Expository Writing

The English department offers required and elective courses in expository writing for all university students to help them improve their ability to write clearly and effectively. Students must fulfill the university writing requirement of two composition courses or be cleared according to established waiver and exemption policies. The requirement is Composition I (WR 121Z) and either Composition II (WR 122Z) or College Composition III (WR 123), or their approved equivalents. Students should complete the writing requirement—with course work, by exemption, or by waiver examination—early in their studies.

Exemptions

Scores of 37 or better on the new College Board SAT Reading and Writing tests waive the need to take Composition I (WR 121Z). No credit is given for this waiver. A score of 710 or better on the old SAT Critical Reading test (650 prior to 1995) or 32 or better on the ACT English test will also waive WR 121Z (without credit). A score of 3, 4, or 5 on the Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition Examination produces credit for WR 121Z.

Waiver Examinations

Waiver examinations for Composition I (WR 121Z) and Composition II (WR 122Z) are offered during the first week of classes, fall through spring terms, at the UO Testing Office, 238 University Health, Counseling, and Testing Center Building; call 541-346-3230. Visit the Testing Office website (https://testing.uoregon.edu/) to sign up for an examination. No credit is awarded for waiver examinations, and students may not take waiver examinations for both courses in the same term. The essay exams are graded pass/no pass by three members of the Department of English composition committee. Students who do not pass may not retake the examination and should register for the appropriate writing course as soon as possible. Students who pass the exam have an "exemption by exam" notation for either Composition I (WR 121Z) or Composition II (WR 122Z) placed on their degree audit. Waiver exams are not returned to students, nor are they used as a teaching device. Additional help and special tutoring are available to students through the University Teaching and Learning Center.

Placement

Students for whom English is the native language are placed in their first writing course based on their SAT or ACT verbal scores. Students whose scores fall below 26 on the new SAT Reading and Writing tests, below 480 on the old SAT Verbal, or below 19 on the ACT are eligible for concurrent enrollment in Writing Tutorial (WR 195) with Composition I (WR 121Z).

Nonnative Speakers

Students for whom English is not the native or primary language are placed in their first writing course on the basis of a placement test. These may include Introductory Academic Writing (AEIS 110), Intermediate Academic Writing (AEIS 111), and Advanced Academic Writing (AEIS 112) (taught in the Department of Linguistics). Placement tests are administered before registration. Nonnative speakers should inquire at the American English Institute, 107 Pacific Hall, for placement test dates.

Transfer Students

Transfer students in doubt about the equivalency of courses taken elsewhere should bring transcripts and catalog descriptions to the composition office, Department of English, for evaluation.

Faculty

Stacy Alaimo, professor (Environmental Humanities, Posthumanities/New Materialism, American Studies, Cultural Studies). BA, 1985, Gustavus Adolphus College; MA, 1986, University of Wisconsin, Madison; PhD, 1994, University of Illinois (2019)


Elizabeth A. Bohls, professor (18th-century literature), associate department head. BA, 1979, Mount Holyoke College; PhD, 1989, Stanford. (1998)


Ashley Cordes, assissant professor (Indigenous Studies, Digital Media, Environmental/Place-Based Storytelling, Critical/Cultural Studies). BA, 2010, Loyola, Marymount; MA 2012, Hawaii Pacific; PhD, 2019, Oregon. (2021)


Sophie Ell, instructor (composition). BA, 2004, California, Berkeley; MA, 2007


Cassandra Galentine, instructor (composition). BA, 2013, San Diego; MA 2016, Northern Arizona; PhD, 2023, Oregon. (2023)


Molly Hatay, instructor (composition). BA, 2010, San Diego State; MA, 2014; PhD, 2023, Oregon. (2023)

Salvador Herrera, assistant professor (English, Performance, Latinx). BA, 2018, Cornell; PhD, 2024, California, Los Angeles. (2024)


Stephanie Jones, assistant professor (Afrofuturist Feminisms, Black Feminist Rhetorical Studies, Digital Humanities). PhD, 2022, Syracuse. (2024)


Addison Koneval, instructor (composition). BA, 2016, Whitworth; MA, 2018, Oregon State; PhD, 2023, Ohio State. (2023)


Sarah Preston, instructor (composition). BA, 2005, Las Vegas; MA, San Diego State, 2014; PhD, 2023, Oregon. (2023)


Indigo Recker, instructor (composition). BA, 2013, Concordia; MA Carnegie Mellon, 2017; PhD, 2023, Duquesne University. (2023)


Ashley Cordes, assissant professor (Indigenous Studies, Digital Media, Environmental/Place-Based Storytelling, Critical/Cultural Studies). BA, 2010, Loyola, Marymount; MA 2012, Hawaii Pacific; PhD, 2019, Oregon. (2021)


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Salvador Herrera, assistant professor (English, Performance, Latinx). BA, 2018, Cornell; PhD, 2024, California, Los Angeles. (2024)


Angela Waddell, instructor (composition). BA, 1996, Cedarville University; MA, 2022, Oregon (2023)


Mark Whalan, professor (modern and 20th-century literature); Robert D. and Eve D. Horn Chair in English and American Literature. BA, 1995, Warwick; MA, 1996, Durham; PhD, 2002, Exeter. (2011)


Jenée Wilde, instructor (composition). BA, 1994, Boise State; MFA, 2003, Goddard College; PhD, 2015, Oregon (2016)


**Emeriti**


Warren Ginsberg, professor emeritus, Philip H. Knight Professor. MA, 1971, State University of New York, Stony Brook; PhD, 1975, Yale. (2000)


Ruth F. Jackson, senior instructor emerita. BA, 1929, MA, 1933, Oregon. (1955)


David Leilwei Li, Collins professor of the humanities emeritus. BA, 1982, Shanghai Foreign Languages Institute; MA, 1986, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; PhD, 1991, Texas, Austin. (1999)


William Rossi, professor emeritus. BA, 1972, MA, 1979, Missouri; PhD, 1986, Minnesota. (1989)


Louise Westling, professor emerita. BA, 1964, Randolph-Macon Woman’s; MA, 1965, Iowa; PhD, 1974, Oregon. (1985)

George Wickes, professor emeritus. BA, 1944, Toronto; MA, 1949, Columbia; PhD, 1954, California, Berkeley. (1970)

*The date in parentheses at the end of each entry is the first year on the University of Oregon faculty.*

**Participating**

David A. Frank, honors college

Michele James-Garcia, ethnic studies

Mat Johnson, creative writing
Sharon Luk, ethnic studies
Sarah Wald, environmental studies

Undergraduate Programs

Major - Bachelor's Degree

• English (BA) (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/english/ba-english/)

Minors

• Comics and Cartoon Studies (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/english/min-comics-cartoon/)
• English (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/english/min-english/)
• Digital Humanities (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/english/min-digital-humanities/)
• Disability Studies (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/english/min-disability-studies/)
• Writing, Public Speaking, and Critical Reasoning (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/english/min-wscr/)

Certificate

• Writing, Public Speaking, and Critical Reasoning (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/english/cert-wscr/)

Graduate Programs

Major - Master's Degree

• English (MA) (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/english/ma-english/)

Major - Doctoral Degree

• English (PhD) (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/english/phd-english/)

Specialization

• Politics, Culture, and Identity (http://catalog.uoregon.edu/arts-sciences/humanities/english/gradspec/)