WRITING PROGRAM

Department Website:
https://www.haverford.edu/writing-program

As a vital part of academic study, personal expression, and civic life, writing merits concerted attention in a liberal arts education. The Writing Program, affiliated with the College Writing Center, encourages students to become rigorous thinkers and writers who can construct arguments that matter, craft prose that resonates with their intended audience, and understand how inextricable writing is from learning.

Learning Goals
Students will:

• become rigorous thinkers and writers who can construct arguments that matter, craft prose that resonates with their intended audience, and understand writing to describe and define both learning and knowledge.

• explore a particular theme or field of study while emphasizing writing as a means of inquiry, analysis, and persuasion.

• analyze readings, engage in discussion, and work on all aspects of academic writing, from constructing thoughtful arguments to crafting an effective prose style.

• advance critical reading and analytical writing skills, and explore the broad range of thematic interests inherent in these traditions, sharing as they do common roots in the history of our language and its influences.

• develop the vocabulary, skills, and knowledge necessary to understand not only how to decide what texts mean, but how texts generate and contemplate meaning.

• engage with different exercises in speaking with the understanding that this is a rhetoric commensurate with writing in demonstrating sustained critical inquiry.

Haverford’s Institutional Learning Goals are available on the President’s website, at http://hav.to/learninggoals.

Curriculum
The Writing Program administers the first-year writing seminars, which all first-year students take. Taught by faculty from across the College, the first-year writing seminars explore a particular theme or field of study while emphasizing writing as a means of inquiry, analysis, and persuasion.

The intensive writing seminars (WSI) prepare students who need extra exposure to academic writing.

Seminar topics reflect the range of expertise of the faculty, and small classes encourage close student-faculty interaction. In each course, participants analyze readings, engage in discussion, and work on all aspects of academic writing, frequently in small tutorial groups, from constructing thoughtful arguments to crafting an effective prose style. Students can expect to write frequent, short essays as well as other kinds of informal writing assignments during the semester.

A list of seminars for each incoming class is posted on the Writing Programs website each June, along with information about how incoming students are to register for them.

Creative writing courses are listed under the English Department.

Faculty
Eli Anders
Visiting Assistant Professor of Writing and Writing Fellow

Susannah Bien-Gund
Visiting Instructor of Writing

Jennifer Evans
Visiting Assistant Professor in the Writing Program

Barbara Hall
Visiting Lecturer of Writing; Multilingual and Developmental Writing Specialist; Chesick Program Academic Year Director

Nimisha Ladva
Visiting Assistant Professor of Writing; Oral Communication Specialist

Emma Lapsansky-Werner
Professor Emeritus of History

Debora Sherman
Assistant Professor of English; Director of Writing Program

Terry Snyder
Visiting Associate Professor of Writing

Theresa Tensuan
Visiting Assistant Professor of Writing

Rosetta Young
Visiting Assistant Professor of Writing Program and Writing Fellow
Affiliated Faculty

Stephen Finley
Professor of English

Myron Gray
Visiting Assistant Professor of Music

Andrew Janco
Digital Scholarship Librarian

Kristin Lindgren
Visiting Assistant Professor of Independent College Programs and Health Studies

Rajeswari Mohan
Associate Professor of English

Judith Owen
The Elizabeth Ufford Green Professor of Natural Sciences; Professor of Biology

Reema Rajbanshi
Visiting Assistant Professor of English

Hannah Silverblank
Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics

Sarah Watson
Visiting Assistant Professor of English

Christina Zwarg
Professor of English

Courses

WRPR H101 FINDING A VOICE: IDENTITY, ENVIRONMENT, AND INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY (1.0 Credit)
Nimisha Ladva
Division: First Year Writing
This course considers students fluid relationship to identities that they examine, explore, and take on through course materials. We begin by examining how difference is perceived/obscured/challenged and/or bridged in constructions of identity. We then consider how identities exist in the physical environment and how environment affects these identities. The different positions that experts have taken serves as a model, finally, for students to enter another scholarly debate within an area of interest in a possible prospective major. Open only to members of the first-year class as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H118 PORTRAITS OF DISABILITY AND DIFFERENCE (1.0 Credit)
Kristin Lindgren
Division: First Year Writing

