Stanford



Christine Alfano

Senior Lecturer in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric

Writing and Rhetoric Studies

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Christine Alfano is a Senior Lecturer and has been the Associate Director for the Program in Writing and Rhetoric since 2014 and also serves as the Instructional Lead for the Writing component of the Stanford Summer Bridge program. She holds a BA from Brown University and PhD from Stanford; she first began teaching writing at Stanford in 1991 as a graduate student. Christine specializes in social media studies, digital rhetoric, video game studies, and technologies of writing. In her recent PWR courses, "Rhetorics of Online Persuasion," “The Rhetoric of Gaming," and "Social Media, Community, and Communication," Christine challenges students to explore how writing in different digital modes transforms the modern practice of communication and how we represent ourselves online and off.

Her ongoing research project involves studying effective pedagogical applications of technology for composition studies in the classroom; however, her most recent interest lies in supporting FLI students and others as they transition into the college environment. In the past, she received a grant from the Vice Provost for Online Learning (VPOL) to develop a series of video activities designed to support writers in their writing process and also received a Hoagland Curricular Innovation grant with a team from PWR to help develop and pilot an innovative writing studio class to support multilingual student writers. She was also co-director of Stanford's Cross-Cultural Rhetoric Project, which ran from 2009-2012.

She is the co-author (with Dr. Alyssa O'Brien) of the Envision textbook series, the most recent editions being Envision: Writing and Researching Arguments, 5th edition, and Envision In Depth, 4th edition.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Senior Lecturer, Writing and Rhetoric Studies

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Director, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, (2014- present)
- Interim Director, Stanford Summer Bridge Program, (2024-2025)
- Writing Specialist, History Department, (2013-2014)
- Assistant Director, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, (2007-2010)

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

SPECIALIZATION: Digital Rhetoric, Rhetoric of Gaming, Visual Rhetoric, Gender and Technology, Writing Program Administration

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Introduction to Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford: UAR 45WR (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Rhetoric Ex Machina: Researching Technoculture: PWR 2CAA (Aut)

2025-26

- Introduction to Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford: UAR 45WR (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Influencers, Filters, and Algorithms: Rhetorics of Online Persuasion: PWR 1CAA (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Legal Rhetoric, Research, and Writing: PWR 1KTB (Aut)

2024-25

- Introduction to Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford: SOAR 10WR (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Influencers, Filters, and Algorithms: Rhetorics of Online Persuasion: PWR 1CAA (Aut)

2023-24

- Introduction to Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford: SOAR 10WR (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Social Media, Community, and Communication: Networked Rhetoric: PWR 2CA (Aut)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Research-Writing Pedagogy as Sustaining First-Generation College Student Identities in a Bridge Program** *Beyond Fitting In: Rethinking First-Generation Writing and Literacy Education*
  Alfano, C., Formato, M., Johnson, J., Newby, A.
  Modern Language Association.2023
- **Science Communication across Disciplines: Reflecting on STEM Identity Building through Notation in Science Communication ePortfolios** *Across the Disciplines: A Journal of Language, Learning and Academic Writing*
  Alfano, C., Polk, E., Stonaker, J.
  2023; 20 (3/4)
- **Envision: Writing and Researching Arguments**
  Alfano, C., O'Brien, A.
  Pearson.2017
- **Envision in Depth: Reading, Writing, and Researching Arguments**
  Alfano, C., O'Brien, A.
  Pearson.2017
- **Tech Travels: Connecting Students Across Continents** *Transnational Writing Program Administration.*
  Alfano, C., O'Brien, A.
  Utah State University Press.2014
- **The Architecture of New Media Consulting: Designing Space for Multimodal Tutoring** *Cases on Higher Education Spaces: Innovation, Collaboration, and Technology*
  Alfano, C., Carpenter, R., Lee, S.
  IGI Global.2012
- **Connecting Student Globally Through Video Conference Pedagogy** *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*
  Alfano, C., O'Brien, A.
  2009; 5 (4)

- **Improving cross-cultural communication through collaborative technologies** *2nd International Conference on Persuasive Technology (PERSUASIVE 2007)*
  O'Brien, A. J., Alfano, C., Magnusson, E.
  SPRINGER-VERLAG BERLIN.2007: 125–131

- **THE ISSUE OF FEMININE MONSTROSITY + 'BEOWULF' - A REEVALUATION OF GRENDEL MOTHER** *COMITATUS-A JOURNAL OF MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES*
  Alfano, C.
  1992; 23: 1-16