

DEPARTMENT OF WRITING

Bachelor of Arts

Eleanor Henderson, *Associate Professor and Chairperson*

The Department of Writing offers a comprehensive curriculum designed to foster clarity and creativity in expression, as well as to develop expertise in various writing styles and genres. It provides instruction in first-year writing for entering students; advanced study in expository, creative, and professional writing; and a 21-credit minor for students in diverse disciplines. The B.A. in writing offers serious writers guidance and experience in a range of genres; students may also elect to complete a concentration in creative writing, nonfiction, feature writing, or professional writing. The major, which blends theory and practice, prepares students for graduate study, professional positions, and careers in writing.

First-Year Composition

The Department of Writing strives to offer a first-year composition curriculum that represents the most current thinking and the best pedagogical practices in our discipline. Our central goal is to produce writers who are “rhetorically aware,” who analyze the social contexts that create occasions for writing, consider the needs of potential audiences, and make wise choices about content, format, and style. We encourage our students to become active participants in ongoing discussions that are taking place in academic literature and public discourse. Our courses emphasize a process approach to writing that involves critical thinking, drafting, and revising.

Writing Center

The Department of Writing operates the Writing Center (located in 107 Smiddy Hall), a free service for all Ithaca College students, staff, and faculty, which focuses on helping people from all disciplines develop and refine their writing skills. Trained peer and faculty tutors provide help at any stage of the writing process, from reading and pre-writing through drafting, revising, and editing, in a professional and friendly atmosphere. The Writing Center also offers drop-in sessions, workshops, and focused assistance for English language learners.

The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series

Every semester The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series brings writers of national standing to campus in the genres of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. In addition to giving public readings, visiting writers teach a 1-credit multi-genre workshop that includes individual conferences with students. Admission to the class is by application only.

Internship Program in Writing and Publishing

Writing sophomores, juniors, and seniors may intern at more than 50 sites in the Ithaca area throughout the year. Our program assists students in locating internships both locally or through the New York City and London programs during the academic year and at diverse sites across the U.S. during the summer months.

Stillwater

The Department of Writing offers a special opportunity to students interested in writing and graphic arts to publish *Stillwater*, an annual magazine of poetry, prose, photography, and art. The students who staff the publication make all editorial selections and engage in all aspects

of design, production, and publicity. Submissions are open to the entire College community.

Majors & Minors

- Writing Major – B.A. (<https://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/schools/school-humanities-sciences/department-writing/writing-major-ba/>)
- Writing Minor (<https://catalog.ithaca.edu/undergrad/schools/school-humanities-sciences/department-writing/writing-minor/>)

WRTG 10600 Academic Writing I (LA)

This introductory, freshman-level course teaches students how to read perceptively and write coherently in college courses. Students learn to comprehend, critique, and respond to college readings by writing analytical essays ranging from single-source papers to evaluations of the claims and evidence in a number of readings. Typical assignments include single-source critiques and multiple-source syntheses. The course emphasizes thoughtful and responsible use of sources. May satisfy departmental and school requirements for a level-1 writing course. Prerequisites: Open only to freshmen and sophomores. (F-S,Y)

Attributes: 3A, HU

3 Credits

WRTG 16500 Introduction to the Essay (LA)

Introduces the principal concepts of creative writing through study and practice within the genre of the essay. Asks students to examine the intentions, strategies, and styles of selected essays from long ago to the present. Prerequisites: ICSM 10800, ICSM 11800, or WRTG 10600; Writing majors. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: 3A, HU

3 Credits

WRTG 17500 Introduction to Creative Writing (LA)

Elements and techniques of writing fiction and poetry introduced through instruction, analysis of models, experimentation, and practice. Not open to students who have previously received credit for WRTG 23600 or WRTG 23800. Prerequisites: ICSM 10800, ICSM 11800, or WRTG 10600. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: 3A, CA, FA, HM, MC, TIDE, TIII

3 Credits

WRTG 20100 Argument (LA)

