

# ENGL 7396: Histories of Composition: 1800-1950

Spring 2012 / Dr. Nathan Shepley / Class Number: 22033

## Meeting Time/Location:

- ♦ Monday: 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- ♦ 118 McElhinney Hall

This graduate course is designed for students interested in writing pedagogy and in the history of American higher education. It encourages students to think critically about what it has meant, at different times and in different places, to teach college-level writing: what kind of composition students were expected and taught? What forms did student writing take? To what ends was student writing put? How did new kinds of colleges and universities alter notions of what college composition should be and do? How did college composition pertain to broader literacy practices?

Beyond history (what happened?), the course takes up questions of historiography (how do we arrive at a sense of what happened?). Thus, the course exposes graduate students to different ways of conceiving of composition, students, and higher education.

## Required Texts:

- 1) Composition-Rhetoric: Backgrounds, Theory, and Pedagogy, by Robert J. Connors
- 2) Rhetoric in American Colleges, 1850-1900, by Albert R. Kitzhaber
- 3) Local Histories: Reading the Archives of Composition, edited by Patricia Donahue and Gretchen Flesher Moon
- 4) Rhetoric in the Margins: Revising the History of Writing Instruction in American Colleges, 1873-1947, by David Gold
- 5) Before Shaughnessy: Basic Writing at Yale and Harvard, 1920-1960, by Kelly Ritter
- 6) Working in the Archives: Practical Research Methods for Rhetoric and Composition, edited by Alexis E. Ramsey et al.
- 7) Readings/excerpts on Blackboard—from books such as English Composition in Eastern Colleges, 1850-1940, by John Michael Wozniak; Nineteenth-Century Women Learn to Write, edited by Catherine Hobbs; The Origins of Composition Studies in the American College, 1875-1925: A Documentary History, edited by John C. Brereton; and Traces of a Stream: Literacy and Social Change Among African American Women, by Jacqueline Jones Royster

## Recommended Text:

- 1) Beyond the Archives: Research as a Lived Process, edited by Gesa E. Kisch and Liz Rohan