

Fall 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Sara DiCaglio

Course: ENGL 355.901

Title: Rhetoric of Style

Description: How do we persuade, inform, move one another with language? This course takes as its subject the slippery and complex topic of style—sentence structure, tropes, rhythm, metaphor, and other techniques and tools that writers use to create effects with words. In order to look closely at style as an object of study, this course will take as its focus a range of readings about health and embodiment, asking how language reflects and—perhaps—creates our own understandings of our physical selves. Our fundamental concern will be rhetorical, focusing on style as a part of language’s larger force; however, we will also approach language as writers, readers, and fellow occupants of bodies. We will grow to understand style in the writing of others and in our own writing by learning to identify, analyze, and imitate a wide variety of stylistic choices and effects. Our readings will come from a range of genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and medical writing, and represent both more experimental and more traditional approaches to writing.

Proposed Readings: