English 309A. Rhetoric: Principles and Practice I
Spring 1991
Monday and Wednesday 10:30-12:00

Professor J. Segal
Office: HH 255
Phone: 3318
Office hours: Monday 12:00-1:00
Wednesday 12:00-1:00
Thursday 6:30-7:00

(Rhetoric is) the faculty of discovering in the particular case what are the available means of persuasion. (Aristotle's Rhetoric, trans. Lane Cooper)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 309A will use a historical perspective to examine the theory and practice of rhetoric. Readings and lectures will cover both the history of rhetoric--from Plato to the Middle Ages--and contemporary applications of classical rhetorical theory.

TEXTS

Required texts include Plato's Phaedrus; The Rhetoric of Aristotle; A Synoptic History of Classical Rhetoric, James J. Murphy, ed.; St. Augustine's On Christian Doctrine.

Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student by E.P.J. Corbett is recommended.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND MARKS BREAKDOWN

Term work, including participation and informal presentations on readings - 15%
Persuasive essay, due June 3 - 20%
Speech based on the persuasive essay, due June 24 - 20%
(On the day you present your speech, you must resubmit the marked copy of your original essay.)
Rhetorical analysis, due July 8 - 20%
Final in-class assignment, on July 22 - 25%

LECTURE/DISCUSsSION TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week of

May 6 Introduction; issues in the history and theory of rhetoric; the pre-Socratics

May 13 Plato, Gorgias and Phaedrus
Read: Murphy, part I

May 20 Plato; the beginning of a formalized rhetoric
Read: Phaedrus
(No class May 20)

May 27  Aristotle's Rhetoric; focus on invention, logic
       Read: Aristotle, Book 1

June 3   Aristotle's Rhetoric cont'd.
       Read: Aristotle, Books 2 & 3

June 10  Rhetorica ad Herennium and Cicero's De Oratore;
       focus on style
       Read: Murphy, Parts 3 & 4

June 17  Cicero and Quintilian; "the good man speaking well"
       Read: Murphy, Part 5

June 24  Rhetorical analysis
       Student speeches start
       Read: St. Augustine

July 1   (* Extra meeting this week)
       St. Augustine
       Read: Murphy, Part 6
       (No class July 1)

July 8   Three medieval rhetorical arts

July 15  (* Extra meeting this week)
       Student speeches

July 22  Final in-class assignment; student speeches