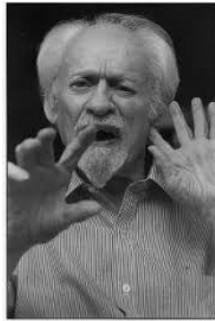


KENNETH BURKE SEMINAR



ENG 691
Topics: Kenneth Burke
Fall 2017 CRN 16894
Thursday 9:00 – 11:50
448 PLC

Professor John Gage
Office Hours: Tue. and Wed. 10:00- 11:30
or by appointment
205 PLC 346-3922
jgage@uoregon.edu

We will read and discuss the critical writings of Kenneth Burke, whose philosophy of language makes rhetoric (“the use of language as a symbol system to induce cooperation in beings that by nature respond to symbols”) an architectonic principle for the study of how ideology and symbolicity permeate all forms of appeal, literary and non-literary. Burke defines a core of principles about human motives as accounted for by the nature of language and its use and misuse, methodologically associated with the history of rhetoric.

Readings:

(*Required selections from these books will be announced.)

Available in the UO Bookstore and on 4-hour reserve in Knight Library:

- *Counter-Statement* PN511.B79 1953
- *Permanence and Change* B945.B773P4 1984
- *Philosophy of Literary Form** PN511.B795 1967
- *A Grammar of Motives** B945.B773G7 1969
- *A Rhetoric of Motives** B840.B8 1969
- *Language as Symbolic Action** PN511.B793
- *Rhetoric of Religion* BL65.L2B8 1970

Available on 4-hour reserve in Knight Library:

- *Unending Conversations: New Writings By and About Kenneth Burke** P301.U54 2001

And selected essays to be made available on Canvas.

Learning Objectives:

Students in this seminar will...

- read and discuss Burke's writings with the intention of understanding his purposes in individual texts and his overall theory of language, symbolic action, and rhetorical identification;
- demonstrate that understanding in weekly writings that identify and reflect meaningfully on issues in these texts;
- define a research issue and develop a critical hypothesis based on further exploration of relevant primary and secondary texts;
- write a seminar paper in which that hypothesis is argued effectively, clearly, and correctly for an academic audience (i.e. with potential for publication).

Requirements:

- Attendance, preparation, participation in discussion.
- Nine weekly posts to Canvas discussion forum; at least three weekly responses to others' posts.
- A research question, hypothesis, and complete draft of a seminar essay.

Forum posts:

By 5:00 on Tuesdays:

Starting in week 2, students will write a brief (one page maximum) response to the reading they have done for the course up to that point. Topics are open and may include understandings, observations, reservations, confusions, speculations, questions, applications, connections.... Try, however, to sustain and develop your thinking rather than move from one idea to another idea serially. This will require you to choose ideas you find significant enough to focus on and to express them succinctly.

By 5:00 on Wednesdays:

Read others' posts and reply briefly (one paragraph), critically, and respectfully to at least three.

Websites of interest:

- An audio recording of a talk by Burke in 1966 in which he summarizes his "theory of terms" by discussing five kinds of "dog:"
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/kennethburketheoryofterms.htm>
- Kenneth Burke Society and Journal: <http://www.kbjournal.org/kbs>
- Bibliography of Burke's Writings: <http://www.kbjournal.org/bibliographies>
- Resources on Kenneth Burke: <http://www.comm.umn.edu/burke/>
- Kenneth Burke, road-map of terms: <http://users.wfu.edu/zulick/454/roadmap.html>
- HRHETOR: discussion forum on rhetoric: <https://networks.h-net.org/h-rhetor>
- Rhetoric Society of America: http://www.rhetoricsociety.org/aws/RSA/pt/sp/home_page
- International Society for the History of Rhetoric: http://ishr-web.org/aws/ISHR/pt/sp/home_page

Bibliography:

Primary and secondary Kenneth Burke bibliographies can be found at The *Kenneth Burke Journal* site: <http://www.kbjournal.org/bibliographies>

Secondary Titles of Interest:

Kenneth Burke. *On Human Nature: A Gathering While Everything Flows, 1967-1984*
B945.B771 R84 2003

Kenneth Burke, *Essays Toward a Symbolic of Motives*, Selected, Arranged, and Edited by William H. Rueckert (order through Summit)

Debra Hawhee, *Moving Bodies: Kenneth Burke at the Edges of Language* (available through Summit)

Jack Selzer. *Kenneth Burke in Greenwich Village: Conversing with the Moderns, 1915-1931*
PS3503.U6134 Z87 1996

Jack Selzer and Ann George. *Kenneth Burke in the 1930's*
PS3503.U6134 Z667 2007

Jack Selzer and Sharon Crowley. *Rhetorical Bodies* P301.5.S63 R49 1999

Students are strongly urged to submit a conference proposal based on their research. Many types of conference would potentially be relevant, but see information about the following rhetoric conferences:

Rhetoric Society of America
International Society for the History of Rhetoric
Kenneth Burke Society
CCCC (College Composition and Communication)
American Society for the History of Rhetoric Conference
The Gorgias Society National Conference
The Modern Language Association
National Council of Teachers of English conferences
Western States Communication Association Conference
Western States Rhetoric & Literacy Conference
National Communication Association