle, Duratech, Tammy Baldwin’s DC office, local government offices and agencies, and the Audubon Society.

**Prepare for your post-graduate plans!** Are you sick of the “what are you going to do with your degree” question? Tell them that career opportunities for Writing and Rhetoric Studies graduates emphasis include jobs in many fields, such as editing and publishing, legal studies, technical writing, medical writing, business and project management, SEO writing, nonprofit work, and education. Graduate school is also an option for Writing and Rhetoric Studies graduates. Graduates have pursued advanced degrees in Creative Writing, Rhetoric and Composition, Professional and Technical Writing, Cultural Studies, Teaching, and Law.

**Talk with your professors!** Not sure which classes to take? Not sure where to look for jobs, internships, or graduate school? Not sure which of the 30 different definitions of rhetoric you’ve come across is the right one? Your professors are here to help. Chat with them. Tell them about your interests and goals. Build a relationship early, so when you come to them for a letter of recommendation, they can brag on your behalf with confidence and certainty. And then stay in touch after graduation to keep us up to date on your success!