Rosemarie Garland-Thomson writes that “staring is an interrogative gesture that asks what’s going on and demands the story. The eyes hang on, working to recognize what seems illegible, order what seems unruly, know what seems strange.” In this seminar we will explore visual and literary portraits and self-portraits of bodies marked by difference, bodies that often elicit stares. We will ask: What kinds of stories are told about these bodies? How do memoirs and self-portraits by people with disabilities draw on and challenge traditions of life writing and portraiture? How does this work enlarge cultural and aesthetic views of embodiment, disability, and difference? Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H122 WRITING IN PUBLIC HEALTH (1.0 Credit)
Judith Owen
Division: First Year Writing

This is a first-year writing seminar. Does not count toward the Biology major. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H150 APPROACHES TO LITERARY ANALYSIS (1.0 Credit)
Debora Sherman, Reema Rajbanshi, Sarah Watson
Division: First Year Writing

Intended like other sections of the Writing Program to advance students’ critical reading and analytical writing skills, this course is geared specifically towards introducing students to the discipline that studies the literary traditions of the English language. One of its aims is to explore the broad range of thematic interests inherent in these traditions, sharing as they do common roots in the history of our language and its influences. The powers and limits of language; ideas of character and community, and the relation between person and place; heroic endeavor and the mystery of evil; loss and renovation these are among the themes to be tracked through various strategies of literary representation and interpretation in a variety of genres (epic, narrative, and poetry) and modes (realism, allegory, and romance), and across a range of historical periods. Our goal is to develop the vocabulary, skills, and knowledge necessary to understand not only how we decide what literary texts mean, but also how literary texts generate and contemplate meaning. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)
WRPR H155  DRAWING THE LINE: ORIGIN STORIES AND GRAPHIC NARRATIVE  (1.0 Credit)
Theresa Tensuan
Division: First Year Writing
Pre-requisite: Haverford students only

WRPR H155B  ORIGIN STORIES: INITIATIONS, IDENTITIES, AND INDIGENOUS IMAGINATION  (1.0 Credit)
Theresa Tensuan
Division: First Year Writing
In this course we will read a range of origin stories--creation narratives, memoirs, alter/native accounts of settler colonialism, and trickster tales--that delineate constructions of identity and constitutions of community with a focus on the ways in which writers and artists represent ongoing “encounters” between indigenous and imperial cultures, examining inventive work that play with genres ranging from the lyric to the epic to speculative fiction as a means of offering new ways of understanding history and imagining the future. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Spring 2020)

WRPR H156  GOOD GUYS & GALS? QUAKER IMAGERY IN FICTION  (1.0 Credit)
Emma Lapsansky-Werner
Division: First Year Writing
What have been the literary uses of Quaker ideas and images in fiction? How have these changed over time? Here on the Haverford campus, with its Quaker heritage and traditions, is housed perhaps the largest collection of Quaker novels anywhere in the world, fiction by or about Quakers, often populated with characters whose Quakerliness is designed to evoke a certain mood, message, or subtext. For some authors, Quakers became stand-ins for virtue. For others, the Quaker image is of the troublemaker, the nay-sayer, the haughty, unbending zealot. In this course we will read excerpts from an array of Quaker fiction. Then, through class discussions, written essays, and through considering each others writing, students will explore how commentators have interpreted the meaning of “Quakerness” in literature.” Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H162  IMMIGRATION AND REPRESENTATION  (1.0 Credit)
Nimisha Ladva
Division: First Year Writing
In examining the questions raised by acts of migration across borders or countries, we will examine the assumptions that create community and conflict in the immigrant experience both in the US and abroad. We will read essays, short stories, and a novel or two that help showcase the rich diversity of the immigrant experience. To help ground our exploration, we will read theoretical texts that examine how identities are formed and policed across and within communities. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Spring 2020)

WRPR H164  MATERIALITY AND SPECTACLE IN NINETEENTH CENTURY UNITED STATES  (1.0 Credit)
Terry Snyder
Division: First Year Writing
Spectacles reflect, influence, and change cultural experiences, meaning, and understanding. This course will consider the materiality of spectacular nineteenth century US events through critical examination of historical accounts, primary research, and close readings of objects. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.

