University of Waterloo
Department of English

English 309 A
Rhetoric: Principles and Practice I

Fall 1993 (Wednesday section)

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Office Hrs: Tuesday 10-11:30 a.m.; Tuesday 1-2:30 p.m.

Course Description:

Using short lectures, discussion and workshops, this course studies theories of rhetoric which emerged during the classical period. The course explores the social, historical and educational contexts which gave rise to rhetorical studies and focuses on the issues and theories of language characterizing rhetoric during this period.

Goals:

On completing this course students should be able to use the vocabulary of rhetorical analysis and understand how and why this vocabulary emerged during the classical period. Students should also have an awareness of the rhetorical issues which emerged during this period and continue to affect discourse practices today.

Texts:

Required:


Plato. Gorgias
Phaedrus

Kinko's package of readings
**Course Assignments**

**Reading and Research Journal - 15%**

This journal will be collected periodically during the course and will be evaluated for the quality of engagement of texts and for completion. The following activities are encouraged in journal entries:

* summarizing main ideas in course readings
* commenting on or exploring ideas discovered in course readings
* keeping track of your developing project and its relation to course readings
* collecting examples that connect course readings to current issues in professional writing—ads, brochures, newspaper articles etc.
* recording short weekly assignments

The journal should not be used as a simple record of your course notes. About 5 pages should be written each week, and the journal should be brought to each class meeting.

**Tests (2)**

Midterm in-class test on rhetorical terms, concepts and issues. 10%

Final exam on rhetorical terms and application of terms. 20%

**Oration - 20%**

**Due:** According to course schedule

Each student will compose and deliver an 8-10 minute classical oration on an issue of relevance to classical and modern rhetoric and/or professional communication. Marks will be deducted for any speech under or over the time limit.

**Paper - 35%**

2000-2500 words

**Due:** December 8

This paper will justify the oration's choice of topic, explain from a rhetorical perspective how the oration was composed, and justify the rhetorical strategies that went into its composition and delivery. It is also expected that students will conduct some original research on their topic in journals such as *Rhetoric Review* and *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*. 
Course Policies

1. Late papers will be penalized 5% per day late.
2. Readings must be completed prior to class.
3. Short writing assignments will often be assigned in preparation for in-class discussions. These assignments should be kept in the journal.

Course Schedule
Fall 1993

Week 1
Sept. 15
Introduction to classical rhetoric, overview of history and main issues
Reading: Corbett 539-548

Week 2
Sept. 22
Relevance of Classical Rhetoric
Reading: Corbett 3-31
Killingsworth (Kinko's) 287-297

Week 3
Sept. 29
Rhetoric vs. Philosophy
Reading: Plato Gorgias
Jarrett - Kinko's package
Murphy - Chapt 1

Week 4
Oct. 6
Rhetoric, Philosophy and Education
Reading: Plato Phaedrus
Crowley - Kinko's package

Week 5
Oct. 13
Classical canon - Invention, Aristotle
Reading: Corbett - Chapter 2

Week 6
Oct. 20
Classical canon - Invention, Aristotle
Reading: Murphy - Chapter 2

Week 7
Oct. 27
Classical canon - Arrangement, Introduction to Roman tradition
Reading: Corbett - Chapter 3
Midterm test on terms - 10%
Week 8
Nov. 3
Classical canon - Arrangement and Style, Cicero
Reading: Murphy - Chapters 3 and 4
Corbett - Chapter 4

Week 9
Nov. 10
Classical canon - Style
Reading:
Killingsworth, Gilbertson and Chew (Kinko's)
D'Angelo (Kinko's)

Week 10
Nov. 17
Classical canon, memory and deliver, and Roman Education
Reading: Murphy - Chapt 5 and 6
Shenk (Kinko's)
Hirst (Kinko's)

Oration begins.

Week 11
Nov. 24 Oration

Week 12
Dec. 1 Oration