

# DESIREE THORPE

[dthorpe1@angelo.edu](mailto:dthorpe1@angelo.edu)

## Education

### Ph.D. Candidate in Rhetoric

July 2024 (expected)

Texas Woman's University | Denton, TX

- Specialization: Digital Literacies in Writing Studies, WPA
- Dissertation: "What Can *Dark Souls III* Teach Writing Instructors about Supporting First-Year Writers?"
  - Committee: Dr. Jackie Hoermann-Elliott (chair), Dr. Dundee Lackey, and Dr. Gretchen Busl

### M.A. in English

December 2018

Angelo State University | San Angelo, TX

### B.A. in English

May 2016

McMurry University | Abilene, TX

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## Teaching Experience

### Instructor of Record

Aug. 2019-Present

*Texas Woman's University*

#### Professional Writing (WAC | Visual Art)

An upper-level writing course about strategies for individual and collaborative practice in selected workplace genres. This course is for visual art majors and focuses on artists' statements and bios, project statements, art proposals, and grant writing.

#### Composition II (face-to-face | themed)

A required first-year writing course at Texas Woman's University. Students learn about writing as a vehicle for argument and analysis and the processes of writing and research. This course has a theme about rhetorical making: students learn about rhetoric, writing and research to create for their community and/or fandoms.

#### Introduction to Writing & Composition I: **Corequisite** (face-to-face | themed)

A required first-year writing course at Texas Woman's University for first-year writers that did not meet entrance requirements for Composition 1 (1013). Students write as

a method of inquiry situated within a particular discourse community. Additionally Students receive intensive supplemental writing instruction and exercises. This course has a theme inspired by open world video games, like *Pokemon Violet*, and emphasizes adventure, exploration, and discovery through topics that hold meaning to students in all aspects of their lives and literacies. Students go on adventures and explore new worlds, new ideas for a treasure of self-interest and/or for their communities.

Composition I (face-to-face)

A required first-year writing course at Texas Woman's University. Students write as a method of inquiry situated within a particular discourse community. I emphasized multimodality and out-of-school literacies.

Composition I (online | themed)

This course was themed as Writing about Writing, using Elizabeth Wardle and Doug Downs textbook as guidance.

Composition II (face-to-face, hyflex, hybrid, online)

A required first-year writing course at Texas Woman's University. Students learn about writing as a vehicle for argument and analysis and the processes of writing and research. I emphasized affinity spaces and multimodality.

**Instructor of Record**

Aug. 2023-Present

*Angelo State University*

Composition II (online)

A course in critical reading and writing across the curriculum, including the research process and the research paper.

Composition I (online | dual credit)

A required first-year writing course for dual credit students at Angelo State University. This course emphasizes the writing process, the rhetorical situation, and positions students as agile writers learning new genres in specific rhetorical situations and discourse communities.

**Teaching Assistant**

Jan 2021-May 2021

*Texas Woman's University*

Introduction to Literature by Women (online), TA for Dr. Ashley Bender

(Honors) Living Voices: Literature by Black, Indigenous, Women of Color

Composition I (online | themed), TA for Dr. Ashley Bender  
Communities of Justice

**Instructor of Record**

Jan 2019-May 2019

*Howard College*

English as a Second Language with Integrated Education & Training (ESL-IET) (face-to-face)  
Created daily lesson plans, activities, and individual learning plans to support second language learners in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Prepared learners for workforce and career paths.

**Instructor of Record**

Aug. 2018-Dec. 2018

*Angelo State University*

Composition I (face-to-face)

A required first-year writing course for students at Angelo State University. This course emphasizes the writing process, the rhetorical situation, and positions students as agile writers learning new genres in specific rhetorical situations and discourse communities.

**Embedded Tutor**

Aug 2016- May. 2018

*Angelo State University*

Composition I-T.Section: (face-to-face | Corequisite)

A required, credit bearing, first-year writing course for students that are not Texas Success Initiative Assessment complete and need additional support. This course meets for five hours weekly and teaches the fundamentals of reading and writing with labs for practice in composition. Embedded GA in labs with Mrs. Cindy Burkhalter & Mrs. Marcie Puckitt.

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## **Publications**

### **Book Chapter:**

Thorpe, Desireé. "Adapting *Dark Souls III* to **Support First-Year Writers.**" *Gamification in the Rhet/Comp Curriculum*, edited by Chris McGunnigle, *Vernon Press*, Jan. 2023.

### **White Paper:**

Thorpe, Desireé. "[Pedagogy Support: Supporting Grieving Students.](#)" *First-Year Composition Leadership*. Summer 2023.

