

James E. Porter

Contact Information

Department of Writing, Rhetoric,
& American Cultures
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Research and Teaching Areas

Rhetoric theory and history (especially methodology, ethics, invention, audience, delivery, copyright)
Digital rhetoric (rhetorical theory for digital writing, law and public policy, classroom design, digital copyright)
Technical and professional writing and communication

Education

Ph.D. in English, University of Detroit, 1982
Major Areas: Rhetoric/Composition, 20th-Century British and American Literature
A.M. in English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, 1976
B.A. in English, *magna cum laude*, John Carroll University (Cleveland, OH), 1975

Faculty Appointments

Michigan State University, Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, 2001-present
Case Western Reserve University, Professor of English, 1999-2001
Purdue University, Professor of English, 1997-1999; Associate Professor of English, 1988-1997; Visiting Associate Professor of English, 1988-1990
Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW), Associate Professor of English, 1987-1990; Assistant Professor of English, 1982-1987; Visiting Lecturer in English, 1981-1982
University of California at Santa Barbara, Instructor of English, 1979-1981

Administrative Appointments

Michigan State University, College of Arts & Letters
Director of Rhetoric & Writing, 2002-2005
Special Adviser to the Dean, 2001-2002, 2005-present
Co-Director, WIDE Research Center (Writing in Digital Environments), 2003-present
Case Western Reserve University, Department of English
Director of Technical and Professional Communication, 1999-2001
Purdue University, Department of English
Director of Business Writing, 1988-1997
Director of Professional Writing, 1998
Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW), Department of English & Linguistics
Associate Director of Composition, 1983-1986
Director of Composition, 1987-1988

SCHOLARSHIP, PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS

Books

- Porter, James E., Patricia Sullivan, and Johndan Johnson-Eilola. *Professional Writing Online*. Boston: Longman/Allyn & Bacon, 2001; 2nd ed., 2003. <<http://www.abacon.com/pwo>>
- Porter, James E. *Rhetorical Ethics and Internetworked Writing*. Greenwich, CT: Ablex and Computers and Composition/New Directions in Computers and Composition Studies, 1998. **(Book won 1998 Computers & Writing award for Distinguished Book.)** Selection reprinted in *Professional Writing and Rhetoric: Readings from the Field*, Ed. Tim Peeples (New York: Longman, 2003).
- Sullivan, Patricia, and James E. Porter. *Opening Spaces: Writing Technologies and Critical Research Practices*. Greenwich, CT: Ablex and Computers and Composition/New Directions in Computers and Composition Studies, 1997. **(Book won 1998 NCTE award for Excellence in Technical and Scientific Communication, "Best Book.")**
- Porter, James E. *Audience and Rhetoric: An Archaeological Composition of the Discourse Community*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall/Studies in Writing and Culture, 1992.