Prepares students to write convincing arguments by learning logical strategies for researching, presenting and defending ideas. Introduces a variety of forms that arguments can take; topics range from the traditional essay to the multi-modal. Particularly recommended for students who wish to strengthen their ability to present their point of view persuasively, intelligently, and ethically. Prerequisites: ICSM 10800, ICSM 11800, or WRTG 10600. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: HU, LSCO, MC

3 Credits

WRTG 20500 Personal Essay (LA)

Writing essays based on analysis of students' experiences, ideas, and feelings. Emphasis is placed on narrative, descriptive, and organizational techniques, as well as development of style. Readings are intended to deepen students' understanding of their own lives and provide models for creative interpretations of their own experience. Prerequisites: ICSM 10800, ICSM 11800, or WRTG 10600. (F-S,Y)

Attributes: 3A, CA, HM, HU, TIDE

3 Credits

WRTG 21100 Writing for the Workplace (LA)

Basic on-the-job writing necessary to join, manage, and promote any organization, whether profit or nonprofit. Focus is primarily on short forms: résumés, memos, business letters, summaries, brochures, newsletters, press releases, informal proposals, and reports. Course also explores how various social, economic, and ethical issues affect workplace writing. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing; ICSM 10800, ICSM 11800, or WRTG 10600. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: ESTS, HU, WI

3 Credits

WRTG 21300 Technical Writing (LA)

Fundamentals for communicating technical information to general and specialized audiences. Class emphasizes the foundations of technical writing, their formats and applications, context-specific writing strategies, basic visual design, and ethics. Some reading in and discussion of the history of technology and its influence on human society and culture. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing; ICSM 10800, ICSM 11800, or WRTG 10600. (F,E)

Attributes: ESTS, HU, WI

3 Credits

WRTG 21700 Inquiry, Research, & Writing Across the Curriculum (LA)

Prepares students across the disciplines to engage in inquiry-based research, examining questions relevant to their fields and interests and producing substantial formal writing in a range of research genres. Emphasizes writing and research as recursive processes. Focuses on development of effective research practices, including identifying, locating, evaluating, and integrating sources ethically and effectively. Prerequisites: ICSM 10800, ICSM 11800, or WRTG 10600. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: HM, TIII, WI

3 Credits

WRTG 21900 Communication Studies Practicum (NLA)

Practical experience in speech on campus, at the intercollegiate level, and in the community at large; debate and legislative assemblies; discussion, oratory, impromptu, and extemporaneous speaking; oral interpretation and readers' theater. The instructor will designate the minimum activities required to receive credit. May be repeated for a total of Pass/fail only. Permission of instructor. (F,S,Y)

1 Credit

WRTG 22500 Grammar and Usage (LA)

Intensive study of the patterns of English grammar and their influence on sentence structure, punctuation, and usage. Daily exercises in contemporary usage and writing assignments prepare students for refining their own academic prose and for editing the work of others. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing; ICSM 10800, ICSM 11800, or WRTG 10600. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: HU

3 Credits

WRTG 23200 Creative Nonfiction (LA)

Introduction to writing research-based creative nonfiction. Readings are intended to expose students to the breadth of the nonfiction genre. Emphasis is placed on literary technique, ethics, and research. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing; ICSM 10800, ICSM 11800, or WRTG 10600. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: ESTS, HU

3 Credits

WRTG 23600 Fiction Writing I: Short Story (LA)

Workshop in writing short fiction, emphasizing character, plot, dialogue, scene, point of view, and other elements of fiction. Students practice revision as part of the writing process. Analysis of both published and student writing. Prerequisites: WRTG 17500. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: 3A, FA

3 Credits

WRTG 23800 Poetry Writing I (LA)

Workshop in writing poetry, in which students develop poetic strategies and practice a range of poetic forms and modes. Craft analysis of published models (both historical and contemporary) and student writing. Analysis will include discussion of how poems work to reflect and/or critique their social contexts. A final portfolio of revised work is required.

