



communicate

persuade

inspire

analyze

express

SDSU

San Diego State
University

**The Rhetoric
and Writing
Studies Major**

The Rhetoric and Writing Studies Major at San Diego State University

Rhetoric refers to the study and uses of written, spoken, and visual language in a variety of formats and media. The Rhetoric and Writing Studies major at San Diego State University — the first and only such major in the California State University system and in the San Diego region — aims to produce sophisticated writers and interpreters of texts whose analytical, communicative, and persuasive abilities will meet the demands of almost every twenty-first century profession, including business, law, marketing and advertising, politics, science, education, professional writing and more. The major also provides excellent preparation for graduate-level study in business, law, and a range of disciplines in the humanities and sciences. Students in the major study how persuasion



and meaning function in a wide variety of public and professional contexts, learning how to:

- **Communicate** and express ideas effectively;
- **Persuade** and **inspire** diverse audiences;
- **Analyze** and produce information, messages, and arguments in a range of media and technologies;
- **Express** a position clearly and ethically.

The Rhetoric and Writing Studies major is an ideal subject of study to combine with other majors or minors. Its small classes will facilitate meaningful interaction with faculty and it complements virtually any field of study or content area.

The prerequisites for the RWS major consist of the General Education lower division writing requirements (RWS 100 and RWS 200, for example) and RWS 250 (Rhetoric in Everyday Life). (RWS 250 also satisfies a General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning, Humanities.) The major is comprised of a minimum of 30 units in RWS. Five core courses (15 units) are required:

- RWS 410** Rhetoric and Culture;
- RWS 411** Digital Rhetorics;
- RWS 498** Seminar: Writing and Research;
- RWS 500W** Advanced Writing Strategies **or**
- RWS 503W** Professional Writing;
- RWS 506** Internship

The remaining five courses (15 units), selected by students to suit their career goals, are chosen from electives in RWS, including:

- RWS 360** Rhetoric of Sustainability
- RWS 412** Issues in Gender and Rhetoric
- RWS 413** The Rhetoric of Comics
- RWS 414** Rhetoric in Visual Culture
- RWS 415** The Craft of Writing Rhetorically
- RWS 496** Topics in Rhetoric and Writing Studies
- RWS 500W** Advanced Writing Strategies (if not taken for the core)
- RWS 501** Editing
- RWS 503W** Professional Writing (if not taken for the core)
- RWS 504** Advanced Professional Writing
- RWS 507** Professional Communication in Nonprofit Organizations
- RWS 508W** Scientific Writing
- RWS 509** Teaching Composition in Secondary Schools
- RWS 512** Writing Center Practice, Research, and Theory
- RWS 543** Rhetoric of Visual Composing
- RWS 596** Special Topics in Rhetoric and Writing Studies



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