English 691 Seminar: Topics in Composition Theory  
Aristotle’s Poetics and Rhetoric in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Monday 2-4:50
253 PLC
CRN: 27036
Professor John Gage
205 PLC - 346-3922
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Office Hours: M 1-2, W 1-3
and by appointment

Required Texts:

- Other assigned readings provided as pdfs or on library reserve.

Requirements:

- Attendance and participation
  - Please come to class on time, prepared to discuss the readings and each other’s reading responses. Talk and respond to each other, respectfully.
- Oral book report
  - To be based on a selection of texts to be provided or a title approved in advance.
- Weekly reading responses
  - No more than one page, due on Canvas each Sunday before class. Open to your understandings, insights, confusions, questions. What is important, why? What is not yet clear?
- Research essay
  - Based on a question at issue from our readings, 15 pages minimum (standard formatting) with MLA documentation.
  - Symposium: present an oral abstract and lead discussion on the last day of class.

Policies:

- Intellectual presence and engagement expected.
- Please turn off electronics during class unless taking notes or accessing assigned readings.
- Student Code of Conduct strictly enforced.
- This class is a “like” free zone. “So” is discouraged. Occasional “ums” are ok.
Schedule

Topics tentative. Specific readings to be assigned. Changes will be announced in class and on Canvas.


2. January 11 -- Poetics

3. January 18 – no class (make up session t.b.a.) Poetics (cont.) Rhetoric

4. January 25 – Rhetoric (cont.)

5. February 1 -- neo-Aristotelian criticism (the “Chicago School”): Crane, Olson, Booth

6. February 8 – the Kenneth Burke / Wilbur Howell controversy

7. February 15 – the revival of rhetoric: Bitzer, Corbett, pedagogy, Nussbaum, Garver, post-modern critiques

8. February 22 – oral reports 1
   revisiting rhetoric and poetics overlaps: emotions, metaphor, style, form, character

9. February 29 – oral reports 2

10. March 7 – research symposium

Research Essays Due: March 14
ARISTOTLE'S MASTER-PIECE IMPROVED
IN FOUR PARTS

Containing
PART I. OF MARRIAGES, and at what Age Young Men, and Virgins are capable of it.

PART II. OF MONSTERS, and Monstrosity BIRTHS, and the several Reason thereof, with divers Examples.

PART III. WHAT CONCEPTION is; and what is pre-requisite thereto.

PART IV. DIRECTIONS FOR MIDWIVES how to assist Women in the Time of their Labors; and how Child-bearing Women should be ordered in the Time of their Lynges.

Adapted to the Meanest Capacities, and much more Concise than any ye Published. With CONTENTS to the Whole.

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