**Composition Program Report AY 2020-2021**

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***Courses Taught***

In Fall 2020, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021, the composition program taught 206 sections (18 fewer than AY 2019-2020). According to Institutional Research, this amounted to 4,688 students.

Table 1. Number of Students Per Course and Semester

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Fall 2020** | **Spring 2021** | **Summer 2021** | **Total** |
| 101 | 330 | 1449 | 30 | 1809 |
| 102 | 1364 | 819 | 70 | 2253 |
| 105 | 51 | 173 | 0 | 224 |
| 303 | 30 | 23 | 10 | 63 |
| 306 | 112 | 153 | 14 | 279 |
| 309 | 24 | 21 | 15 | 60 |
| **TOTAL** | 1911 | 2638 | 139 | 4688 |

Table 2. Number of Sections Offered

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Number of Sections**  |
| 101 | 79 (43 of which were DE) |
| 102 | 93 (59 of which were DE) |
| 105 | 11 (4 of which were DE) |
| 303 | 4 (3 of which were DE) |
| 306 | 16 (14 of which were DE) |
| 309 | 3 (1 of which was DE) |
| TOTAL | 206 (124 of which were DE) |

***New Hires***

In summer 2020, I hired two part-time instructors who had previous taught composition: Dr. Cassie Book and Jason Zahrndt.

***New or Renewed Initiatives in Fall and Spring (Note: In the spring, Steve Smith was Acting Director, as Andrea was on sabbatical.)***

* **Racial Justice Task Force:** In the fall, we met to brainstorm ideas, learn about another university’s antiracist initiatives (via a guest speaker, Dr. Emily Johnston), and set goals. In the spring, we sponsored three workshops or panels related to antiracist initiatives (described below). In addition, we used the remaining composition program budget to offer a small stipend to PTL Melissa Rothman to convene a panel of instructors to talk about antiracist pedagogies and develop a resource folder of materials (currently available on our website). Instructors who contributed entered a drawing to receive a free copy of *The Antiracist Writing Workshop: How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom*, by Patricia Rose Chavez.
* ***Cardinal Compositions*:** We published another volume of [*Cardinal Compositions*](https://ir.library.louisville.edu/cardcomp/) as an open-access journal through ThinkIR. The English Department sponsored $150 stipends for editorial board members Lana Helm, Taylor Riley, Charlotte Asmuth, and Caitlin Burns to support editor Brittany Smart. Ten student projects are published in this issue—podcast, video, infographic, art, poetry, and research papers—as well as the assignment sheets for those projects and teaching suggestions. The cover was also designed by a UofL student.
* **Online Writing Instruction Mini-Course:** We offered a second iteration of our six-week asynchronous mini-course on online writing instruction (OWI), taught by ADC Walker Smith. Five instructors participated (2 PTLs, 1 MA student, and 2 PhD students). The mini-course covered OWI-specific information and activities (e.g., facilitating online discussions, responding to student writing, scaffolding writing assignments) and also adapted material from Delphi U (Blackboard Basics; Accessibility). Participants received a certificate upon completion.
* **Community-Building:** We did not have a fall kickoff s’mores party due to COVID, but we moved our holiday party online, complete with white elephant gift exchange, pet photo competition, and “Cardinal Comptail” mocktail goodie bags that we delivered to instructors’ houses. In weekly Comp News emails, I publicized instructors’ professional accomplishments (and, with permission, personal milestones).
* **PTL Promotion**: Tim Roberts was promoted to Senior Lecturer I.
* **Awards**: The Composition Committee awarded two Plattus award (PhD student Brittany Smart and MA student Haley Salo) and one PTL award (Lana Helm).

***Events and Professional Development in Fall and Spring***

In August 2020, we expanded our new GTA orientation from two days to two weeks (meeting online every other day). We also held our regular day-long orientation for all composition instructors the Friday before classes began; this was done over Blackboard Collaborate.

We also hosted six workshops or other events.

* Fall 2020
	+ Racial Justice Task Force Kickoff Meeting
	+ Fighting Fake News: How to Center Information Literacy in the Composition Classroom (Brittany Smart)
	+ Ignite Innovative Composing: Building Multimodal Assignments with Adobe Spark (Lauren Fusilier)
* Spring 2021
	+ Composition Courses for Parish and Porter Scholars and Black Male Initiative Students (Panel with Brandyn Bailey, Dr. Khirsten Scott, Joan D’Antonio, and Anna-Stacia Haley)
	+ Making Sense of Language Difference and Error in Student Writing (with Bruce Horner and Charlotte Asmuth; cosponsored by the DEI Committee)
	+ Racial Justice Teaching Materials Archive Panel (facilitated by Melissa Rothman)

Due to COVID, we did not host the Celebration of Student Writing this year.

We continued a partnership begun by Dr. Khirsten Echols (PhD ’18) to connect 1-2 composition courses to the students in the Porter Scholars and Black Male Initiative Living-Learning communities. Joan D’Antoni taught sections of 101 and 102 in the fall and spring.

As usual, we continued our professional development observations of GTAs and of PTLs in the first three years of teaching at UofL.

***Summer 2021 Work***

* **Curriculum Development**: I developed a 101 curriculum (in-person and DE) for new English 101 instructors based on Writing about Writing pedagogies.
* **New GTA Orientation**: The ADCs and I converted our two-week online orientation for new GTAs to a two-week in-person orientation.

***Looking Ahead to AY21-22***

Due to instructors leaving, in July and August I hired and oriented seven new part-time faculty: Joshua English, Neleigh Olson, Melissa Zipper, Heather Lehocky, Dr. Elizabeth Glass, Tina Rose, and Ardeen Top.

This year, the ADCs are Lauren Fusilier, Cooper Day, and Taylor Riley.

We are offering 113 sections in Fall 2021, an increase of 2 courses from Fall 2020, when we offered 111 sections.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Number of Sections**  | **Difference from Fall 2020** |
| 101 | 65 | +3 courses  |
| 102 | 29  | -2 |
| 105 | 8 | -- |
| 303 | 2 | +1 |
| 306 | 7 | -1 |
| 309 | 2 | +1 |

We will be organizing pedagogy workshops, publishing another issue of *Cardinal Compositions*, offering a mini-course on antiracist writing instruction, and producing the Celebration of Student Writing under the auspices of the Arts and Research Showcase.

Lastly, we plan to revise the protocol for online course observations and update the “[e-files](https://louisville.app.box.com/s/1ygexeljr7tfpnkr3u2dzhdxg0bhrmjm)” or develop a new place to house and share instructor materials.