English 309A: Rhetoric: Principles and Practice 1

Professor Graves
HH 250
885-1211, 5366

Office Hours:
M, W 1:30-2:30;
Wed. 6-7

Course Description

This course surveys classical rhetorical theory from the sophists of ancient Greece to Quintilian, a Roman lawyer. As part of the rhetoric and professional writing program, we will study this theory as a way of understanding how texts work in a wide variety of examples which may be drawn from anything from popular culture to technical documents. Our goals are to 1) become familiar with classical rhetorical theory, 2) apply classical rhetorical theory as a method of critical analysis, and 3) develop writing skills through the application of classical rhetorical theory to our own prose.

In support of learning goal 1 (becoming familiar with classical rhetorical theory), students will write a mid-term test (one hour) and a final exam (3 hours) based on the readings from The Rehtorical Tradition. To support learning goal 2 (using rhetorical theory as critical analysis), students will write two short papers (2 pages single spaced) applying some aspect of rhetorical theory to a text of their choice. They will also work in groups to produce a 10-15 minute presentation that also applies some aspect of classical rhetorical theory to a text of the group's choosing. These "texts" can include written texts, advertisements, song lyrics, debates, speeches, technical documents, brochures, and other traces of literacy. In support of learning goal 3 (developing writing skills through learning this theory), students will write an essay in which they review research on some aspect of classical rhetorical theory and apply this knowledge to a document or text.

Texts


Kinko's Packet of Readings

Course Policies

Attendance is mandatory at all classes and for the entire scheduled time. All assignments must be handed in on time. No late papers will be accepted. Please consult the Undergraduate Calendar for policies on plaigerism and on grade appeals.

Assignments

Attendance 10
Mid-term test (2 hours) 20
Final exam (2 hours) 20
Group presentations (2 x 10) 20
Essay 30
### Tentative Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text</th>
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| Sept. 16 | Overview of history of rhetoric  
Introduction to course  
Rhetorical analysis of ad |  |
| Sept. 23 | Introductions; Sophists  
RT: 1-15, 19-37, 38-54  
CRMS: 3-31  
Group presentation meetings |  |
| Sept. 30 | Plato;  
RT: 55-60, 113-143; 1054-1065  
Group presentation meetings |  |
| Oct. 7  | Plato, Aristotle; Invention  
RT: 144-194  
CRMS: 32-93  
Group presentations |  |
| Oct. 14 | Aristotle; The Topics  
CRMS: 94-142  
Group presentations |  |
| Oct. 21 | Aristotle; External aids to Invention  
Library tour (?) and exercise  
RT: 144-194  
CRMS: 155-187  
Group presentations |  |
| Oct. 28 | Mid-term test  
Group presentation meetings |  |
| Nov. 4  | Classical Rhetoric and Professional Writing  
Kinko's packet |  |
| Nov. 11 | Cicero; Arrangement  
RT: 195-250  
CRMS: 278-316  
Group presentations |  |
| Nov. 18 | Ad Herennium;  
RT: 251-292  
Group presentations |  |
| Nov. 25 | Style  
CRMS: 380-457  
Group presentations |  |
| Dec. 2  | Quintilian;  
RT: 334-363  
Essays due: No late papers accepted. |  |

Final exam to be scheduled by registrar.