English 309 A

Rhetoric: Principles and Practice I

Fall 1995

Professor C. Schryer
Office: HH 222
Phone: 3318
Email: cschryer@watarts
Office Hrs: Tues. 2-4:30 pm or by appt.

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:

Kinko's package of readings

Course Assignments

1. Portfolio Assignments 40%

   Due: Portfolio assignments are due on the Friday of the week they are assigned (before 4 p.m.)

   During the course, students will submit 4 short assignments. The instructor will comment on and return these assignments. At the end of the semester students can choose 3 of these assignments for inclusion in a portfolio for grading purposes. Students can, of course, choose to revise their final submissions. Both original and final versions of assignments should be handed in. Marks will be deducted for any late assignments according to course policy.

   All portfolio assignments must be short, that is, between 600-800 words.
2. **Oration - 20%**
   
   **Due:** According to course schedule
   Each student will compose and deliver an 8-10 minute 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.

3. **Oration report - 10%**
   
   800-1,000 words
   
   **Due:** Class following oration
   
   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.

4. **Final Exam - 30%**

**Course Policies**

1. Late papers will generally be penalized 5% per day late. Students will be allowed 1 late assignment (up to 3 days) with no questions asked or penalty assigned. This proviso does **NOT** include the Oration or Final exam.

2. Much of the activities in class are based on the assumption that everyone, including the instructor, has read the material prior to class. Reading the material prior to class is a really good strategy for success in this course.

3. Questions on the final exam will be based on workshops and discussions conducted in class.

---

**Course Schedule**

Fall 1995

**Week 1**

Sept. 11 or 13 according to seminar schedule

Introduction to classical rhetoric, overview of history and main issues

Reading: Corbett 539-548

**Week 2**

Sept. 18 or 20

The Sophists

Reading: Isocrates "Against the Sophists" and "Antidosis" (in Benson and Prosser)

Crowley--Kinko's package

Jarrett - Kinko's package
#1. Portfolio Assignment: Write a short essay reacting to some important idea or concept you are working on this week. Alternative: a brief oration in imitation of Isocrates to a modern audience.

Week 3
Sept. 25 or 27
Plato
Reading: Plato "Gorgias" and "Phaedrus" (B&P)
Black--Kinko's package

Week 4
Oct. 2 or 4
Plato and Aristotle
Reading: Kauffman--Kinko's
Aristotle "The Rhetoric" (B&P)

#2. Portfolio Assignment: Write a short essay reacting to some important idea or concept you are working on this week. Alternatives: a Platonic dialogue; a debate on this unit's issues.

Week 5
Oct. 11 or 16
Aristotle and the Manual tradition
Reading: "Rhetorica ad Alexanderum" (B&P)
Katz--Kinko's
Killingsworth--Kinko's

Week 6
Oct. 18 or 23
Among the Romans
Reading: Cicero "De Oratore" (B&P)
Petronius "Among the Rhetoricians" (B&P)
Quintilian "Institutio Oratoria" (B&P)
Augustine "On Christian Doctrine" (B&P)

#3. Portfolio Assignment: Write a short essay reacting to some important idea or concept you are working on this week. Alternatives: a letter imitating Cicero's voice and style, a dialogue between 2 of the above writers.

Week 7
Oct. 25 or 30
Classical cannon -- Invention
Reading: Corbett -- Chapter 2 (Selective reading)
Unit II in B and P: Read 1 author according to your assigned group.

In-class group workshop.
Week 8

Nov. 1 or 6
Classical canon - Invention and Arrangement

Reading: Corbett--Chapter 3 (Selective reading)
Unit III in B and P: Read 1 author according to your assigned group

In-class group workshop.

#4. Portfolio Assignment: Develop a brief synthesis based on your group’s analysis of your author's or authors' views on invention and arrangement.

Week 9

Nov. 8 or 13
Classical canon - Style
Reading: Corbett--Chapter 4 (Selective reading)
Killingsworth, Gilbertson and Chew--Kinko's Unit IV in B and P: Read 1 author according to your assigned group.

Week 10

Nov. 15 or 20
Classical canon --Style, Memory, and Delivery
Reading: Hirst (Kinko's) Unit V in B and P

Oations begin if necessary

Week 11

Nov. 22 or 27

Oations

Week 12

Nov. 29 or Dec. 4