

Boston University

College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program

Spring 2010

Program Guide and Course Catalog

We regularly update this catalog online at
www.bu.edu/cas/writing.

The College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program Program Guide and Course Catalog, Spring 2010

Contents

I.	Introduction to the Writing Program	2
	A. The goals of the Writing Program	2
	B. Writing Seminars (WR100) and Writing and Research Seminars (WR150)	2
	C. The CAS Writing Center	3
II.	Writing Program courses: brief descriptions	3
III.	Placement into Writing Program courses	4
IV.	Registering for Writing Program courses	4
V.	Course descriptions for WR100 and WR150	5
VI.	Course topics arranged by category	25
	Genre Seminars	25
	Seminars in American Literature	25
	Seminars in Comparative Literature	26
	Seminars in English and Anglophone Literature	26
	Seminars in History	26
	Seminars in Philosophy	27
	Seminars in Religion and Literature	27
	Seminars in Technology and Society	27
	Seminars in the Fine Arts	27
	Seminars in the Natural Sciences	27
	Seminars in the Social Sciences	28
	Seminars in Values and Institutions	28
	Seminars in World Literature	28
	Seminars on New England or Boston Themes	28
VII.	Schedule of courses	30
VIII	WR equivalents in other departments and programs	36
IX	Writing Program administration and staff	37
X.	The CAS Writing Center	37

I. Introduction to the Writing Program

A. The goals of the Writing Program

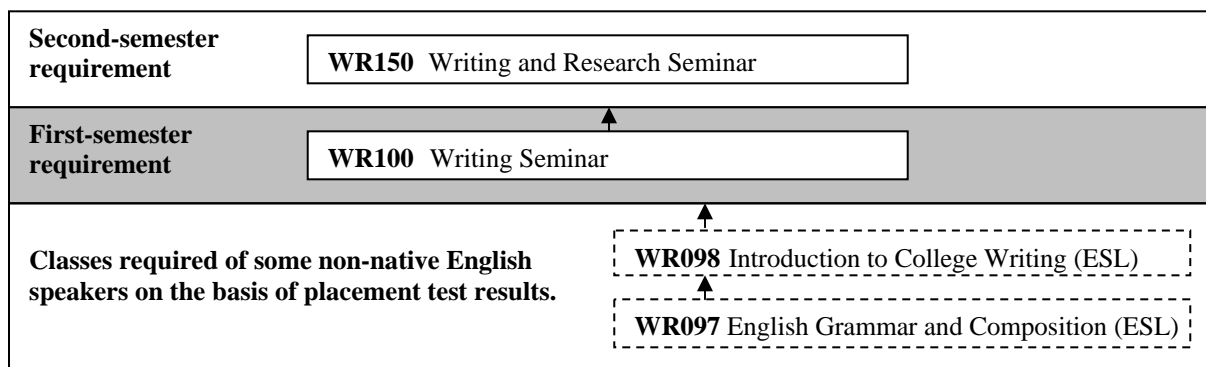
Most students enter Boston University with a sound background in reading, writing, and speaking at the high school level. Some, indeed, excelled in these areas. Nevertheless, the challenges that students face at the college level are different. Readings are longer, more numerous, and more difficult. Writing assignments are more complex—keyed to the demands of writing across diverse fields and disciplines. Class discussion and formal presentations are more integral to the pursuit of knowledge.

The CAS Writing Program aims to help students acquire skills and habits of mind essential to their full participation in the intellectual life of the university. Specifically, it aims to help them read challenging works with comprehension and critical discernment, to write cogently and persuasively, and to speak their minds with eloquence. Although the program’s writing seminars (WR100 and WR150) differ in their topics and content, they share common goals and lead students through a common sequence of assignments. These assignments build upon each other, providing a context for steady improvement. All seminars stress academic argumentation, standard edited American English, effective prose style, and the process of revision.

B. Writing Seminars (WR100) and Writing and Research Seminars (WR150)

The Writing Program curriculum is based upon the view that every Boston University freshman should have the opportunity to enroll in one or two small seminars taught by experienced teachers of writing on a topic of their mutual interest. Writing Seminars (WR100) and Writing and Research Seminars (WR150) allow Boston University students to satisfy their writing requirement(s) through seminars directly relevant to their intended majors and through courses that explore new areas of interest.

WR100 focuses upon primary works and satisfies the first writing requirement throughout Boston University; WR150 adds a semester-long emphasis on library and internet research and satisfies the second writing requirement in CAS and other schools and colleges that have a two-semester writing requirement. Some students may require introductory work in composition prior to the first writing seminar.



C. The CAS Writing Center, 730 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 301

The CAS Writing Center offers one-on-one and group tutorials free of charge to any and every student enrolled in Writing Program courses. The Writing Center is also the location of the administrative offices of the Writing Program.