WRPR H167  GLOBALIZATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY  (1.0 Credit)
Barbara Hall
Division: First Year Writing
We will define and explore global interconnectedness from multiple disciplinary perspectives - political, economic, etc. - but will focus primarily on various complex social and cultural dimensions of globalization including local/global tensions, Westernization, cultural borrowing, cultural imperialism, cultural exploitation, tourism, and pop culture (music, movies, etc.), as analyzed in ethnographies set in various locations around the world. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

WRPR H175  WOMEN’S WORK  (1.0 Credit)
Division: First Year Writing
A literary history of women's work and women workers, investigating questions such as: Is femininity itself a form of labor? How can a demand for wages enable a political reorientation? And if work feels good, or happiness feels like work? Open only to members of Haverford’s first-year class as assigned by the Director of College Writing.

WRPR H176  ARE YOU WHAT YOU EAT? EATING AND IDENTITY  (1.0 Credit)
Staff
Division: First Year Writing
Investigates the complex relationship between food and identity; engages food practices that can unite...
families, consolidate ethnic identity, reinforce class boundaries, and express gender; asks whether food can assert contemporaneity or materialize nostalgia for an idealized agrarian past. Open only to members of Haverford's first-year class as assigned by the Director of College Writing.

WRPR H178 BEASTS, HYBRIDS, AND GIANTS: CONFRONTING MONSTERS FROM THE PAST (1.0 Credit)
Hannah Silverblank
Division: First Year Writing
Figurations of the monster in different literary and artistic traditions, from Greek literature to Gothic fiction and horror cinema. Considers the status of the monster, sometimes a source of horror, of reverence, of disgust, of humor, and even of endearment. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H179 TIME AFTER TIME: QUEER PASTS, PRESENTS, AND FUTURES (1.0 Credit)
Staff
Division: First Year Writing
This course introduces students to the many ways queer lives and theories challenge normative conceptions of linear time. We will encounter queers feeling backward, growing sideways, and refusing normative futurity in a variety of literary, filmic, and theoretical texts. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.

WRPR H180 HUMANITARIANISM IN THEORY AND PRACTICE (1.0 Credit)
Andrew Janco
Division: First Year Writing
In this course, we will study the ideas, practices, and politics of humanitarian action. We’ll begin with the origins of humanitarian values in various religious and philosophical traditions: what is the value of human life? What is human dignity? We’ll then turn to changing attitudes towards violence, torture and slavery in the 17th and 18th centuries. Why and how did these changes occur? We’ll study key texts, figures and organizations, including the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) as well the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Near East Relief. In dialogue with these philosophical and historical experiences, we will study current humanitarian crises. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.

WRPR H181 THE GENIUS OF MOZART (1.0 Credit)
Myron Gray
Division: First Year Writing
This course considers the historical evolution of the concept of artistic genius in connection with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's life, works, and representation in literature and film. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.

WRPR H182 THE AMERICAN FAMILY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE (1.0 Credit)
Emma Lapsansky-Werner
Division: First Year Writing
Explores values, and stresses, as interfaced with realities of “family,” e.g., Native American, Hispanic, African American; Protestant, Jewish, Mormon and Catholic, North, South and West, over time: rituals of birth, marriage, illness, disability; expectations of family "loyalty." Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H184 QUEER CONTEMPORARY ART (1.0 Credit)
Division: First Year Writing
This course examines a global range of contemporary artists who resist dominant modes of visual representation by investigating what it means to produce a queer aesthetic. How does a visual object enact queerness? How is this visual logic indebted to feminist, postcolonial, and critical race theories while also inflecting them anew? And what is the role of the image in inciting social change? This course explores, defines, and reassesses terms and various historical, political, and social developments around sexuality, gender, desire, HIV/AIDS, heteronormativity, homonormativity, and homonationalism, animating our visual literacy around what constitutes a queer gaze. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Spring 2020)

WRPR H185 LANGUAGE, POWER, AND JUSTICE (1.0 Credit)
Barbara Hall
Division: First Year Writing
This seminar explores a variety of controversies involving the use of the English language in social and cultural context. Across the course, we will emphasize the experiences and consequences of linguistic diversity for variously positioned speakers and writers. Our inquiry will engage the following questions while surely provoking new ones. How is language related to power? How does language use express or indicate a speaker’s identity? What kinds of language are stigmatized and what kinds are deemed “correct” or socially powerful, and why? In what ways is language inherently political--i.e. embedded within and constituent of unequal power
relations--and how might we choose to navigate the implications of our language use? How might language be a tool for inclusion or empowerment for marginalized communities, or a tool for seeking social justice? Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.

