

*All actual life is encounter.*

Martin Buber

**Course Description:** While the primary focus of our class will be on the practice of public speaking, we will also discuss theories of rhetoric; the identity, characteristics, and relationship of speaker (self) and audience (other), the importance of listening as an aspect of speaking; the role of gender, culture, and context in public discourse, and the common challenges and barriers humans face and overcome when engaged in public speaking. In addition, we will explore ethics and morality as foundational concerns in any arena in which one seeks the assent of another.

**Course Outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will have developed their capacities in the following areas:

- understand foundational rhetorical theory
- develop a toolbox of rhetorical practices for use in composing and engaging in public discourse
- practice listening and speaking exercises as a form of dialogic engagement in the development of ideas
- discern best use and balance of ethos, pathos, logos in public discourse
- consider the value of the liberal arts as an aspect of public discourse
- evaluate the public discourse of self and others with clarity and discernment
- improve as public speakers and listeners

**Required Text:** *The Norton Reader*, Shorter 13<sup>th</sup> edition. Peterson, et al, eds. (Please do not take this course if you do not intend to purchase and use the textbook – thanks.)

**Grading:**

Attendance, Preparation, Participation (APP)	10%
Speech #1 – Epideictic	10%
Speech #2 – Judicial	10%
Speech #3 – Deliberative	10%
Essay #1	10%
Essay #2	10%
Essay #3	10%
Portfolio #1	10%
Portfolio #2	10%
Portfolio #3	10%

**Policies:**

**Attendance, Preparation, and Participation (APP)** includes these expectations:

- Attend class on time and stay. (Note: I understand you may get sick or have emergencies that call you away from class once or twice during the term. You don't have to call or email me about these ordinary absences and one or two absences will not lower your grade. But more than that will. If you have an illness or emergency circumstance that will keep you out of class for an extended period, be sure to let me know. And please do inform me by email if you drop the course, so I won't worry about your absence.)
- Be prepared.
- Participate actively in class discussion.

- Be courteous, attentive, and responsive to others in class discussion. Please be engaged in the ideas under discussion and thus feel free always to disagree with another speaker, but do so respectfully.
- Turn off all electronics during our entire class session and refrain from texting, checking for texts, and leaving during our class session to engage in those activities.
- Finish any assigned reading in the time allotted, take notes, write responses, and be prepared to share your thoughts in class.
- Take notes by hand during in-class theory lectures and discussions to reinforce your understanding and memory of the terms and concepts covered. You can enter your notes in your computer after class as a method of reinforcing the class material.

**This portion of your grade will also include:**

- speaking and listening exercises
- a minimum of one meeting with me
- a theory exam, quizzes and/or response papers

**Speeches:** You will give three major “speeches,” each with a different set of requirements and guidelines that will be handed out in class and/or posted on Blackboard.

**Proposals:** Each speech will be preceded by a proposal, and each proposal will have its own set of instructions that will be handed out in class and/or posted on Blackboard.

**Essays:** Each speech will be followed by a thoughtful and thorough critique and self-evaluation. The requirements for each will be discussed in class and guidelines will be handed out and/or posted on Blackboard. **Your self-evaluation essays are due at the beginning of the next class session after you give your speech.**

**Portfolios:** Portfolios will include proposals, reading responses, peer evaluations, and anything else I assign you to write during each unit.

**Meetings:** In addition to the required meeting with me in my office, I am happy to meet with you any other time during the term to discuss your ideas, speeches, concerns, questions, confusions, problems, progress, or grades. Please come to my office hours or make an appointment if you can’t make the office hours. Brief answers to simple questions can be given just before or after class, but meaningful discussions on the fly are not possible, so please come see me.

**Special Needs:** Please see me in my office during the first week of the term if you have a documented disability, are involved in a school activity, or are in a situation that requires special accommodations, so we can discuss your needs.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is taking someone else’s ideas or writings and presenting them as your own without attributing the idea to its source. All work you do in this class must be your own work, based on your own original thinking, and done exclusively for this class. Any source used must be cited according to MLA format and methodology. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will result in your failing the class and a report being sent to the Office of Student Conduct. See me if you do not understand what plagiarism means and please read the provisions in the code of student conduct regarding this: <<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct/code.htm>>

**Note:** Missed in-class work, including the theory exam and any quizzes or response papers, cannot be made up except for absences due to documented school business or in cases of documented emergencies.

**Tentative Schedule:** (The schedule is called “tentative” because it is subject to adjustments during the term. Any such changes will be announced in class and/or posted on blackboard or sent via UO email. Please make sure you are aware of any adjustments, especially if you have missed class.)

- 1a Introductions; Praxis
- 1b Rhetorical Theory
- 1c Rhetorical Theory
  
- 2a Rhetorical Theory; Plato, “Allegory of the Cave” (657)
- 2b Rhetorical Theory
- 2c Rhetorical Theory; American Rhetoric, MLK, “I Have A Dream”
  
- 3a **Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday – No Class Session**
- 3b **Theory Exam**
- 3c Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; Pinker, “The Moral Instinct” (321)
  
- 4a Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; American Rhetoric (tba)
- 4b Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; American Rhetoric (tba) **Proposal #1 Due**
- 4c Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; American Rhetoric (tba)
  
- 5a Epideictic Speech
- 5b Epideictic Speech
- 5c Epideictic Speech
  
- 5a Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; Readings (tba)
- 5b Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; Readings (tba) **Proposal #2 Due**
- 5c Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; Readings (tba)
  
- 6a Judicial Speech
- 6b Judicial Speech
- 6c Judicial Speech
  
- 7a Judicial Speech
- 7b Judicial Speech
- 7c Judicial Speech
  
- 8a Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; Readings (tba)
- 8b Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; Readings (tba)
- 8c Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; Readings (tba) **Proposal #3 Due**
  
- 9a Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; Readings (tba)
- 9b Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; Readings (tba)
- 9c Listening/Speaking Exercises/Invention; Readings (tba)
  
- 10a Deliberative Speech
- 10b Deliberative Speech
- 10c Deliberative Speech

**(Please see Notes on back.)**

**Note #1:** Students who give their final speech on Friday (10c), the last day of class, should turn their self-evaluation essays into my office (265 PLC) by noon on Monday, March 16. If I am not there you may put it under my office door. (Make sure it is the right office door and make sure all pages have your name on them and are stapled together.)

**Note #2:** There will be no final exam for this class.

**Note #3:** Speeches assigned as audio/video can be accessed at <[americanrhetoric.com](http://americanrhetoric.com)>

**Note #4:** Readings in the text and speeches on the American Rhetoric site will be announced in the course of the term.