

University adds writing courses for undergrads

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In response to an increased focus by the University on undergraduate writing, four new writing courses and two expanded courses will be offered next fall by the Division of Rhetoric and Composition for all undergraduate students.

The division, which was created last year to be separate from the Department of English, has reorganized some writing courses and created new ones.

"The University wanted to put more emphasis on writing courses, streamline those courses and do a better job of providing more writing courses," said John Ruskiewicz, associate professor of English. "The smaller rhetoric division can focus on writing courses like the larger English classes couldn't."

The new courses to be offered next fall include Critical Reading and Persuasive Writing 309S, Studies in Computers and Languages 330C, History of Rhetoric 330D and Topics in Writing 330E. The expanded courses are The Writing Process 309L, and Computers and Writing 309M.

Critical Reading and Persuasive Writing is specifically designed for students who placed out of English 306 by scoring more than 550 on the UT placement exam.

"It is a high-powered version of 306, with a focus on classical rhetoric," Ruskiewicz said. Ruskiewicz and Rosa Eberle, professor of English, will be teaching 309S in the fall.

Prior to the course, students had to wait until their sophomore year to take English classes beyond E316.

Studies in Computers and Languages examines the

role of computer technology in communication. Margaret Syverson, professor of English, will be teaching the class.

History of Rhetoric explores the history of rhetoric and the application of theory to text.

"The Writing Process is an intensive course in editing for students who want practice in writing and want to focus on style and editing," Ruskiewicz said. The course will be taught by Sue Rodi, professor of English, and John Trimble, associate professor of English.

Computers and Writing will show students what new technology is available and teaches them how to use Internet and write software such as Hypertext and Storyspace. The course will be taught by Kermit Campbell, assistant professor of English.

"309M will be one of the most innovative writing courses taught in the country," said Lester Faigley, director of the division.

Rhetoric Theory and Analysis is an upper-division intensive course in reading and writing that examines modern theories of rhetoric in the new multicultural environment. The course will be taught by Campbell.

Not all of the courses being offered are new; Topics in Writing has been revamped to focus on practical writing skills.

"The new focus on rhetoric and composition in many of the new courses is only natural in light of the creation of the new division," said Thomas Buckley, a specialist in the division.

Faigley said the new and expanded courses are not a financial burden because the courses will be taught by current faculty. He said the division only added two new professors, Eberle and Syverson, to handle the expansion.