### ***In Progress:***

Thorpe, Desireé and Yvette Torres. “**Caring for Each Other:** Perspectives about Bereavement and Graduate School During a Pandemic.” *Radical Transparency: Perspectives on Graduate Education in Rhetoric and Composition*, edited by Justin Cook and Skye Roberson, Utah State University Press, (forthcoming).

Thorpe, Desireé. “**Learning Journey Journal.**” *First-Year Composition: Writing as Inquiry and Argumentation*, edited by Jackie Hoermann-Elliott and Kathy Quesenbury, *Press Books* (forthcoming).

Thorpe, Desireé. “Preparing Writing Programs to **Support Grieving Students.**” *There Are Writing Emergencies: Composing (Ourselves) in Times of Crisis*, edited by Holly Hassel and Kate Pantelides, Utah State University Press, (forthcoming).

Thorpe, Desireé. “From Deku (デク) to Deku (できる): The Benefits of Incorporating Anime and Manga in First-Year Composition.” *Will be submitted to The Journal of Anime and Manga Studies (JAMS)*.

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### **Professional Conferences**

“Abundance in Basic Writing: Seeking Embodied Possibilities and Pathways,” ***Conference on College Composition & Communication***, 2024, roundtable with Dr. Margaret Williams (chair), Dr. Jackie Hoermann-Elliott, Dr. Sierra Mendez, Dr. Rachel Johnston, and Lia Schuermann. *Upcoming*.

“Open Worlds, Open Compositions: Designing First-Year Writing as Exploration / Play,” ***Computers and Writing***, 2023, co-lead with Dr. Margaret Williams.

“Adapting the Affinity Space of *Dark Souls III* to FYC.” 40th ***Southwest Popular/American Culture Association***, 2020 (accepted).

“(Re)imagining Writing Centers: Strategies for Multimodal Tutoring.” ***North Texas Writing Center Association***, 2019, co-lead with Daniel Stefanelli.

“From Deku (デク) to Deku (できる): The Benefits of Incorporating Anime and Manga in First-Year Composition.” ***49th NeMLA***, University at Buffalo, 2018.

“Teaching Anime and Manga in First-Year Composition.” ***Southwest Popular/American Culture Association***, 2018.

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## Invited Workshops & Presentations

**“All Things Grading: Best Practices,”** Texas Woman’s University, First-Year Composition, co-lead with Jennifer Conner, August 2023.

**“Teaching Portfolio Workshop,”** Texas Woman’s University, First-Year Composition, co-lead with Dr. Jackie Hoermann-Elliott and Dr. Margaret Williams, March 2023.

**“Creating Affinity Spaces for FYC,”** FYCreative: an Un-Orientation, Texas Woman’s University, First-Year Composition, Department of Language, Culture, and Gender Studies, January 2023.

**“Addressing Attendance and Late Work Through Care Work & Disability Justice,”** FYCreative: an Un-Orientation, Texas Woman’s University, First-Year Composition, Department of Language, Culture, and Gender Studies, January 2023.

**“Rhetoric & Composition: Where Do We Go From Here?”** ENG 5343: Rhetoric & Composition: Theory & Practice, (December 2022), Texas Woman’s University, invited by Dr. Jackie Hoermann-Elliott.

**“Tips for New TAs,”** Angelo State University’s First-Year Writing Training for TAs, Department of English Modern and Foreign Languages, (August 2022), co-lead with Judith Gonzalez, invited by Dr. Mellisa Huffman.

**“Planning and Conducting Classroom Discussions,”** Angelo State University’s First-Year Writing Training for TAs, Department of English Modern and Foreign Languages, (August 2021), invited by Dr. Mellisa Huffman.

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## Administrative Experience

### First-Year Composition Program Assistant

May 2022-Aug. 2023

Texas Woman’s University, Denton, TX

- Mentored writing instructors on teaching, lesson planning, and composition pedagogy.
- Designed and facilitated onboarding and orientation materials for new & returning instructors.
- Designed and facilitated educational workshops for faculty.
- Assisted the First-Year Composition (FYC) Director and Assistant Director in administrative tasks and resource building.
- Collaborated with multiple departments and offices to create educational resources.

- Supported the Assistant Director with redesigning and updating FYC program documents (syllabi, curriculum, handbooks) using universal design principles and concise language.
- Managed a research project to guide faculty in supporting bereaved college students.
- Trained a new Program Assistant in FYC operations and created a guide for the position.

