

English 379/579
TR 3:30-4:45
CCC 232

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Office hrs: 11-12 MWTR and by appt.

Syllabus

- Required Texts:
- Herrick. *The History and Theory of Rhetoric*. 3rd ed.
 - Plato. *Phaedrus*. Trans. by Alexander Nehamas and Paul Woodruff.
 - Shakespeare. *Julius Caesar*.

Rhetoric is concerned with the strategic use of language and knowledge as well as the contexts in which our words and ideas are put to use. This course will explore some of the major theories about what rhetoric is and how it should be used, emphasizing classic texts and theories by Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and Quintilian and their influence on modern thought. Rhetoric is relevant to both spoken as well as written forms of communication, but in this course we will primarily concentrate on how it applies to written communication.

Because of its concern with the art of communication, Rhetoric has been the cornerstone of a liberal arts education for at least 2000 years. Rhetorical theory, by classical Greek and Roman authorities as well as by contemporary scholars continues to provide useful strategies for teachers, literature scholars, philosophers, and anyone engaged in writing or public speaking.

- Grades:
- *Quizzes:* You will take 7-10 short quizzes that will help you prepare for the longer exams. If you are absent the day of a quiz, you can make it up prior to the next class meeting.
 - *Exams:* You will have 2 exams that will test your familiarity with and understanding of the readings and class discussions. These exams will contain multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. The final exam will be semi-comprehensive (some questions will cover material that was on the previous exam).
 - *Annotated bibliography:* You will turn in an annotated bibliography (3-5 sources) on a specific concept/theorist we will discuss this semester.
 - *Paper.* You will write one 5-page paper on a topic related to the course, ideally a topic related to one of the annotated bibliographies.
 - *Participation:* You are expected to attend class regularly and make constructive contributions to class discussions. Missing class will make it difficult for you and your classmates to benefit from the work we will be doing in class. It is your responsibility to obtain a copy of the assignments or handouts if you are unable to attend class. You are expected to read all assigned readings before class.

The final grade will be computed as follows:

Final Grade:	Quizzes (7-10)	15%
	Exams (2)	30%
	Annotated Bibliography	20%
	Paper	25%
	Participation	10%
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		100%

Semester Calendar
(exams and in **bold**, readings in brackets)

<i>The Philosophy of Rhetoric</i>	
Sept. 4—Course Introduction	
Sept. 6—The Rhetorical Situation [ch. 10, 230-32; Bitzer]	<i>Kairos</i>
Sept.11—Ethos and persuasion	<i>Ethos</i>
Sept.13—Rhetoric vs. Sophistry [ch.2-3; Gorgias]	
Sept.18—Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> , part 1	
Sept.20—Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> , part 2	
Sept.25—Rhetorical Education [ch. 5; Isocrates, Quintilian]	
Sept.27—Rhetoric and Dialectic [ch. 4; Aristotle I]	<i>Logos</i>
Oct. 2—Resources of Ambiguity [Burke; <i>Dissoi Logoi</i>]	
Oct. 4—Topics vs. Fallacies [ch. 4; Aristotle II]	
Oct. 9—Argumentation and Persuasion [ch. 9, 205-07]	
Oct. 11—Terministic Screens, narratives [ch. 10, Burke]	
Oct. 16—Motives & emotions [ch. 4; Aristotle III]	<i>Pathos</i>
Oct. 18—Grammar/Rhetoric of motives [Burke]	
Oct. 23—Evoking <i>pathos</i> [Perelman] [Haidt, sentiment]	
Oct. 25— Annotated Bibliography	
Oct. 30— Exam 1	
<i>The Art of Rhetoric</i>	
Nov. 1—Invention [ch. 5] Arrangement [ch. 5; <i>ad Her.</i>]	<i>Oral (and written) communication</i>
Nov. 6—Style: Decorum [ch. 5; <i>ad Her.</i> , Cicero]	
Nov. 8—Style: Figures of Speech [ch.5; <i>ad Her.</i>]	
Nov.13—Memory and Delivery [Plato]	
Nov.15—Shakespeare, <i>Julius Caesar I-II</i>	
Nov.20—Shakespeare, <i>Julius Caesar III-V</i>	
Nov.22—NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING	
Nov.27—Intro. to Modern rhetoric [ch. 6; Erasmus, Ramus]	<i>Print Literacy</i>
Nov.29—Literacy and Delivery [ch. 8; Sheridan]	
Dec. 4—Literacy and Literature [ch. 8; Blair]	
Dec. 6—Technology and communication [Baron, Gee]	<i>Electronic communication</i>
Dec. 11—Multimodal rhetoric [Kress, Hill]	
Dec. 13— Paper due	
Dec. 18— Exam 2 12:30-2:30 p.m. (Tuesday)	