Articles, Chapters, and Technical Papers

- McKee, Heidi, and James E. Porter. "The Ethics of Digital Writing Research: A Rhetorical Approach." (under review at *College Composition and Communication*)
- Porter, James E., and Martine Courant Rife. "MGM v. Grokster: Implications for Educators and Writing Teachers." WIDE Paper #1, WIDE Research Center, Michigan State University, June 28, 2005.
- DeVoss, Dànielle, and James E. Porter. "Why Napster Matters to Writing: Filesharing as a New Ethic of Digital Delivery." *Computers & Composition*, 23.2 (2006). (accepted, in press)
- The WIDE Research Center Collective [DeVoss, Dànielle, Cushman, Ellen, Hart-Davidson, Bill, Grabill, Jeff, & Porter, James E.]. "Why Teach Digital Writing?" *Kairos*. (accepted, forthcoming)
- Porter, James E. "The Chilling of Digital Information: Technical Communicators as Public Advocates." *Tech/Web: Technical Communications and the World Wide Web in the New Millennium*. Ed. Michael Day and Carol Lipson. Mahway, NJ: Erlbaum, 2005. 243-259.
- Porter, James E. "Reflection on 'On Theory, Practice, and Method: Toward a Heuristic Research Methodology for Professional Writing.'" *Central Works in Technical Communication*. Ed. Stuart Selber and Johndan Johnson-Eilola. NY: Oxford UP, 2004. 300-301.
- Porter, James E. "Why Technology Matters to Writing: A CyberWriter's Tale." *Computers & Composition* 20.4 (2003): 375-394.
- Grabill, Jeffrey, James E. Porter, Stuart Blythe, and Libby Miles. "Institutional Critique Revisited." *Works & Days* 41/42 (2003): 218-237.
- Porter, James E., Patricia Sullivan, Stuart Blythe, Jeffrey T. Grabill, and Libby Miles. "Institutional Critique: A Rhetorical Methodology for Change." *College Composition and Communication* 51 (2000): 610-642. **(Article won Braddock Award for Best Article in *College Composition and Communication*.)**
- Porter, James E. "Liberal Individualism and Internet Policy: A Communitarian Critique." *Passions, Pedagogies, and 21st-Century Technologies*. Ed. Gail Hawisher and Cynthia L. Selfe. Logan, UT: Utah State UP, 1999. 231-248. **(Collection won 1999 Computers & Composition award for Distinguished Book.)**
- Porter, James E. "Legal Realities and Ethical Hyperrealities: A Critical Approach Toward Cyberwriting." *Computers and Technical Communication: Pedagogical and Programmatic Perspectives*. Ed. Stuart C. Selber. Greenwich, CT: Ablex/ATTW Studies in Technical Communication, 1997. 45-73. **(Collection won 1998 NCTE award for Excellence in Technical and Scientific Writing, "Best Collection of Essays.")**
- Porter, James E., and Patricia A. Sullivan. "Working Across Methodological Interfaces: The Study of Computers and Writing in the Workplace." *Electronic Literacies in the Workplace: Technologies of Writing*. Ed. Patricia Sullivan and Jennie Dautermann. Urbana: NCTE and Computers and Composition, 1996. 294-322. **(Article won 1997 NCTE award for Excellence in Technical and Scientific Writing, "Best Article on Theory/Philosophy.")**
- Porter, James E. "Audience." *Encyclopedia of Rhetoric and Composition: Communication from Ancient Times to the Information Age*. Ed. Theresa Enos. New York: Garland, 1996. 42-49.
- Porter, James E. "Author." *Encyclopedia of Rhetoric and Composition: Communication from Ancient Times to the Information Age*. Ed. Theresa Enos. New York: Garland, 1996. 54-56.
- Porter, James E. "Audience in Writing." *Encyclopedia of English Studies and Language Arts*. Ed. Alan C. Purves. New York: Scholastic Press, 1994. 98-102.
- Porter, James E. "Electronic Writing." *Encyclopedia of English Studies and Language Arts*. Ed. Alan C. Purves. New York: Scholastic Press, 1994. 420-424.
- Porter, James E. "Ethics and Computers." *Encyclopedia of English Studies and Language Arts*. Ed. Alan C. Purves. New York: Scholastic Press, 1994. 456-461.
- Porter, James E., and Patricia A. Sullivan. "Repetition and the Rhetoric of Visual Design." *Repetition in Discourse: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Volume II*. Ed. Barbara Johnstone. Norwood, NJ: Ablex, 1994. 114-29. Chapter republished in *Visual Rhetoric in a Digital World: A Critical Sourcebook*, ed. Carolyn Handa (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004), pp. 290-302.
- Porter, James E. "Developing a Postmodern Ethics of Rhetoric and Composition." *Defining the New Rhetorics*. Ed. Theresa Enos and Stuart C. Brown. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1993. 207-26.
- Porter, James E. "The Role of Law, Policy, and Ethics in Corporate Composing: Toward a Practical Ethics for Professional Writing." *Professional Communication: The Social Perspective*. Ed. Nancy Roundy Blyler and Charlotte Thralls. Newbury Park, CA: Sage, 1993. 128-43. **(Collection won 1993 NCTE award for Excellence in Technical and Scientific Writing, "Best Collection of Essays.")**
- Porter, James E. "E-mail and Variables of Rhetorical Form." *The Bulletin of the Association for Business Communication* (now *Business Communication Quarterly*) 56.2 (1993, June): 41-42.

