

Graduate Work in Rhetoric and Writing Studies at the University of California, Irvine

The Departments of English and Comparative Literature invite applications for their Ph.D. programs from students interested in Rhetoric and Writing Studies, including histories and theories of rhetoric, writing studies, new media, and rhetorics of social difference.

Applicants who have worked with literature or rhetoric in a language other than English should apply to the program in Comparative Literature. Those who would like to ground a study of rhetoric in readings of British or American literature may apply for Ph.D. work in English.

In each program, students have considerable freedom to develop examination lists and dissertation topics based in rhetoric and composition broadly construed. All students may take courses in either department and in others such as Education, Philosophy, and Anthropology. Graduate students are also invited to take rhetoric and writing courses at other UCs in the area (UC San Diego, UC Riverside). A common ground for graduate students in English and Comparative Literature is the teaching of composition. In preparation, students take a seminar in Rhetoric and the Teaching of Composition then teach first-year students in a range of writing and reading courses. After comprehensive exams, students may propose courses in advanced writing, work in the writing center, or apply for administrative work in the office of the Campus Writing Coordinator (CWC). Our students benefit from connections with UCI's cross-disciplinary programs such as Visual Studies, the Graduate Feminist Emphasis, and the Critical Theory Emphasis, as well as interdisciplinary departments such as African American, Asian American, and Women's Studies.

Graduate students regularly present papers individually and collaboratively at 4Cs, RSA, and other national and regional conferences. Two collaborative writing studies have originated at UCI, and in May 2012, graduate students in rhetoric and writing studies organized the First Annual Southern California Rhetoric and Composition Research Symposium, attended by over 50 faculty and graduate students from the region. The newly opened UCI Center for Excellence in Writing and Communication (<http://www.writing.uci.edu/writingcenter.html>) will offer more opportunities for writing research.

UCI provides an intellectually exciting atmosphere, featuring visiting lectures from internationally known scholars in the humanities, and informal reading and writing groups. We have recently offered colloquia on comparative rhetorics, longitudinal writing studies, and writing and technology.

Recent Graduate Seminars

Ancient Greek Rhetoric

19-century American Rhetoric and Religion

Public Sphere Theory

21st-century Composition Studies

World Englishes

Rhetoric, Empire, and Public Memory

Composing the Avant-garde

Subject, Event, Theology

Composing Virtuality
Rhetoric of Cognition

Recent Dissertation Topics

Katherine Mack, "A Generative Failure: The Public Hearings of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission"

Alexandra Sartor, "Written in Water: The Rhetorical Protests of the Owens Valley Water Wars"

Paul Dahlgren, "Genteel Community: Rhetoric, Poetics, Political Theology, and the Phi Beta Kappa Ceremony at Harvard (1782-1876)"

I-Lien Tsay, "'No Animals Were Harmed': The Rhetoric of the Animal Actor and Animal Rights"

Loren Eason, "Figments under Fire: Identity and the Transmedial Rhetoric of Combat in Film and Military Shooter Games"

Abraham Romney, "Latin American Rhetoric: From Civilization to Modernity"

Current graduate students are working on projects in service learning, Jesuit rhetoric, translation theory and pragmatics, teaching writing in prisons, and writing pedagogy in electronic environments.

For more information, contact **core faculty**:

Jonathan Alexander, jfalexan@uci.edu (Writing Studies; Composition/Rhetoric; New Media Studies; Sexuality Studies)

Daniel M. Gross, dgross@uci.edu (Histories and Theories of Rhetoric; Early Modern literature and Culture; Heidegger and Rhetoric)

Susan C. Jarratt, sjarratt@uci.edu (Ancient Rhetorics; Contemporary Rhetorical Theory; Feminism and Rhetorical Analysis; Writing Studies)

Steven Mailloux, Emeritus, sjmaillo@uci.edu (faculty at Loyola Marymount University) (History and Theories of Rhetoric; Contemporary Critical Theory; U.S. Cultural Studies)

Detailed information about the programs and application processes are available on the department websites:

for Comparative Literature: <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/complit/>

for English: <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/english/>