

ENGL 7/8801

Diverging Disciplines: The Past, Present, and Future of Writing and Communication Studies

This seminar examines the historical divergence of composition studies and communication studies, beginning with the institutional split between the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the National Communication Association (NCA) in 1920. Using this moment as a foundation, students will explore the development of writing instruction and public speaking as separate yet connected fields, investigating key historical moments and pedagogical shifts that shaped U.S. higher education. As we chart these developments, we will also turn our attention to the future, considering how the ongoing evolution of these fields can address emerging challenges in literacy education, such as the rise of generative AI and digital literacy.