



English 7/8805 | Spring 2018

## Foundations of Writing Studies

Instructor: Dr. Will Duffy | Wednesdays, 5:30-8:30

This course considers the emergence of Writing Studies a multidisciplinary site where the study of composition, rhetoric, and technical communication overlap and inform one another when it comes to exploring the purposes, pedagogies, and technologies with and through which we understand the mechanics of written communication. The course will be divided into roughly three movements, one looking at the emergence of composition studies, the second focused more generally at rhetoric (from both English and Communication disciplinary perspectives), and the third focused on the work of professional and technical writing. Each of these movements will be organized around a set of general questions and the mapping of stakes—the “so what?” aspect of these areas of study. Readings will consist of both disciplinary overviews and selected case studies. The course will conclude with a look at how digital scholarship is transforming the study of writing across these three quadrants.

### Anticipated Course Texts:

- *A Teaching Subject: Composition Since 1966* (2012 Edition) by Joseph Harris
- *The Elephants Teach: Creative Writing Since 1880* by David Myers
- *Disciplinary Identities: Rhetorical Paths of English, Speech, and Communication* by Steven Mailloux
- *Solving Problems in Technical Communication* edited by Johndan Johnson-Eklöf and Stuart Selber
- *Rhetoric and the Digital Humanities* edited by Jim Ridolfo and William Hart-Davidson
- ...and various articles/chapters available as PDFs