- Sullivan, Patricia A., and James E. Porter. "Remapping Curricular Geography: Professional Writing in/and English." *Journal of Business and Technical Communication* 7 (1993): 389-422.
- Sullivan, Patricia A., and James E. Porter. "On Theory, Practice, and Method: Toward a Heuristic Research Methodology for Professional Writing." *Writing in the Workplace: New Research Perspectives*. Ed. Rachel Spilka. Carbondale: Southern Illinois UP, 1993. 220-37. **(Article won 1994 NCTE award for Excellence in Technical and Scientific Writing, "Best Article on Theory/Philosophy." Collection won 1994 NCTE award for Excellence in Technical and Scientific Writing, "Best Collection of Essays.")** Chapter republished in *Central Works in Technical Communication*, ed. Stuart Selber and Johndan Johnson-Eilola (Oxford University Press, 2004), pp. 300-313.
- Porter, James E. "Selected Bibliography: The Concept of 'Author' in Rhetoric/Composition and Literary Theory." *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 23 (1993): 71-75.
- Wickliff, Greg, Jan Tovey, and James E. Porter. "A Rhetorical and Document Design-Based Approach to Hypertext." *Proceedings of the Midwest Conference of the Association for Business Communication*. Ed. Joseph F. Ceccio and Diana C. Reep. Akron, OH: University of Akron, 1991. 37-43.
- Sullivan, Patricia A., and James E. Porter. "How Do Writers View Usability Information? A Case Study of a Developing Documentation Writer." *Journal of Computer Documentation* 14 (1990): 29-35.
- Porter, James E. "Ideology and Collaboration in the Classroom and in the Corporation." *The Bulletin of the Association for Business Communication* (now *Business Communication Quarterly*) 53.2 (1990, June): 18-22.
- Sullivan, Patricia A., and James E. Porter. "User Testing: The Heuristic Advantages at the Draft Stage." *Technical Communication* 37 (1990): 78-80.
- Porter, James E. "Divisio as Em-/De-Powering Topic: A Basis for Argument in Rhetoric and Composition." *Rhetoric Review* 8 (1990): 191-205.
- Porter, James E. "Assessing Readers' Use of Computer Documentation: A Pilot Study." *Technical Communication* 36 (1989): 422-423. Reprinted in *Technical Communication* 38 (1991): 137-39.
- Porter, James E., and Richard N. Ramsey. "A Philosophy of Composition for a Writing Program: Teaching Writing as a Liberal Art." *Journal of Teaching Writing* 6 (1987): 133-54.
- Porter, James E. "Truth in Technical Advertising: A Case Study." *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* PC 30 (1987): 182-89. **(Issue won 1988 NCTE award for Excellence in Technical and Scientific Writing, "Best Collection of Essays.")**
- Porter, James E. "Intertextuality and the Discourse Community." *Rhetoric Review* 5 (1986): 34-47. Article republished in *Composition in Four Keys: Inquiries into the Field*. Eds. Mark Wiley, Barbara Gleason, and Louise Wetherbee Phelps. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, 1995.
- Porter, James E. "De(con)fining English: Literature, Composition, Textuality." *Journal of Teaching Writing* 5 (1986): 121-31.
- Porter, James E. "This Is Not A Review of Foucault's *This Is Not A Pipe*." *Rhetoric Review* 4 (1986): 210-19.
- Porter, James E. "Reading Presences in Texts: Audience as Discourse Community." *Oldspeak/Newspeak: Rhetorical Transformations*. Ed. Charles W. Kneupper. Arlington, TX: Rhetoric Society of America, 1985. 241-56.
- Porter, James E. "'Instructions' to Introduce Technical Writing." *The Technical Writing Teacher* 11 (1984): 116-17.
- Porter, James E. "*The Contractor*: David Storey's Static Drama." *Windsor Review* 15 (1980): 66-75.
- Porter, James E. "Stevens' 'The Idea of Order at Key West.'" *Explicator* 39 (1980): 47-48.
- Porter, James E. "Yeats's 'The Sorrow of Love.'" *Explicator* 38 (1979): 42-44.