Prerequisites: WRTG 17500. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: 3A, FA

3 Credits

WRTG 24500 Translation and Self-Discovery (LA)

Theory and practice of translation as a form of writing that leads to discovery and self-discovery. Students read texts related to the role of translation in disparate areas of knowledge and select and translate short texts into English and from English into a second language with the goal of experiencing the field of translation, deepening their relationship to their own language, and finding their voice (or a new voice) in another language. This course is intended for students with an intermediate-level reading and writing proficiency in a language other than English. Cross-listed with LNGS 24500; students may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisites: WRTG 10600, ICSM 10800, or ICSM 11800. (IRR)

Attributes: HM, TIDE, TIII, WI

3 Credits

WRTG 25200 Sophomore Internship (NLA)

Work and study project designed by the student early in undergraduate career, in consultation with a faculty sponsor and a practicing professional. The H&S internship proposal includes learning objectives, a detailed work plan, and a description of the student's plans for reports to the faculty sponsor. May be repeated up to 3 cr total. Offered on demand only. Prerequisites: Two WRTG courses. (F,S,U,Y)

1-3 Credits

WRTG 30100 Memoir (LA)

Advanced course surveying and writing in the memoir genre. Encourages students to recognize developmental patterns in their own lives and understand the social and political context of their experience. Emphasis is placed on the thematic, structural, and stylistic problems of writing a book-length autobiographical narrative. Readings are used to model the genre and address relevant issues, such as the selectivity of memory, the public presentation of the private self, and the literary value of daily life.

Prerequisites: WRTG 20500 or WRTG 23600. (F,S,Y)

Attributes: 3A, FA

3 Credits

WRTG 30500 Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy (LA)

Advanced creative writing course in science fiction and fantasy that emphasizes the importance of character and thematic development. Assignments also focus on the selection of subject, setting, and narrative techniques. Readings in science fiction and fantasy serve as models for approaches to these two genres. Prerequisites: WRTG 23600. (S,Y)

Attributes: FA

3 Credits

WRTG 31000 Women and Writing (LA)

Introduction to and exploration of gender and women's experience, both historical and contemporary, through different literary forms. Students will become familiar with and apply feminist theory to a variety of creative forms. Writing assignments may include nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and/or dramatic writing. Readings by women writers past and present. Prerequisites: WRTG 20500, WRTG 23600, or WRTG 23800. (F,S,Y) Attributes: 3A, FA, WGS, WGS3, WGSC
3 Credits

WRTG 31100 Writing for the Professions (LA)

Advanced, thematically centered workplace writing focusing on more complex forms: policy statements, position papers, dossiers, legal documentation, and long reports. Course themes vary and encourage dialogue on major issues among different professions in business, government, law, and medicine. All sections are grounded in argument, ethics, and the humanities. Class readings may include casebooks, theoretical essays, or historical documents. Prerequisites: Junior standing; and one of the following: WRTG 20100, WRTG 21100, or WRTG 21300; or three courses in ANTH, CMST, CSCR, ECON, ENVS, GBUS, HLTH, INTB, JOUR, LEGST, MKTG, POLT, PSYC, SOCI, STCM, or WGST. (S) Attributes: ESTS, HU, WI
3 Credits

WRTG 31400 Science Writing (LA)

Advanced expository course on journalistic and literary scientific writing. Students learn to communicate scientific facts and theories to professional and sophisticated lay readers through description, analogy, narrative, and argument. Some discussion of the technical and scholarly conventions of formal scientific writing. Class readings include major humanistic essays from the history of science and articles and features from contemporary popular and scientific publications. Prerequisites: Junior standing; WRTG 20100 or WRTG 21300; or three courses in COMP, BIOC, BIOL, CHEM, ENVS, EXSS, HLTH, MATH, or PHYS. (S) Attributes: ESTS, WI
3 Credits

WRTG 31700 Proposal and Grant Writing (NLA)

Advanced workplace writing concentrating on proposals and grants. Students address problems in the local community while studying the interplay among business, education, government, and nonprofits. Attentive to civic responsibility in the marketplace, this course teaches research and assessment, project management, editing, and document design. Group work emphasizes social networks and service learning. Prerequisites: Junior standing; WRTG 20100, WRTG 21100, or WRTG 21300. (F,S,Y) Attributes: ESTS, SL
3 Credits

WRTG 31800 Writing from Cultural Experience (LA)

Advanced essay course in which students explore the significance of their own ethnic and cultural identity, background, and experience. Writing assignments encourage students to employ a variety of essay styles and structures – from personal to public and from narrative to analytical. Appropriate for any students who recognize their life experience as distinct by virtue of their nationality, race, religion, region, gender, sexual preference, or culture. Prerequisites: WRTG 20100, WRTG 20500, or WRTG 23200. (IRR) Attributes: 3A, DV, HU
3 Credits

WRTG 31900 Writing as a Naturalist (LA)

Advanced expository essay course focusing on human interactions with the rest of the natural world. Readings are selected from the writing of naturalists, environmentalists, scientists, legislators, artists, poets, and philosophers. Writing assignments include field observation, description, analysis, and argument. Prerequisites: Two ENVS courses level 2 or above; WRTG 20100, WRTG 20500, or WRTG 23200. (IRR) Attributes: 3A, ESTS, HU
3 Credits

WRTG 32000 Public Essay (LA)

A public essay is a vehicle for making sense of the world, for offering commentary about it that deepens the reader's understanding and awareness of our condition. This advanced expository course provides students the occasion to write reflective literary essays on topics of public interest and significance. Students bring their own values, perspectives, insights, and voice to bear on matters of community concern. Prerequisites: Junior standing; WRTG 20100, WRTG 20500, or WRTG 23200. (F-S,Y) Attributes: ESTS, HU, LSCO
3 Credits

WRTG 32500 Writing Children's Literature (LA)

Writing literature for children and young adults. In addition to studying stylistic approaches and techniques, the course addresses issues such as appropriate subject matter, writing for specific age groups, and the writer's ethical responsibility. Reading assignments may include classic and contemporary works, fairy tales and myths, and critical and historical essays. Prerequisites: WRTG 23600. (F,Y) Attributes: FA
3 Credits

WRTG 33000 Style and Syntax (LA)

Advanced expository course applying grammatical knowledge to the study of prose style. Close analysis of sentence structures and rhetorical devices used by exemplary writers, along with exercises and practice in revision of students' own prose. Prerequisites: Junior standing; WRTG 22500. (IRR) Attributes: HU
3 Credits

WRTG 33100 Feature Writing (LA)

Advanced expository course in developing the skills necessary to write informative, accurate, and interesting feature articles suitable for print or online publications. Students learn interviewing and reporting skills, as well as feature genres, style, and structure. Prerequisites: WRTG 20100, WRTG 20500, or WRTG 23200. (F) Attributes: HU, MC
3 Credits

WRTG 33400 Humorous Writing (LA)

Writing humorously in the comedic or satiric mode. Introduces a variety of humorous forms, such as monologue, parody, caricature, and irony. Readings from past and present works contribute to a study of the historical, philosophical, psychological, and cultural dimensions of humor. Major emphasis is placed on creative writing. Prerequisites: WRTG 20500 or WRTG 23600. (S,Y) Attributes: FA
3 Credits

WRTG 33600 Fiction Writing II (LA)

An advanced workshop for students with a serious commitment to reading and writing fiction. Builds on the work begun in WRTG 23600. Students may write short stories or longer fictional works. Prerequisites: WRTG 23600. (F,S,Y)
Attributes: FA
3 Credits

WRTG 33800 Poetry Writing II (LA)

An advanced workshop for students with a serious commitment to the art of writing poetry. Students build on the study begun in WRTG 23800, striving for a greater understanding of issues and techniques in poetry. Rigorous analysis of poetry, including how poems function to reflect and/or critique their social contexts, is required. Prerequisites: WRTG 23800. (S,Y)
Attributes: FA
3 Credits

