This course combines two academic literatures: the law and discourse analysis. The first, the law, will be provide data and readings which we will use discourse analysis to analyze. We will read several different types of legal texts, the larger discourses that these texts are a part of and constitute, and a number of theories and methods within discourse analysis that can be used to analyze such legal discourses. We will consider the ways power is embedded and circulated in such discourse, the role narrative structure plays, how interactional expectations affect and are affected by legal discourse, and how issues like gender, race, and sexuality are produced in and products of legal discourses.

Students must take WRTG 2010 or equivalent before taking this course.