Writing Studies
http://www.writing.ucsb.edu/academics/phd-emphasis
University of California, Santa Barbara

Optional Ph.D. Emphasis in Writing Studies

Writing Studies is a research-based field that focuses broadly on the analysis of the production, consumption, and circulation of writing in specific contexts. The field brings together sub-disciplines such as composition and rhetoric, genre studies, and textual and discourse analysis. Writing Studies bridges theory and practice as researchers center their work in specific contexts (often academic disciplines) and look at the ways in which writing develops and perpetuates activities within those contexts. At the same time, researchers are also often teachers of academic writing (in various disciplines) and work with students to develop strategies for analyzing writing, reading, and critical analysis in those disciplines.

The Writing Studies Ph.D. emphasis, available to students in English, Linguistics, and Education, is intended to provide a background in the theory, methods, and functions of Writing Studies with an eye toward applying for professional positions (as faculty members, writing consultants, or other writing professionals) in Writing Studies, composition/rhetoric, or writing intensive positions in other disciplines.

Curriculum:
Writing 502: Proseminar in Writing Studies – 4 units, F/W/S
Course meets three hours every other week over three consecutive quarters (or three non-contiguous quarters, if students are unable to complete a continuous year).

One course each from three different areas. Students must take courses with three different prefixes (WRIT, ED, LING, or ENGL) so that they have a variety of courses from within the emphasis.

Literacy, theory, and pedagogy
WRIT 501 – Academic Writing: Theory and Practice*
ED 202D – Writing Across the Curriculum/ Writing in the Disciplines
ED 202H – Writing Program Administration
WRIT 252 – Teaching Technical Writing
LING 212 – Linguistics in the Schools

Writing assessment, evaluation, and analysis
ED202C – Development of Writing Abilities
ED202I – Assessment of Writing
ED240A – Education Policy or ED250A Federal and State Higher Education Policy
ED221G – Textual analysis
LING 217 Discourse and Grammar

Writing/literacies in specific contexts
LING 214 – Discourse
LING 292 – Linguistics in the Schools
ED202F – Literacy in the Information Age
ED202E – History of Literacy
ENGL 236 – Literature +
ENGL 234 – Bookwork after New Media
Students enrolled in the emphasis must also include issues relevant to Writing Studies as part of their dissertation and include at least one faculty member from the emphasis on their committee, or complete a capstone project separate from their dissertations, working with a faculty member from the emphasis as project advisor.

*Graduate students hired as graduate instructors of writing in the Writing Program are required to take Writing 501 as a condition of their employment.