

English Composition 98TW: Discipline-Based Research and Writing

General Course Description

In sections of this Writing II course, undergraduates engage in course-based research and/or creative work within the instructor's discipline and develop a substantive written or multimodal project. Students gain knowledge of research design, analytical methods, and communication practices used in the discipline. Students will also develop their writing practice through frequent writing-to-learn exercises and scaffolding of the writing process (including prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing) with a focus on connections between researching, reading, and writing. Topics vary but all sections aim to inspire the next generation of researchers and creative practitioners in the discipline, preparing undergraduates for more advanced research and creative experiences at UCLA and helping to demystify pathways to graduate study.

This course is five units and is offered for a letter grade. Students can anticipate spending 3 hours per week in class and 12 hours per week on course work outside of class time. Upon completion of the class with a grade of C or better, students will satisfy the Writing II requirement.

General Learning Objectives

1. Students will gain knowledge of research design, analytical methods, and written and/or multimodal communication practices used in a specific discipline.
2. Students will read strategically and critically interpret academic and popular sources.
3. Students will synthesize research to serve a relevant purpose for communicating within the discipline (whether argumentative, informative, or other).
4. Students will develop, draft, and revise a substantive written or multimodal research or creative project by drawing on feedback from peers and the instructor.
5. Students will develop skills that support entry into and persistence in academic research and writing and explore fields of potential graduate study.
6. Students will learn to communicate their research/creative projects to peers in class and will be invited to share their work more broadly through outlets such as UCLA's Undergraduate Research and Creative Showcase.

NOTE: As this is a variable topics course, individual seminars will have more specific titles, descriptions, and learning objectives that ground the broad learning goals above in the context of the instructor's discipline. See the enclosed syllabi as examples of the types of courses that could be offered under this course number. All of these sample courses were led by CUTF fellows in recent years and were approved by the Writing II committee. At the time when these 98TW courses were taught, they were housed in each fellows' home department, but such courses would be ideal variable topics for ENG COMP 98TW.

Sample Syllabus 1: Hands on Exo-Planet Astronomy (ASTR 98TW)

Sample Syllabus 2: Inclusive Teaching for Students with Disabilities (EDUC 98TW)

Sample Syllabus 3: Performing Multiracialism (WAC 98TW)