Invited Lectures and Featured Talks (1994-present)

- Porter, James E. "Repurposing Delivery for Digital Rhetoric: Access, Interaction, Economics." The Tag Lecture, Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, April 2005.
- . "Issues in Digital Copyright." CIWIC, Michigan Tech University, Houghton, MI, June 2002.
- . "Copyright Matters." Featured Speaker. CCCC, Chicago, IL, March 2002.
- . "Who Owns Online Writing Courses?" Featured Speaker. Watson Conference, University of Louisville, KY, October 2000. <http://www.rhetoric.msu.edu/online_ownership.html>
- . "Public Rhetorics and the Corporate Takeover of Electronic Writing." Department of Speech Communication Colloquium, University of Colorado-Denver, January 2000.
- . "Issues in the Design and Development of Professional Writing Curricula." Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, January 2000.
- . "The Possibility of PostCritical Methodology?" Plenary Speaker, Research Network Forum. CCCC. Chicago, IL, April 1998.

- "Corporate Uses of World Wide Web and Business Communication Pedagogy." Guest Speaker, Center for Undergraduate Instructional Excellence, Liberal Arts, Purdue University. West Lafayette, IN, November 1997.
- "Critical Uses of World Wide Web in Business Communication." Guest Speaker, Department of English Writing Program Speaker Series, University of Illinois. Urbana, IL, April 1997.
- "Professional Writing as Postmodern Work: Toward a Postmodern/Critical Rhetoric." Guest Speaker, Department of English, 1996 Business and Technical Writing Lecture, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Milwaukee, WI, February 26, 1996.
- "A Rhetorical Approach to Internet Ethics." Guest Speaker, Department of English, Miami University. Oxford, Ohio, October 1994.

Conference Presentations (from 1995-present)

- Porter, James E. "Why Napster Matters: Shifting Generational Attitudes Toward File Sharing." Internet Research 6.0 (Association of Internet Researchers), Chicago, IL, upcoming October 2005.
- "New (and Old) Modes of Production and Learning in the Post-Napster Era: Writing as Memory, Imitation, Compilation." Conference on Originality, Imitation, and Plagiarism, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, upcoming September 2005.
 - "Why Napster Matters to Literacy: The New Economy and Ethic of Digital Media." Conference on Learning, University of Granada, Granada, Spain, July 2005.
 - "Why We Should Recover Delivery for Digital Rhetoric: Economics." Computers & Writing Conference, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, June 2005.
 - "The Rhetoric of Digital Delivery: Access, Interaction, Economics." CCCC, San Francisco, CA, March 2005.
 - "How Do We Pay for Our Graduate Programs? Labor, Location, and Budget in the New University." CCCC, San Antonio, TX, March 2004.
 - "Personal Comments on History of IP Caucus." Intellectual Property Caucus, CCCC, San Antonio, TX, March 2004.
 - "Panel Response: Faculty WFH: The University Point of View." CCCC, San Antonio, March 2004.
 - "Politics, E-economics, and the Struggle to Define the Digital Audience." Computers & Writing Conference, West Lafayette, IN, May 2003.
 - "Constructing a Digital Rhetoric Theory." CCCC, New York, NY, March 2003.
- Grabill, Jeff, and James E. Porter. "Institutionally Mapping Professional Writing." CTPSC Conference, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY, October 2003.
- Porter, James E. "The Rhetoric of Digital Audiences." Watson Conference, Louisville, KY, October 2002.
- "Designing Institutional Space to Bridge Institutional Divides." CPTSC Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2001.
 - "Using a Workplace Simulation Model in the Virtual Classroom." ASEE Conference, Cleveland, Ohio, April 2001.
 - "Do You Own Your Work?" CCCC, Minneapolis, MN, April 2000.
 - "Public Rhetorics and the Corporate Takeover of Electronic Writing." CCCC, Atlanta, GA, March 1999. <http://www.rhetoric.msu.edu/writing_takeover.html>
- Johnson-Eilola, Johndan, James E. Porter, and Michele Simmons. "Models for Virtual Instruction." Teaching, Learning, and Technology Workshop, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, April 1999.
- "Position Statement." Panel on Copyright and Consent: What Policies Should Composition Journals and Presses Adopt Concerning Publication of Student Writing and Student-Based Research? CCCC. Chicago, IL, April 1998.
- Porter, James E., and Patricia Sullivan. "Framing Critical Research Practices Using Postmodern Mapping: A Demonstration for New Researchers." CCCC. Phoenix, AZ, March 1997.
- Porter, James E. "Update on Coursepack Cases and Ad Hoc CCCC IP Committee." Caucus on Intellectual Property and Composition Studies. CCCC. Phoenix, AZ, March 1997.
- "Postmodern Management and Writing Practices in the Electronic Corporation/Classroom." Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication [CPTSC] Conference. Oxford, OH, September 1996.
 - "Critical Management and Business Writing: What is the Aim of Business Communication Instruction?" Association for Business Communication [ABC] Canada/East/Midwest Regional Conference. Toronto, Canada, April 1996.
 - "Ethics and Electronic Writing Practices." CCCC. Milwaukee, WI, March 1996.
 - "Report on Coursepack Cases." Caucus on Intellectual Property and Composition Studies, CCCC. Milwaukee, WI, March 1996.
 - "Ethical Literacy." CCCC. Washington, DC, March 1995.

