

The History of Rhetoric and Composition (ENG 492/592)

Winter 2020 Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-1120pm 201 Vil
Prof. Crosswhite Hours: T 12-3 pm 258 PLC jcross@uoregon.edu

Rhetoric has been characterized as a power of leading of the soul, as the universal form of communication, as the art of persuasion, as the way we reason and deliberate with one another in conditions of uncertainty, as the discourse of democracy, as the ability to find and create arguments, as the art of style, as the study of how literature affects readers, and as the metaphorical work of language. Rhetoric has also been understood, in its educational role, as a project of developing the essential communicative capabilities of human beings. For over two millennia, rhetoric played a central role in the liberal arts. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, it has begun to reclaim that role.

In this course, we will explore the history of the different ways rhetoric has been understood, with a focus on the way rhetoric has articulated goals for education and human development—especially in the way it has described essential rhetorical capabilities and the best ways of cultivating and strengthening them.

Readings will range from Plato and Aristotle all the way to contemporary cognitive science and composition studies. Students will have the option of writing two shorter papers or one longer paper. The learning outcomes are for you to become more knowledgeable about the history of rhetoric and to become able to think more clearly and to make more informed judgments about contemporary rhetoric and composition, including the teaching and learning of writing and reasoning, in the light of that background.

Required Texts

The Rhetorical Tradition (RT) by Patricia Bizzell and Bruce Herzberg
Other Readings will be available on CANVAS (C)

Schedule (Revisable)

1

T Jan 7 Introductions. Protagoras. Isocrates.

Th Jan 9 Plato: *Apology* (C) – and everywhere online and in bookstores)

2

T Jan 14 Plato: *Gorgias* (RT 87-138)

Th Jan 16 Plato: *Phaedrus* I (RT 138-155 middle of 1st column. If you have Stephanus numbers, read from the start through 257b)

3

T Jan 21 Plato: *Phaedrus* II (Read to the end)

Th Jan 23 Aristotle: *Rhetoric* introduction and Book 1 (RT 169-213)

4

T Jan 28 Aristotle: *Rhetoric* Books 2 and 3 (RT 213-240)

Th Jan 30 Style and Figures: Figures (CANVAS)
Optional: Rhetorica ad Herennium (RT 241-282)

5

T Feb 4 Cicero: *De Oratore* and *Orator* (RT 283-343)

Th Feb 6 Literary Rhetoric – Longinus: *On the Sublime* (RT 344-358)

6

T Feb 11 Quintilian: *Institutes of Oratory* (RT 359-428)
 And David Fleming: “Rhetoric as a Course of Study.” (C)

Th Feb 13 Augustine: *On Christian Doctrine* (RT 450-485)
Optional First paper Due

7

T Feb 18 Review. Brian Vickers: “The Main Processes of Rhetoric” (C)

Th Feb 20 Giambattista Vico: “On the Study Methods of our Time” (RT 862-878).

8

T Feb 25 Friedrich Nietzsche: “On Truth and Lies in a Non-moral Sense” (RT 1168-79)

Th Feb 27 *The New Rhetoric*: 1-62 (C)

9

T Mar 3 *The New Rhetoric*: 63-80, 115-141 (C)

Th Mar 5 *The New Rhetoric*: 261-292 (C)

10

T Mar 8 Rhetorical Capabilities: The History and Future of Rhetoric. (C)

Th Mar 10 Special office hours 10-12.

Final paper due: Any time before 3pm, Tuesday, March 17. Electronic AND hard copy please. Electronically through Canvas and hard copy under door at PLC 258.

Required Time

From UO Catalog: “In planning a term’s studies, students should anticipate that each credit requires at least three hours a week for class meetings or homework.” This is a 4 credit course, so plan for 12 hours a week. That’s three in class and nine outside of class.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADE BREAKDOWN**Writing**

Two essays of 1000-1250 words each
or one essay of 2000 to 2500 words.

I will provide instructions and a grading rubric for each of these assignments.

Participation

We will have reading each day of class that must be completed before class begins. Each day you come to class, (1) you should be able to say what you found most important in the reading, and (2) you should have one question about the reading that you would like to have addressed in the discussion. I will call on you for these ideas and questions. You may want to write them down so you will not forget when I call on you in class. I expect informed and respectful participation in class discussions.

Attendance is required. To cover illness or other events that make it impossible for you to attend, you are allowed two absences. A third absence drops the final grade one step (.33). A fourth drops the final grade another two steps (.66). Additional absences drop the grade an additional full grade. If you get sick with something contagious, do not come to class as long as you are contagious. If illness forces you to miss more than one class, be sure to contact me as soon as you can—before the absence, if this is possible—so that we can agree on a course of action. Written work may be submitted electronically if you are sick.

Being on time at 10am is also required. Lateness will affect your grade.

Grades

Participation – 15%
Essay #1 – 40% of grade
Essay #2 – 45% of grade
Or: One longer essay = 85% of grade

No Late Work. Contact me if an emergency arises.

COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Please include your name, the date you are submitting the work, the course number or name, and my name on your written work.

Please include the word count.

Please give your written work a title.

You should staple papers that have multiple pages.

Papers should be double spaced, with one inch margins.

Please use a 12 or 14 point font.

Submit both electronic and hard copies of all written work.

The hard copy of the first essay may be submitted in class or under my door at PLC 258 before 5pm on Thursday, February 13. The electronic copy should be submitted through CANVAS by the same deadline. The final paper is due under my door at PLC 258 any time before 3pm, Tuesday, March 17. The electronic copy should be submitted through CANVAS by the same deadline.

RESPECT, CONSIDERATION, AND PARTICIPATION

This course requires your active involvement. It simply will not work without it. Active and respectful participation is inconsistent with cell phone use, texting, internet surfing, side conversations, arriving late, leaving early, sleeping, distracting other people, and coming to class unprepared. If you do not give your full attention, you will not receive what the course has to offer. Listen to others respectfully, and expect the same of them. And feel free to speak up. What you have to say is important and unique. One of our goals is Socratic midwifery—helping each other give birth to the ideas that we are forming. This requires respectful attention to each other--and perhaps some kindness as well.

A LITTLE MORE

If you have a disability that may affect your ability to participate in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements for your full access.

Please be aware also that the Teaching and Learning Center (68 PLC; phone: 346-3226) provides support for all students. The Center offer tutors to help you with your writing assignments and provides other kinds of academic help.

An "Incomplete" can be given only in cases when some minor but essential aspect of the course cannot be completed because of unforeseen circumstances beyond a student's control.

All work submitted for this course must be your own and must be written exclusively for this course. If you plagiarize or cheat, the penalty will be an "F" in the course.

The use of sources (for example, other people's language or paraphrases of their language or ideas) must be properly documented. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.
