

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:

- Leon Golden (trans.) and O.B. Hardison, Jr.. *Aristotle's Poetics: A Translation and Commentary for Students of Literature* (University Press of Florida, 1982)
- George A. Kennedy (trans.). *Aristotle On Rhetoric: A Theory of Civil Discourse* (2e Oxford University Press, 2010)
- 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.

1. January 4 – Introduction. Planet Aristotle
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

