

Dr. Kathleen Horton
ENG 330; S2014
MW 8:30; 119 Fenton

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Off. Hrs.: MWF 10:00-10:50

Oral Controversy and Advocacy

Course Description: ENG 330 – Oral Controversy and Advocacy asks students to observe, analyze, evaluate, and practice effective oral argumentation in controversial matters of public concern, alongside the study and discussion of fundamental theories of rhetoric. For our purposes, oral advocacy is an act of inquiry and a search for shared understanding, not a debate tournament with winners and losers. Dialogic engagement is essential. This means you have to listen as carefully as you speak. Students will develop practices of listening, reading, responding, discussing, and researching to enhance their invention of arguments and their positions as informed advocates in the midst of a community of thinkers and inquirers. Further, students will cultivate habits of noting, examining, and responding to the various and multiple reasonable and unreasonable positions one can take on controversial matters. To discern what divides “reasonable” and “unreasonable” will be our ongoing challenge.

Course Outcomes:

- understand the importance of oral argumentation, controversy, and debate in civic life
- assess and respond to oral texts critically
- plan and deliver speeches that are argued logically and spoken articulately, with attention to body, voice, gestures, expression, modulation, physical space, and material conditions
- become more self-aware of personal speaking strengths, weaknesses, and habits, and demonstrate improvement as a result of this awareness
- organize the parts of an argument into the most powerful arrangement considering audience and purpose
- make decisions regarding ethos, voice, and style based on construction of audience and purpose

Required Texts:

Palczewski, Catherine Helen; et al. *Rhetoric in Civic Life*. Strata Press. (available in UO Bookstore):

The Declaration of Independence & The Constitution of the United States. (available online)

Grading and Work Requirements:

1. APP (Attendance, Preparation, Participation) – 10%

This significant element of your grade includes the following:

- Come to class; arrive on time; stay in class for the entire class session. (1 pt per class)
- Buy the book. Have your own copy. Bring your book with you to each class when it is assigned and refer to it during discussion. (5 pts for having book on Wednesday, 4/2/14; 4 pts for having the book on Monday, 4/7/14; 0 points for book after that).
- Be prepared by having done the homework thoughtfully and taken notes on the readings.

- Actively participate in class discussion; listen respectfully to peers; respond honestly.
- Turn all your electronics off before class and put them away for the duration.
- Speech portfolios including proposals, notes, and evaluations when/if assigned.
- MLA methodology should be used for any formal written work so designated unless you make other arrangements with me ahead of time.

Conference: My role in your development as a public speaker is similar to that of a coach. I observe you carefully and note your strengths and weaknesses, making suggestions for improvement. Coming to my office to meet with me to discuss your public speaking/oral advocacy is an excellent way for us to communicate, so please try to have at least one conference with me during the term. Make an appointment if you can't make my office hours.

2. Reading Quizzes - Response Papers - Midterm Test – 10%

Quizzes and response papers may be given periodically, announced and/or unannounced. The midterm test will be given on a date specified in the syllabus. These will be based on the readings and/or on lectures and class discussions. The purpose is to encourage you to keep up-to-date on the readings and to remember the terms and concepts encountered so you can consider and use them in your work for this class and in civic life and oral advocacy beyond this class.

3. Collaborative Presentation – 20%

4. Oral Advocacy #1 – Science and Advocacy – 20%

5. Oral Advocacy #2 – Constitutional Values – 20%

6. Final Exam – Controversy, Advocacy, and the Law: Sebelius vs. Hobby Lobby – 20%

Details for each of these major assignments will be discussed in class.

Course Policies:

1. Plagiarism-free zone: Do your own work. Cite sources when you use sources. Find valid, reliable, and responsible sources.
2. Electronics-free zone: It's about thinking and interacting with others in person.
3. Accommodations zone: If you have a documented disability, please see me early in the term.

Resources:

The Forest of Rhetoric (*Sylva Rhetoricae*)
 Voices of Democracy: The U.S. Oratory Project
 American Rhetoric
 The Oyez Project
 TED Talks
 Intelligence Squared Archives
 Reference Librarians - UO Library

Tentative Schedule:

- 1a Introductions
- 1b *Rhetoric in Civic Life* (RCL) Chapter 1

- 2a RCL, Chapters 2 and 3
- 2b RCL, Chapter 5

- 3a Collaborative Presentations; RCL, Chapter 6
- 3b Collaborative Presentations

- 4a Collaborative Presentations; RCL, Chapter 7
- 4b Collaborative Presentations

- 5a RCL, Chapters 8 and 9
- 5b RCL, Chapter 4; Midterm Test

- 6a Oral Advocacy #1 - Science
- 6c Oral Advocacy #1 – Science

- 7a Oral Advocacy #1 - Science
- 7b Oral Advocacy #1 – Science

- 8a Constitution and Declaration - Discussion
- 8b Constitution and Declaration – Discussion

- 9a Oral Advocacy #2 – Constitutional Values
- 9b Oral Advocacy #2 – Constitutional Values

- 10a Oral Advocacy #2 – Constitutional Values
- 10b Oral Advocacy #2 – Constitutional Values

Final Exam: 10:15, Tuesday, June 10th

