ENGLISH 309A
Fall 1989
Rhetoric: Principles and Practice I

Professor J. Segal
Office: HH 251
Extension: 3318

Office hours: M, W 9:30-10:30 and 12:30-1:30

[Rhetoric is] the faculty of discovering in the particular case the available means of persuasion. (Aristotle's Rhetoric, trans. Lane Cooper)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 309A will use a historical perspective to examine the theory and practice of rhetoric. Readings and lectures will cover both the history of rhetoric—from Plato to the Middle Ages—and contemporary applications of classical rhetorical theory.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Rhetoric of Aristotle, trans. Lane Cooper; A Synoptic History of Classical Rhetoric, James J. Murphy, ed. St Augustine, On Christian Doctrine is on reserve at the library. E.P.J. Corbett, Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student is recommended.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND MARKS BREAKDOWN

Assignment 1. A persuasive essay. Due October 2. 20 marks.

Assignment 2. A written speech based on assignment 1. Due October 23. 20 marks.

Mid-term exam. October 30. 20 marks.

Assignment 3. A rhetorical analysis. Due November 20. 20 marks.

Take-home exam, written in class, November 29. 20 marks.
LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week of

Sept. 11 Introduction; issues in the history and theory of rhetoric; the pre-Socratics

Sept. 18 Plato, *Gorgias* an *Phaedrus*
Read: Murphy, part 1

Sept. 25 Plato; the beginning of a formalized rhetoric;
Aristotle's *Rhetoric*
Read: Aristotle, Book 1

Oct. 2 Aristotle's *Rhetoric*; focus on invention, logic
Read: Aristotle, Book 2

Oct. 9 Aristotle's *Rhetoric* cont'd.
Read: Aristotle, Book 3

Oct. 16 *Rhetorica ad Herennium* and Cicero's *De Oratore*;
focus on style
Read: Murphy, Parts 3 & 4

Oct. 23 Cicero and Quintilian; "the good man speaking well"
Read: Murphy, Part 5
Presentation of student speeches

Oct. 30 Mid-term exam; rhetorical analysis

Nov. 6 Student speeches

Nov. 13 Student speeches
Read: Murphy, Part 6

Nov. 20 From Quintilian to St. Augustine
Read: St. Augustine, Book 4

Nov. 27 Three medieval rhetorical arts; final in-class essay