Every classroom teacher will do his or her best to individualize instruction to your needs and will meet with you at least twice during the semester in office conferences. In addition you will have the opportunity to work independently

with experienced tutors in the CAS Writing Center. Tutors work in consultation with classroom instructors. You will be urged by your teachers to consult tutors often during the semester, especially when you are revising drafts of your essays.

The Writing Center's hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 7:30 pm and Friday 9:00 am to 5:15 pm. While the Writing Center accepts walk-in visits, you are strongly encouraged to make an appointment in advance. Because of the high demand for consultations, students are limited to one reservation per week. You may schedule a session online at www.bu.edu/cas/writing/tutoring.html.

You may also schedule a session in person at the CAS Writing Center or by calling 617-358-1500. Cancellations must be made at least 12 hours in advance.

II. Writing Program courses: brief descriptions

CAS WR095: Writing Tutorial (ESL only)

Required weekly group tutorial for students who are deemed by the Writing Program to need intensive assistance in reading comprehension and prose mechanics. WR095 is to be taken concurrently with WR097. No credit, either semester.

CAS WR096: Writing Tutorial (non-ESL)

Required weekly group tutorial for students who are deemed by the Writing Program to need intensive assistance in reading comprehension and prose mechanics. When necessary, WR096 is to be taken concurrently with 100 or 150. No credit, either semester.

CAS WR097: English Grammar and Composition (ESL only)

Prereq: Placement test results. Basics of English composition: organization of paragraphs and short essays. Includes review of grammar and prose mechanics. Intensive reading for vocabulary development with practice in summarizing and paraphrasing. Frequent short papers in and out of class. Individual conferences. 4 credits, either semester.

CAS WR098: Introduction to College Reading and Writing in English (ESL only)

Prereq: WR097 or placement test results. Emphasis on analytical and persuasive writing. Intensive study of prose mechanics and essay structure. Grammar and punctuation: patterns for composing sentences and paragraphs; proper citation of sources in support of a thesis. Extensive reading, including one long reading and works that exemplify a variety of styles. Individual conferences. 4 credits, either semester.

CAS WR100: Writing Seminar

Imaginative engagement through reading and writing with a theme or topic in literature, thought, and society. Emphasis on assimilation of challenging readings into essays that are clear, accurate, persuasive, and engaging. Practice in classroom discussion of ideas and refinement of speaking skills. Special attention to comparison and synthesis. Individual conferences. 4 credits, either semester.

CAS WR150: Writing and Research Seminar

Prereq: WR100. Imaginative engagement through reading and writing with a theme or topic in literature, thought, and society. Emphasis on research techniques, including the location, evaluation, and synthesis of secondary sources. Special attention to the role of evidence in persuasive writing. Assignments include oral presentations and two research papers. 4 credits, either semester.

CAS WR202: Children's Literature in the Elementary School (SED juniors and seniors only)

An introduction to the world of children's literature. We will study classics and exemplary modern works of the genre, with a particular focus on literary techniques, diverse cultures, and gender. Covers children's literature recommended by *Massachusetts English Language Arts Framework* (2001). 2 credits, either semester.

III. Placement into Writing Program courses

The Writing Program is committed to ensuring that all students receive appropriate instruction and support. Students who were required to submit TOEFL scores as part of their applications for admission will be placed into WR097, WR098, or WR100 based on their TOEFL scores and their performance on a placement test developed by the Writing Program. This test will be administered during Summer Orientation to incoming freshmen. It will also be administered during the registration period of each semester. We recognize that there may be some students who were not required to submit TOEFL scores but whose primary language is not English. Any such student may request a placement assessment from the Writing Program by emailing writing@bu.edu.

Students whose primary language is English will be placed into WR100. Some of these students may also be required to take WR096 or to attend individual tutoring sessions through the Writing Program's Writing Center. Because WR100 and WR150 are a coherent sequence of courses, students will not be exempted from WR100, except in the case of transfer credit.

IV. Registering for Writing Program courses

Registration for Writing Program courses occurs during pre-registration periods in Fall and Spring semesters and during Summer Orientation. **The final deadline for adding or changing all Spring 2010 WR courses is Wednesday, January 20, 2010.** Please note that this deadline is nearly one week earlier than the deadline for most other departments at Boston University.

Transfer students may apply to have external credits evaluated for WR equivalency by submitting a transfer credit application form and a detailed syllabus of the external course to the CAS Writing Center at 730 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 301.

Some writing seminars are offered in both WR100 and WR150 formats. While students are welcome to stay with the same theme from semester to semester, completion of the WR100 version of a topic is not a prerequisite for enrollment in its WR150 counterpart.

Some CAS departments have begun to offer courses that satisfy WR100 and WR150. These are identified in the course descriptions and the course schedule, with directions for enrollment.

Please direct inquiries to writing@bu.edu.