TEACHING**Courses Taught (since 1988)**

(• new courses I developed)

Michigan State University

- AL 885 Research Colloquium (F03, SP04) <www.rhetoric.msu.edu/AL885/AL885_syllabus.html>
- AL 805 Rhetoric Theory and History (F03, SP05, F05)
<www.rhetoric.msu.edu/AL805/AL805_syllabus.html>
- WRA 415, Digital Rhetoric (F02) <http://www.rhetoric.msu.edu/AL415/AL415_digital.html>
- English 980, Studies in Rhetoric (SP02) <<http://www.rhetoric.msu.edu/courses/ENG980.html>>
- WRA 202, Introduction to Professional Writing (F05)
- WRA 110, Writing—Science and Technology (F01)

Case Western Reserve University

- English 506, Teaching Technical and Professional Communication (F99, F'00)
- EPOM 498, Computer-Mediated Professional Communication (SU'00) (hybrid course for engineering master's program)
- English 387/487, Digital Theory and Writing (SP00)
- English 398N, Professional Communication for Engineers (co-instructor of record with TAs)
- English 375, Internship in Technical Communication (SP01)
- English 317, Business and Technical Writing (SP00, SP01)

Purdue University

- English 680m, PostCritical Methodologies (SP98)
- English 680e, Ethics, Rhetoric, and Writing (SP95)
- English 626, Postmodernism and Issues in Composition Studies (SP96, SP99)
- English 624, Style and Invention Issues from the 18th Century through Postmodernism (SP94)
- English 623, Audience Issues from the 18th Century through Postmodernism (F90, F91, SP93, SP94)
- English 596p, Professional Writing Theory (F90)
- English 590, Directed Readings: Rhetoric Theory and Computing (SP92)
- English 515, Advanced Professional Writing—advanced computer-based publishing course for graduate students and professional writing majors. (F88, S89, F89, F91, SU93, F97, F98)
- English 502b, Practicum, Business Writing—required course for new business writing teachers (F89, SP90, SP91, F93, F94, F95)
- English 502k, Practicum, Computer-Aided Publishing—required course for all new teachers of English 309, Computer-aided Publishing (F90)
- English 502m, Practicum, Professional Writing in Computer Classrooms (F98)
- English 420, Business Writing—in both traditional and computer classrooms (F88, M89, M90, M91, M92, M94, SU95, M96, M97, M98)
- English 420D, Business Writing—Distance Education (SP99)