**Digital Composition Lab Coordinator**

May 2021-Aug. 2022

Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

- Supported faculty with multimodal teaching documents, lab equipment usage, and lab policies in the Digital Composition Lab (DCL)
- Designed and managed a community newsletter for teaching and learning.
- Maintained daily lab upkeep and communicated regularly across service populations: IT, admin, students, and faculty.
- Developed and managed a new inventory management system with resource guides for equipment check-out processes.
- Revamped the multimodal resource website for faculty and student audiences.
- Trained a new Coordinator in all operations of the DCL and created guides for the position.

**Directed Self Placement Research Assistant**

May 2020-Aug. 2020

Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

- Analyzed writing programs and university factbooks in the U.S. to collect data about directed self-placement (DSP).
- Entered data into spreadsheets to assist the primary researcher, Dr. Gray Scott's, qualitative and quantitative scholarship.

**Writing Counts Program Assistant/SI**

Aug. 2019-May 2020

Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

- Created Writing Counts documents and led presentations to inform both faculty and students about the program/supplemental instruction.
- Assisted the FYC graduate assistant, Jodi Myer, in writing a IRB application to collect data from FYC students for Writing Counts.
- Supported TWU's Write Site and First-Year Composition Program as a Supplemental Instructor for Writing Counts.
- Led workshops for FYC students on a variety of topics related to writing and FYC curriculum

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## Service

### To Profession

Reviewer, *The Proceedings of the Annual Computers and Writing Conference*, a WAC Clearinghouse book series (2023-present).

WPA-GO Accessibility Committee member, affiliated with CWPA (Council of Writing Program Administrators). Helped initiate the WPA-GO Discord and Newsletter for the Accessibility Committee and moderated the Discord (2021).

### To University (Texas Woman's University)

Member, FYC Essay Award Committee (August 2019-Present)

Member, Professional Writing Curriculum Revision (October 2023-Present)

Member, FYC Assessment Committee (June 2023)

Content Manager, GTA Profiles LCGS Website (Feb- October 2023)

Member, ERS Assistant Director Job Search Committee (Jan-April 2023)

Event Technological Support, "AI Writing Tools, Education, and Pedagogy" (January 2023)

Organizer, Doctoral Study Group (August 2021-2022)

Event Technological Support, Quaker Town Student Symposium Panel (April 2022)

Secretary, ERGO: RSA (May 2021- 2022)

Chair, FYC Essay Award Committee (August 2020-2021)

President, ERGO: RSA (May 2020-May 2021)

Member, Curriculum Revision Committee (September 2019-2020)

Writing Tutor, Writing Counts Workshop with Pizza (November 2019)

Member, English B.A. Assessment Committee (October 2019)

### To University (Angelo State University)

Layout & Design Editor, *Frankenreads* at ASU, (October 2018)

Judge, *Frankenreads* at ASU, (October 2018)

Layout & Design Editor, *The Oasis*, (2017)

Assistant Editor, *The Oasis*, (2017)

Art & Photography Editor, *The Oasis*, (2017)

Judge, Young Writer's Contest (Western Fiction), (January 2017)

U.I.L Contest Assistant, (February 2017)

Tutor, Research, Write & Cite: Research & Writing Support Workshop (March 2017)

Research, Underrepresented Authors, (July-August 2017)

Layout & Design, Underrepresented Authors, (July-August 2017)

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## Awards, Skills & Interests

### Awards:

- Nominee. **Outstanding Graduate Student Award**, Texas Woman's University's Department of Language, Culture, and Gender Studies (2023).
- Recipient. J. Dean Bishop **Excellence in Teaching Award**, Texas Woman's University's First-Year Composition, (2022)--Awarded "to recognize the outstanding teaching achievements of graduate students."
- Recipient. The Mary Nell Kivikko **Excellence in Scholarship Award**, North Texas Writing Center Association, (2019)-Awarded "to recognize outstanding scholarship in writing center theory and practice." In collaboration with Daniel Stefanelli.

### Professional Membership:

- CCCC (College Composition and Communication)
- CWPA (Council of Writing Program Administrators)
- MLA (Modern Language Association)
- RSA (Rhetoric Society of America)
- Society for Disability Studies
- SWPACA (Southwest Popular/American Culture Association)

**Skills:** Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Adobe Premier, InDesign, XD, Audition, and Express, Audacity, Canva, Movie Maker, Discord, Learning Management System (Canvas/Blackboard), Management Softwares (Asana, Confluence, Monday.com, Slack, Trello), Zoom, Webex.

**Interests:** teaching, research on writing/literacy, writing pedagogy, digital literacy, technical writing, professional writing, grant writing, first-year-composition, critical mixed-race studies, fan studies, anime, video games, game design, and digital art.

**Certificates:** Adult Mental Health and First Aid USA-2023; Minecraft Educational 2023

**References available upon request.**