WRTG 34000 Magazine Writing (LA)

Experience in researching, writing, and marketing magazine articles, with an emphasis on features. Students study the various types of articles and analyze magazines for their content, audience, and editorial policy and slant, using this understanding to write for particular magazines of their choice. Students learn reporting and research techniques, as well as how to query editors. Prerequisites: WRTG 20100 or WRTG 20500; JOUR 11100 or WRTG 33100. (S,Y)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

WRTG 34100 Travel Writing (LA)

Combines analysis of issues related to travel writing and writing within the genre. Explores goals, audiences, and forms of travel writing. Taught online and available only to students away from the Ithaca campus. Students are requested to discuss travel locations with professor prior to registration. Prerequisites: WRTG 20100, 20500, or 23200; permission of instructor. (F-S,Y)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

WRTG 34200 Writing about Sports (LA)

Advanced expository course in writing essays about sports for a variety of audiences, and developing and articulating standards for that writing. Readings selected from past masters and contemporary practitioners to provide a context for class discussion and for descriptive, analytical, and argumentative writing. Emphasizes establishing an authentic voice. Prerequisites: WRTG 20100, WRTG 20500, or WRTG 23200. (IRR)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

WRTG 34500 Writing as a Critic (LA)

Advanced expository course on the essentials of writing arts reviews and criticism for newspapers, magazines, and trade journals, both print and online. Subjects for review include film, theater, music, dance, performance media, literature, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, television, radio, videos, games, and digital media. Also addresses the social and aesthetic functions of arts criticism, the development of criteria for judgment, and the role and responsibility of the critic. Reading assignments include critical models as well as essays on the theory and practice of criticism. Prerequisites: WRTG 20100, WRTG 20500, or WRTG 23200; any two courses beyond level 1 in art, art history, literature, theater, music, dance, photography, television-radio, video, or film. (S)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

WRTG 35000 Selected Topics in Expository Writing (LA)

Advanced expository writing course, offered at irregular intervals on topics chosen by faculty members. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. For writing minors, the course may be an elective or fulfill a level-3 minor requirement. Prerequisites: Junior standing; one writing course at level 2 or above (specified by name and number at time of offering). (IRR)
Attributes: HU, WGS3
3 Credits

WRTG 35400 Selected Topics in Creative Writing (LA)

Advanced creative writing course, offered at irregular intervals on topics chosen by faculty members. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. For writing minors, the course may be an elective or fulfill a level-3 minor requirement. Prerequisites: Junior standing; WRTG 20500 or one creative writing course at level 2 or above (specified by name and number at time of offering). (IRR)
Attributes: FA
3 Credits

WRTG 36000 Language, Literacy, and Writing Studies (LA)

Explores theoretical and practical connections among language, literacy, and writing, focusing on research and theory that inform the field of composition and rhetoric. Explores questions such as: How are texts composed? What do accomplished readers and writers understand, and how do they develop that knowledge? How do people engage new discourses? How are authority and identity achieved in writing? How are language and literacy part of systems of power and privilege? How is technology affecting how we think, read, write, learn and share cultural resources? Prerequisites: Junior standing; WRTG 20100; WRTG 20500. (F or S, Y)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

WRTG 36500 Poetics (LA)

Introduction to Western theories of creative writing as a means of investigating the relationships between writer, text, and world. Addresses cultural/political, psychological, philosophical, and aesthetic concerns. In addition to rigorous analysis of historical and contemporary texts, students will examine their own creative work and process. Prerequisites: WRTG 23600 or WRTG 23800; any other writing course above level 1. (F,S,Y)
Attributes: HU
3 Credits

WRTG 38000 Visiting Writers' Workshop (LA)

