Our lives are increasingly lived across electronic networks powered by digital technology. We connect through social networks via smart phones, laptops, and tablets. We access universes of information in minutes. We can publish words, pictures, video and audio to worldwide audiences with the click of a button. In this new media world, writing is more important than ever before. So too is rhetoric, the art of crafting an appeal for a particular audience. The English Department’s Rhetoric, Writing, and Technology (RWT) emphasis teaches students to work effectively and ethically in digital environments. What is the impact of new media technologies on the composition of and distribution of texts? How does the electronic word change persuasion? How do these technologies cultivate identity, expertise, and ethics? RWT explores these questions and more. It also puts a premium on production. In RWT, invention complements analysis: students not only study, they also create.

Rhetoric, Writing, & Technology

Saint Louis University I Department of English

Coursework in Rhetoric, Writing, and Technology dovetails with a variety of majors, minors and courses of study across the university: Communication, Health Management, Entrepreneurship, Business, Marketing, Pre-Law, and Environmental Studies. RWT’s focus on the public writing and rhetoric likewise fits with Saint Louis University’s Jesuit mission of service to humanity.

Program Details
Students interested in the study of rhetoric and digital writing are invited to pursue the department’s emphasis in Rhetoric, Writing, and Technology (RWT). In these courses, students will study both the history of rhetorical expression and the present possibilities of digital expression. RWT teaches students to work effectively and ethically in digital environments.

Coursework in Rhetoric, Writing, and Technology dovetails with a variety of majors, minors and courses of study across the university: Communication, Health Management, Entrepreneurship, Business, Marketing, Pre-Law, and Environmental Studies. RWT’s focus on the public writing and rhetoric likewise fits with Saint Louis University’s Jesuit mission of service to humanity.

General Requirements
The RWT Emphasis offers students a focus for their elective study within the English major. In other words, English majors can complete RWT through their four elective courses.

Required Courses
All students who elect the RWT Emphasis would take the following courses:

English 300 Foundations in Rhetoric and Writing and either English 402 History of Rhetoric from Classical Athens until 1700 or English 403 History of Rhetoric from 1701 until the present.
Recommended Courses
Students in the RWT Emphasis could then elect either one or two more courses from the following group:

- English 301 Public Rhetoric
- English 302 Technical Writing
- English 396 Rhetoric, Reasoning, and Law
- English 401 New Media Writing
- English 404 Special Topics in Rhetoric
- English 408 Advanced Creative Writing: Non-Fiction
- English 412 Language Studies: Special Topics

Courses not on this list could be substituted with the permission of the Writing Program Director.

Capstone
Instead of taking 494 as the capstone, students on the RWT emphasis will do a capstone project. This will be an independent project completed under the direction of a professor. (Students would register for an independent study under 498.) The project will include both a research component, but also a production component. That is, the project should offer a rhetorically sophisticated intervention into a discernable rhetorical context, and that intervention should be supported by thorough and rigorous research.

Core Faculty

Janice McIntire-Strasburg, Ph.D. (Writing Program Director)
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Vincent Casaregola, Ph.D.
Film, & Cultural Studies (1900 to Present); Rhetorical Studies; Media Technology & Public Discourse; Composition Studies / Professional Writing; Non-Fiction & the Personal Essay. casarevg@slu.edu

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