Description: Rhetoric & Composition/Professional & Technical Writing (RC/PTW) covers a vast intellectual territory that draws on more than 3000 years of history and touches on every geographical area of the world. Clearly, one reading list isn’t going to be able to do justice to the world of possibilities. Therefore, we have limited our list’s focus to ideas and concepts that students are likely to encounter in courses offered in the MA program (ENGL 257 or ENGL 259) and/or in the Professional & Technical Writing certificate program. It’s unlikely that students will have read all of these texts in those classes, but it is very likely that students will have read some of these texts and should be able to draw on their RC/PTW coursework to read the others without excessive difficulty. Questions that students encounter on the exam will allow students to focus their attention more toward Rhetoric & Composition or Professional & Technical Writing in keeping with courses they’ve taken; however, students opting to take this portion of the exam will need to read texts, familiarize themselves with concepts, and be able to refer thoughtfully to texts and concepts from both sections on the exam. The majority of these texts can be accessed through SJSU’s library. The exceptions are marked below with an asterisk (*), and we are working to acquire those for the library.

Rhetoric & Composition Readings


Professional and Technical Writing Readings


[updated May 4, 2022]