An advanced writing workshop offered each semester to coincide with the Department of Writing Distinguished Visiting Writers series. Requires 15 contact hours in meetings, conferences, and classes with both the visiting writer and the writing faculty coordinator. Students produce a 15-page revised manuscript of new work in the relevant genre over the course of the semester. May be repeated up to three times for credit. Prerequisites: Junior standing; permission of instructor. (F-S,Y)
Attributes: UND
1 Credit

WRTG 41000 Senior Project (LA)

Advanced independent project designed by writing majors no later than their second junior semester and relating to their particular concentration or area of interest. The project, is usually undertaken in the second semester of the student's senior year. Work in the final portfolio is evaluated by the faculty mentor. Students are encouraged but not required to give a public presentation or reading of their work during their senior year. Writing majors only. Prerequisites: Senior standing; WRTG 31100, WRTG 32000, WRTG 33600, or WRTG 33800; WRTG 36000 or WRTG 36500; permission of instructor. (F,S,Y)
3 Credits

WRTG 41500 Senior Seminar (LA)

Small group setting for students to undertake focused, intensive exploration and research of ideas and issues in writing within selected advanced topics not provided elsewhere in the curriculum. Provides opportunity for advanced coursework that nurtures serious investigation of specific issues within their discipline, and fosters intellectual dialogue about writing among students. Seminar topics vary each semester. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Prerequisites: Two writing courses beyond level 1, at least one of which must be at level 3; permission of instructor. (F,S,Y)
Attributes: WI
3 Credits

WRTG 42000 Apprenticeship (NLA)

Service as a teacher's apprentice in a 100-level writing course, correcting and commenting on student papers, tutoring, leading class exercises or discussions, and participating in conferences. To be eligible, students must have completed two writing courses above level 1, with at least one B and one A- as final grades; should have successfully completed the course to which they are apprenticing; and should have a desire to work with students enrolled in Academic Writing I or II, Personal Essay, or Argument. Prerequisites: Senior standing and permission of instructor. (F-S,Y)
3 Credits

WRTG 43600 Writing the Novella (LA)

This advanced fiction-writing seminar offers students the opportunity to develop a novella. The course extends previously learned narrative elements, such as characterization, plot, setting, point of view, tone, and voice, and applies them to a broader, more complex literary canvas. Students will create narratives that allow for multiple characters who interact within an expanded social context or that permit the extended exploration of a single character in considered detail. Prerequisites: WRTG 33600. (F,Y)
Attributes: FA
3 Credits

WRTG 45000-45001 Internship: Writing (NLA)

Work and study project designed by the student, in consultation with a faculty sponsor and a practicing professional. The proposal includes learning objectives, a detailed work plan, and a description of the student's plans for reports to the faculty sponsor. Prerequisites: Junior standing; three writing courses above level 1. Offered on demand only. May be repeated up to twelve credits. (F-S,Y)
1-6 Credits

WRTG 49800 Independent Study: Exposition (LA)

Student-initiated expository writing project focusing on a specialized area. For the qualified, advanced student, by agreement with a faculty member. Approval of the writing department chair must be obtained one semester in advance of the proposed project. Prerequisites: Senior standing; three writing courses above level 1; additional prerequisites depending on topic. (F-S,Y)
Attributes: HU
1-3 Credits

WRTG 49801 Independent Study: (Exposition) (LA)

Student-initiated expository writing project focusing on a specialized area. For the qualified, advanced student, by agreement with a faculty member. Approval of the writing department chair must be obtained one semester in advance of the proposed project. Prerequisites: Senior standing; three writing courses above level 1; additional prerequisites depending on topic. (F-S,Y)
Attributes: HU
1-4 Credits

WRTG 49900 Independent Study: Creative Writing (LA)

Student-initiated creative writing project focusing on a specialized area. For the qualified, advanced student, by agreement with a faculty member. Offered on demand only. Approval of the writing department chair must be obtained one semester in advance of the proposed project. Prerequisites: Senior standing; three writing courses above level 1; additional prerequisites depending on topic. (F-S,Y)
Attributes: FA
1-3 Credits