University of Waterloo  
Department of English  
English 309A  
Rhetoric: Principles and Practice 1

Winter 1990  
9:00-10:30 MW

Calendar Description: A study of various theories of rhetoric. Students are assigned several essays in order to practice and apply the principles of rhetoric to discourse.

Specific Description: By reading Plato's Gorgias and Aristotle's Rhetoric, students will be introduced to the field of rhetoric at its origin. Then by reading Foucault, Perelman, and Toulmin, students will be introduced to three influential modern rhetoricians. The specific goals of the course are to study the ways in which people persuade other people and to study the role of rhetoric in the discovery of truth. Students will write regularly in a journal, reflecting on readings and lectures and seeking a field of discourse in which to write a major paper.

Course Requirements: A journal with at least twenty-five entries (15 points), a major paper growing out of the journal (50 points), a final examination to be written during examinations period (25 points), a major essay prospectus and preliminary draft (5 points). Grades will be assigned following the point schedule on page 1:7 of the Undergraduate Calendar (* indicates point-bearing assignment due).

Daily Assignments

Jan. 8 Gorgias 7-17; 19-61; three journal entries*  
10 Gorgias 61-105  
15 Gorgias 105-149  
17 Journal entries totaling eight; workshop on writing  
22 Rhetoric v-xiii; Book I  
24 Rhetoric Book II  
29 Rhetoric Book III  
31 Journal entries totaling fourteen*; workshop on writing

Feb. 5 Toulmin Part III  
7 Foucault Introduction  
12 Foucault Part I Chapters 1-3  
14 Foucault Part I Chapters 4-6  
26 Foucault Part I Chapter 7; journal entries totaling twenty four  
28 Essay focus workshop

Mar. 5 Foucault Part II chapters 1-2; essay focus prospectus and journals due*  
7 Foucault Part II Chapters 3-5  
12 Perelman Chapters 1-5  
14 Perelman Chapters 6-10  
19 Perelman Chapters 11-14  
21 Major essay workshop; preliminary draft due*  
26 Toulmin Part I  
28 Toulmin To be assigned later

Apr. 2 Final lecture, preparation for final examination; major papers due*  
Final examination date to be announced*