WRPR H187 SEEING THROUGH DIASPORA (1.0 Credit)
Staff
Division: First Year Writing
This course treats migration as a political condition and considers the role of the visual in enacting and translating such realities to a larger audience. Students will assess theories of diaspora and transnationalism alongside experiences of human mobility (such as immigration but also indenture, dispossession, exilehood, and trafficking) to examine how the formal elements of artworks from the 20th and 21st centuries narrate and reshape these positionalities anew. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H188 EPIDEMICS AND SOCIETY (1.0 Credit)
Eli Anders
Division: First Year Writing
An examination of the ways epidemics are shaped by society, culture, and popular representation, using historical sources to explore the politics of disease narratives and how class, race, and identity influence responses to epidemics. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H189 HEALTH AND THE CITY (1.0 Credit)
Eli Anders
Division: First Year Writing
An examination of cities as sites of public health concern and intervention in modern history. European and American historical sources will illuminate how health concerns have shaped the meanings, experiences, and responses to disparate urban spaces and populations. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Spring 2020)

WRPR H190 WRITING ABOUT PERFORMANCE (1.0 Credit)
Division: First Year Writing
This course introduces students to the craft of writing in the discipline of performance studies--learning to write critically and creatively about theater, dance, performance art, film, and social practice. Students also study relevant models of performance scholarship emerging from the field. Prerequisite(s): First-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.

WRPR H191 CONSTRUCTIONS OF RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE CLASSICAL WORLD (1.0 Credit)
Hannah Silverblank
Division: First Year Writing
Constructions of ideas of race and ethnicity in classical literature with attention to critical race theory. Prerequisite(s): First-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Spring 2020)

WRPR H192 PHOTOGRAPHY AND EMPIRE (1.0 Credit)
Staff
Division: First Year Writing
Given photography’s emergence at the zenith of empire, which narratives and representations has the medium legitimized? Beginning with its inception in 1939 to contemporary art’s feverish engagement with archival material, this course maps the impact of colonial ideology on documentation, style, and aesthetics, alongside its undermining. Prerequisite(s): First-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.

WRPR H193 SLAVERY IN ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME (1.0 Credit)
Jennifer Evans
Division: First Year Writing
This course will explore slavery as a social, political, legal, economic and cultural institution in both the Greek and Roman worlds. Prerequisite(s): Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H195 MULTILINGUALISM AND MULTILINGUAL IDENTITIES (1.0 Credit)
Susannah Bien-Gund
Division: First Year Writing
This course is designed to prepare first year students to read as writers, write as readers, and hone analytical and argumentative capacity by investigating the benefits and challenges for multilingualism in diverse communities and contexts, primarily within the United States. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)
WRPR H196  LATIN AMERICAN LANDSCAPES IN LITERATURE, VISUAL ART, AND FILM (1.0 Credit)
Division: First Year Writing
This writing seminar introduces students to Latin American culture (literature, film, visual art, architecture) through a typology of spatial forms central to the continent’s identity: terra (in)cognita, town and country, the formal and informal city, border, network, and utopia. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H197  SOUND COUNSEL: NARRATIVE, ADVICE, AND THE HISTORY OF SELF-HELP (1.0 Credit)
Rosetta Young
Division: First Year Writing
In this first-year writing seminar, we will study which genres offer sound counsel, reading novels, letters, stories, non-fiction essays, advice columns, self-help, pop songs, and podcasts. We will consider the relationship between the art of persuasion, rhetoric, and the essay. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Fall 2019)

WRPR H198  ARTS OF EXTRACTION: latin american representations of environmental injustice (1.0 Credit)
Staff
Division: First Year Writing
In this seminar, students will practice writing as a process of thinking on the page in dialogue with others to explore the affordances of the arts for representing the interrelation of capitalist exploitation and environmental collapse in Latin America. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Spring 2020)

WRPR H199  CHILDHOOD AND CHILDREN’S LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)
Rosetta Young
Division: First Year Writing
Reading children’s literature as well as toys, games, and dolls from the eighteenth century to the present, this first-year writing seminar considers how ideas of childhood have evolved over time in American and British culture. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.
(Offered: Spring 2020)