Dr. Kathleen Horton / ENG 330 / S11
265 PLC – 346-1311; hortonk@uoregon.edu
Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00

Syllabus

One must speak one's mind, but one must also accept the responsibility of rigor and the principled refusal of easy, sloppy, uninformed thinking
Linda Kintz, Ph.D.

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. In class we will discuss issues based on our readings to develop content for speeches, and together we will compose assessment criteria for effective oral advocacy; students will be asked to use those criteria to evaluate themselves and their peers, as I will use those criteria to evaluate them.

Course Goals:
• invent compelling arguments advocating for a position in a controversial matter
• address the controversy and opposing perspectives
• organize the parts of the argument into the most powerful arrangement considering audience and purpose
• make stylistic decisions considering audience and purpose
• develop memorization brain muscles
• deliver speeches thoughtfully, aware of voice, gesture, body, and physical space, objects, and conditions
• evaluate all aspects of own and peer speech performances
• periodically take the position of respondent to others’ speeches

Requirements and Grading:
AP&P 20%
Group Presentation 20%
Speeches 60%

AP&P (attendance, participation, and preparation) includes coming to class, coming to class on time, active participation in all aspects of the class; courteous and respectful attention and response to others throughout class, in discussions, and during speeches; quizzes, impromptu speaking exercises, and written responses; evaluation of and/or officiating as a respondent to peers’ speeches. Please note that you will not pass this class if you do not attend this class.

All work done for this class must be your own work created specifically for this class. Plagiarized work will result in immediate failure of the class and a report filed with the office of student conduct.

If you are in need of special accommodations due to a documented disability, please see me in the first week of the term.
Please take notes by hand and transcribe them to your computer after class if doing so would be helpful for you. Except for specified situations, such as group presentations, our attention during class will focus on discussion. Computers, therefore, will generally not be necessary and may not be used in this class unless necessitated by a documented disability. Please see me to explain your situation if this is the case. Similarly, please turn off and put away your cell phones and refrain from texting, checking for text messages, or leaving the room for these activities during our class session. Come to class on time and stay for the entire period. Thank you for observing these courtesies.

**Group Presentations:** You will sign up with a group to present a public speech to the class. Your presentation will include showing the speech and another spoken perspective on the issue raised in the speech, analyzing the controversial content of the speech, assessing the rhetorical strengths and weaknesses of the speech, and engaging the class in discussion of the speech. I encourage you to find recent speeches on controversial matters relevant to civic life and to consider gender and ethnic diversity in making your choices. For example, you might consider different ethnic perspectives presented in speeches on immigration reform. Consider your own interests and please find high quality videos and be sure to watch them and “vet” them before you show them to the class. You might find speeches on videos or dvds in the library or through any number of web sites including the following:

- www.voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/ (The Voices of Democracy project promotes the study of great speeches and public debates relevant to American history and identity.)
- www.americanrhetoric.com/ (American Rhetoric has an extensive collection of famous speeches.)

Also of interest:

- The Oyez Project provides audio and transcripts of oral arguments before the Supreme Court.
- http://library.dyc.edu/subjectguides/publicspeaking.pdf (This site is a compendium of speaking resources.)

**Speeches:** We will define and discuss the specific criteria for each speech in class.

**Self-Assessment Essay and Portfolio:** These are due at the beginning of finals week, and I will discuss the requirements in class as the time approaches. Your portfolio will include all response papers and speech notes, so please do not lose them during the term.
**Tentative Schedule:**

1M  Introductions; Impromptu one-minute speeches  
1W  Maier, *Declaration of Independence* and *Constitution*; response paper  
1F  Maier, Introduction; response paper  
2M  Maier, continued; Rhetorical Theory  
2W  Rhetorical Theory  
2F  Meet w Groups to Plan Presentation – No Class Session  
3M  Group Presentations  
3W  Group Presentations  
3F  Group Presentations  
4M  Zinczenko, “Don’t Blame the Eater,” in Graff, 139; response paper  
4W  Graff, “Hidden Intellectualism,” 142; response paper  
4F  Bordo, “The Empire of Images in Our World of Bodies,” in Graff, 149; response  
5M  Rhetorical Theory, Discussion of Criteria for Speech #1  
5W  Speech #1 – Proposition of Value  
5F  Speech #1 – Proposition of Value  
6M  Speech #1 – Proposition of Value  
6W  Speech #1 – Proposition of Value  
6F  Duncan, *My Story as Told by Water*; response paper #1  
7M  Duncan, response paper #2  
7W  Duncan, response paper #3; Discussion of Criteria for Speech #2  
7F  Research Day; No Class Session  
8M  Speech #2 – Proposition of Policy  
8W  Speech #2 – Proposition of Policy  
8F  Speech #2 – Proposition of Policy  
9M  Speech #2 – Proposition of Policy  
9W  Invention Workshop  
9F  Invention Workshop  
10M  Speech #3 – Advocacy – Speaker’s Choice  
10W  Speech #3 – Advocacy – Speaker’s Choice  
10F  Speech #3 – Advocacy – Speaker’s Choice  

Self-assessment essay and portfolio of response papers and speech notes due Monday of finals week by noon in my office, 265 PLC.