

Writing Centres, Writing Seminars, Writing Culture

Writing Instruction in Anglo-Canadian Universities

Eds. Roger Graves, Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, University of Alberta
Heather Graves, University of Alberta

Looking Forward

Afterword/Response

Afterword/Response: Russ Hunt, St. Thomas University, "Writing Under the Curriculum."

The Growth of Writing Studies in Canada 1980-2006

<http://media.campus.mcgill.ca/misc/doreenroger.wmv>
Slides for this presentation (pdf)

Writing around the Curriculum

- This study is a follow-up to R. Graves' 1994 publication of study of writing programs in Canada, *Writing Instruction in Canadian Universities*
- That study showed that writing was taught across the curriculum in faculties as diverse as, Arts, Continuing Education, Law, Agriculture and Forestry, Engineering, Commerce/Business, and Science
- At Queen's University, for example, writing courses were offered in Applied Science/Engineering, Law, and Arts
- At the University of Saskatchewan, writing courses were offered in Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering, Law, Pharmacy, and Physical Education
- Conclusions: These courses were the result of unplanned curriculum development and could be strengthened by university-wide Writing Across the Curriculum or Writing in the Disciplines programs

Looking Back: 1850-1970

Canadian Identity and History

Nan Johnson, "Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the Canadian Academy: An Historical Analysis."
• study of rhetoric in Anglo-Canadian universities such as Dalhousie, McGill, and Toronto tied to the development of writing ability, development of Taste/sensibility, and inculcation of British values

Henry Hubert and Will Garrett-Petts, "The Rhetoric of 'Intelligent Recreation': An Historical Narrative of English Studies in Canada."
• late-Victorian idealism and Canadian nationalism combined to reject rhetoric from Canadian curriculum in English departments

Kevin Brooks, "National Culture and the First-year English Curriculum: An Historical Study of 'Composition' in Canadian Universities."
• "Composition" derided as culturally American in the 1960s and so dismissed from Canadian undergraduate curriculum as enrollments surge

Current Practices

1. Dale Jacobs and Jay Dolmage, "Engagement, Integration, Collaboration: Composition at the University of Windsor."
2. Diana Wegner, "The Growing Occupation of Professional Writing in Academic Spaces: Combinations of Theory and Practice."
3. Doug Brent, University of Calgary, "Same Roots, Different Soil: Rhetoric in a Communications Studies Program."
4. Jennifer MacLennan, U of Saskatchewan, "What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This? A Rhetorician in the College of Engineering."
5. Robert Irish, U of Toronto, "Forging the Teachable Moment: Developing Communication in an across an Engineering Curriculum."
6. Ron Sheese, John Spencer, Jan Rehner, Tom Greenwald, Phyllis Rozendal, York University, "Independent Writing Programmes at York University."
7. Brian Turner and Judith Kearns, U of Winnipeg, "Into the Future: A Prairie Writing Program Extends its Tradition."
8. Margaret Procter, U of Toronto, "University of Toronto: An Overview of Recent Developments in Writing Instruction."

