

R/C VISITING SPEAKER SERIES

ELIZABETH WARDLE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 FROM 2:00-3:30PM
IN THE COMMON ROOM (WMS 013)

Threshold Concepts: Considering What We Know and How We Teach It

Threshold concepts are concepts critical for participation and continued advancement in a discipline. Asking faculty, scholars, and practitioners to collectively identify some of their field's threshold concepts can have important consequences for curriculum and program design, as well as pedagogy, practice, and interdisciplinary work.

This presentation will explore the idea of threshold concepts and describe the modified crowd-sourcing methodology used to identify some of the threshold concepts defined in *Naming What We Know: Threshold Concepts of Writing Studies*. Several recent or current examples of threshold concepts in use will be described, including using them to design a Writing and Rhetoric BA, to help graduating writing majors explore what they've learned, and to examine the effectiveness of general education courses.



Elizabeth Wardle is Professor and Chair of Writing and Rhetoric at the University of Central Florida. She previously directed the Writing Program there, as well as at the University of Dayton. She is the co-editor of *Naming What We Know: Threshold Concepts of Writing Studies*, and of *Writing About Writing: A College Reader*. She recently completed a longitudinal study of writing-related knowledge transfer, and this fall she began a study with her colleagues in history, looking at how students in general education history courses learn threshold concepts.