English 309A
Rhetoric: Principles and Practice I

— Fall 1991 —

Professor C. Schryer
Office: HH 270
Phone: 3318
Office Hrs. Mon. 1:00 - 2:00; Wed. 1:00 - 3:00

Course Description:

This course explores not only the development of principles of rhetoric from the Sophists to St. Augustine, but also the social, political, and educational contexts in which those principles developed.

Goals:

On completing this course students should have a sense of the "shared stories" (Connors) and shared terms that constitute rhetorical analysis; several opportunities to develop their own rhetorical abilities in both oral and written discourse; and several opportunities to develop their research skills.

Texts:

Required:

Patricia Bizzell and Bruce Herzberg. The Rhetorical Tradition: Readings from Classical Times to the Present.


Recommended:


Evaluation:

Learning Journal 10%. The LJ will be collected at least twice during the course - once in the middle and at the end. It will be evaluated for completion only.

Group Report 30%. Oral and written versions are due according to course schedule.

Formal and Operational Definition 30%. Oral and written versions are due according to course schedule.

Take Home Exam 30%. Due last day of classes.
Course Notes:

1. The class day following an oral report (group or individual), students are required to hand in a draft of their written version. The instructor will comment and return these drafts for revision. **TWO** copies of the revised version are due back to the instructor the following class. One copy will be placed on Reserve for all students to consult.

2. If a student cannot appear for an oral presentation, he or she must arrange an alternate date in consultation with the instructor and other members of the class.

3. Class participation in this course is essential since much of what the class means by "rhetoric" will emerge in discussion and dialogue.

4. Late drafts or reports are discouraged and will lose 5% per day late.
Course Assignments

GROUP ASSIGNMENT 30%

Oral: Your goal is to persuade us that your historical figure(s) is important both as a contributor to the history of rhetoric and also as a commentator on present issues, problems or practices. You have 30 minutes for your presentation.

Written: Your report (approx. 10 typed pages) should answer some of the following questions:
Why should we know about this figure or group?
What can we learn from them?
What relevance do they have for us today?

Your report should also complete the following tasks:
1. Include a general bibliography of some of the most useful references for students doing research or comprehensive exams on your figure.
2. Include 3 or 4 annotated bibliographic references (recent useful journal articles) for the same audience.
3. Include a final retrospective account of your project explaining who did what and what rhetorical principles you tried to put into practice.

Definition Assignment 20%

Oral: Your goal is to explain your term so that the class clearly understands it. Try to use specific examples and involve the class in some way in analyzing and understanding your term. You have between 10-15 minutes for your presentation.

Written: Compose a formal and operational definition (approx. 5 typed pages) of your term. See Coe (on Reserve) for the techniques used in both types of definitions. (Length 3-5 pages)

Learning Journal 10%

Several types of responses can appear in the LJ:
- answers to questions that emerge from class discussions
- reactions to readings in the course
- accounts of the writer's own research projects
- questions for the class and/or instructor

Students should include at least 3-5 pages per week of exploratory analysis.

Take Home Exam 30%

In week 12, students will be given a copy of the take-home exam. It will consist of three questions that bring together issues discussed in the course. Student projects on reserve in the library will prove useful in responding to these questions. Exam is due the final day of classes.
Course Schedule

Week 1. Sept. 9-13
   1. Introduction
      - groups and individual projects assigned

Week 2. Sept. 16-20
   1. Sophists - read B. 38-54 and Conley 1-8
   2. Sophists

Week 3. Sept. 23-28
   1. Sophists and Plato - read B. 55-112; C. 8-13
   2. Discussion re Gorgias

Week 4. Sept. 30 - Oct. 4
   1. Discussion re Phaedrus 113-143
   2. Sophists presentation and definitions

Week 5. Oct. 7-11
   1. Aristotle read B. 144-194; C. 13-17.
   2. Platonists presentation and definitions

Week 6. Oct. 14-18
   1. Aristotelian discussion and definitions

Week 7. Oct. 21-25
   1. Cicero read B. 195-250; C. 29-52
   2. Aristotelian presentation and definitions

Week 8. Oct. 28-Nov. 1
   1. Cicero continued
   2. Cicero presentation and definitions

Week 9. Nov. 4-8
   1. Ad Herennium and Quintilian B. 251-363
   2. Discussion and definitions

Week 10. Nov. 10-15
   1. Quintilian
   2. Quintilian presentation and definitions

Week 11. Nov. 18-22
   1. Augustine B. 367-422
   2. Augustine discussion and definitions

Week 12. Nov. 25-29
   1. Overview discussions
   2. Augustine presentation and definitions

Week 13.
   1. Synthesis
   2. Synthesis