Globally, English—as language and discipline—has been playing increasingly central roles across a wide range of fields, although some trends suggest the dominance of English in many disciplinary forums is also being challenged. Writing remains central to all aspects of disciplinarity, serving key roles in individuals’ trajectories of learning, in institutional assessments of competence and value, and in disciplinary communication. This course examines theory and research on the connections among writing, disciplinarity, and English in global contexts.

Course Readings:


Additional articles and chapters.

Paul Prior is Professor of English and Professor and Director of the Center for Writing Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. In a series of situated studies that draw on theoretical frameworks from cultural-historical activity theory and dialogic semiotics, Paul has explored connections among writing, reading, talk, learning, and disciplinarity. Prior’s current projects study the writing process as dispersed, embodied, and situated literate activity and research that traces the remediation of an interactive online art object. Prior has taught English in Saudi Arabia, directed the first-year writing course at Illinois, and led Writing-Across-the-Curriculum workshops over 700 faculty and 1200 teaching assistants at Illinois.