

literacy & rhetorical studies

an interdisciplinary graduate minor

Literacy Studies is essential for understanding the consequences of changing literacies. We make meaning, connect with others, take action, contest language ideologies, and transform our worlds through literacy.

—Cynthia Lewis, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction

Every discipline depends upon persuasive communication. The meta-discipline that offers the tools to understand how persuasion occurs in a variety of contexts is — and has always been — **Rhetorical Studies**.

—John Logie, Associate Professor of Writing Studies

The interdisciplinary graduate minor in Literacy and Rhetorical Studies (LRS) offers graduate students opportunities to interrogate issues related to writing and literacy, and to do so with faculty members drawn from disciplines across the University.

Students enrolled in this minor craft individualized programs that will complement their degree programs and open new perspectives for scholarship and teaching. LRS students' specific literacy-related interests have included (but are not limited to) historical, feminist, and cultural analysis of literacy and rhetoric; theories and practices of writing pedagogy; reading and writing in non-academic settings; and effects of technology on literacy practice.

Contact

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Graduate Minors: A Good Idea

A graduate minor develops specific subfields that support and expand your departmental major. Although the Graduate School does not require students to choose a minor, a minor fulfills the supporting field requirement. When included on a CV or transcript, a minor clearly communicates areas of specialty and expertise.

LRS: A Customizable Minor

The LRS Minor requires coursework and a writing project.

Coursework: three courses for a Master's Minor, four for a Doctoral Minor, including one course in each of the following areas of literacy and rhetorical studies:

- historical perspectives
- theory, practice, or pedagogy
- research methods
- capstone seminar (Doctoral Minor only)

The interdisciplinary course offerings that satisfy these requirements are both diverse and flexible. Students select courses to create a custom, coherent program. An extensive list of recommended courses is posted each semester.

Writing Project: A substantial piece of scholarship, such as a seminar paper, a thesis/dissertation chapter, or an article (for both Master's and Doctoral Minors).

Application: A Simple Process

For students enrolled in a University of Minnesota graduate degree program, an application to the Minor includes the following items:

- a statement of purpose that explains the relationship of courses and research to professional goals (Suggested length: two single-spaced pages)
- a completed one-page application form
- a curriculum vitae
- relevant post-secondary transcripts
- one letter of recommendation

Speaker Series

The LRS minor sponsors a Speaker Series to engage faculty and graduate students in rich discussions about the uses of language, reading, and writing. We have published many of the papers delivered in the series; these are available in PDF format on the LRS website.

recent speakers

Catherine Prendergast, "What Do We Think the Book is Now? 2000 Students Weigh In"

Bruce Horner, "Writing English in Translation: ELF, World Englishes, and *Diversalité*"

Lee-Ann Kastman Breuch, Chris Anson, and Thom Swiss, "Engaging Students in Digital Writing"

Research Series

The LRS Minor Research Series promotes awareness of current scholarship about literacy and rhetoric studies by providing an opportunity for faculty and students affiliated with the LRS Minor to present their research.

recent presentations

John Logie, "Rhetorical Questions and Rhetorical Answers on the Internet"

Kasi Williamson, "Reading a Nation of Readers: Print Media, Race, and National Identity during the Great Depression"

Walt Jacobs and Candance Doerr-Stevens, "Rethinking Writing: Digital Storytelling in the College Classroom"

Carol Berkenkotter, "Transdisciplining Narrative"

Abigail Davis, "Early American Lies: the Power of Literature to Distort the Historical Record"

Examples of Student Programs

see writing.umn.edu/lrs/students.html

Funding: Summer Fellowship and Travel Grants

see writing.umn.edu/lrs/funding.html for information on grants and scholarships.

The LRS Minor has led me to research that I didn't expect to be interested in, but ended up being one of the most fascinating chapters of my dissertation. ...

I've presented work in progress at our Research Series, and have had faculty seriously engage my work, even asking to read it in-depth and offer suggestions for my revision. I've never been in a more collaborative space where faculty volunteer to mentor graduate students.

—Sara Lindey, PhD in English with LRS minor, University of Minnesota

LRS Minor Faculty

African American Studies

Walt Jacobs

Communication Studies

Karlyn Kohrs Campbell

Alan Gross

Edward Schiappa

Amy Sheldon

Art Walzer

Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature

Robin Brown

Curriculum & Instruction

Martha Bigelow

Timothy Lensmire

Cynthia Lewis

Thom Swiss

Diane Tedick

English

Michael Hancher

Geoffrey Sirc

Organizational Leadership, Policy, & Development

Rosemarie Park

Post-secondary Teaching & Learning

Amy Lee

Second Language Studies

Andrew Cohen

Anne Lazaraton

Elaine Tarone

Writing Studies

Carol Berkenkotter

Lee-Ann Kastman Breuch

Patrick Bruch

Pamela Flash

Richard Graff

Laura Gurak

Christina Haas

Kirsten Jamsen

John Logie

Thomas Reynolds

Donald Ross

Writing Studies (UMN-Duluth)

David Beard