English 309A
Rhetoric: Principles and Practice I

University of Waterloo
Department of English
Fall 1996

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Office Hrs: Thurs. 1-4pm

Course Description:

Using short lectures, discussions and workshops, we will study theories of rhetoric which emerged during the classical period. We will explore the social, historical and educational contexts which gave rise to rhetorical studies and focus on the issues and theories of language characterizing rhetoric during this period. We will make every effort to connect these issues and theories to current problems and issues. Because of the interactive nature of the course, students have been divided into two sections so that we will have more opportunities for workshops and small group discussions.

Goals:

On completing this course you should be able to use the vocabulary of rhetorical analysis and understand how and why this vocabulary emerged during the classical period. You should also have an awareness of the rhetorical issues which emerged during this period and continue to affect discourse practices. Finally, you will have many opportunities to produce rhetorical texts both written and spoken.

Texts:

Required:
Sharon Crowley. Ancient Rhetorics for Contemporary Students.

Thomas W. Benson and Michael H. Prosser. Readings in Classical Rhetoric

Kinko's package of readings

Course Assignments
1. Journal - 15%

Your journal is meant to operate as a commonplace notebook for you. Each week I will be assigning questions and queries that are meant to prepare you for future classes and assignments. Space is left on the course outline for you to fill in specific questions. Bring your journal with you to class and be prepared to share some of your entries with your fellow students. The journal will be graded for completion only.

2. Take-home midterm - 15%
3. Progymnasmata Assignments - 30%

This connected set of assignments is designed to prepare you for your oration. The assignment sheet will be given to you during the class on the progymnasmata in Week 5.

4. 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.

5. Oration analysis - 20%

Due: Friday, Dec. 6, 4:30 p.m. English Dept. Mailroom
Length: 2,000 words

This paper will explain and defend your oration. You need to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of rhetorical techniques and the appropriate application of rhetorical terms ranging from those associated with invention to those associated with memory and delivery. Be sure to defend your choice of topic, your invention strategies, your stylistic techniques, and your decisions regarding the delivery of your oration. Attach a copy of your oration to this assignment.

Course Policies

1. Late papers will generally be penalized 5% per day late. You will be allowed 1 late assignment (up to 3 days) with no questions asked or penalty assigned. This proviso does NOT include the Oration. A coupon is attached to the end of this course outline which you can spend at any time during the course.

Course Schedule
Fall 1996

Week 1
Introduction to classical rhetoric, overview of history and main issues
Reading: Crowley, Chapt 1 and 2
Journal Assignment (JA):

Week 2
Greek Rhetoric: The Sophists and Their Detractors
Reading: Isocrates "Against the Sophists"
Plato, "Gorgias" and "Phaedrus" In Benson and Prosser (BP)
Black, Kinko's Package
Kauffman, Kinko's Package

JA:

Week 3
Greek Rhetoric: Aristotle, Ethics and the Manual Tradition
Reading: Aristotle "The Rhetoric" pp.53-62 (B&P) Katz--Kinko's
Killingsworth and Gilbertson, "Rhetoric and Relevance", Kinko's package

JA:

Week 4
The Latin Tradition
Reading: Cicero, "De Oratore" pp.91-107 (BP)
Augustine, "On Christian Doctrine" pp.133-139

JA:

Mid term take-home exam available

Week 5
The Teaching Tradition: The Progymnasmata and Copia
Reading: Quintilian, "Institutio Oratorio" pp.116-132 (BP)
Crowley, Chapt 14 and 15
Killingsworth et al. "Amplification in Technical Manuals" Kinko's package

JA:

Due: Mid term take-home exam
Progymnasmata assignment available

Week 6
Classical Canon: Invention #1
Reading: Crowley, Chapt 3,4,5
Quintilian, "Institutio Oratorio" pp.143-148 (BP)

JA:

Week 7
Classical Canon: Invention #2
Reading: Crowley, Chapt 6,7
Aristotle, "The Rhetoric" pp.149-153
Cicero, "De Oratore" pp.171-179.

JA:
Week 8
Classical Canon: Invention #3
Reading: Crowley, Chaps 8,9
       Aristotle "The Rhetoric" pp.154-170
       JA:

Week 9
Classical Canon: Arrangement
Reading: Crowley, Chapt. 10
       Cicero, "De Inventione" pp.196-205
       JA:

Week 10
Classical Canon: Style
Reading: Crowley, Chapt. 11
       Demetrius "On Style" pp.256-265
       JA:

Week 11
Classical Canon: Memory and Delivery
Reading: Crowley, Chapt. 12, 13
       Rhetorica Ad Herennium pp.289-299

Week 12
Orations

Week 13
Orations

This coupon entitles you to hand in **ONE** late draft or assignment.

Name: ________________________________