ENGL 309B
Rhetoric: Principles and Practice 2
Fall 2009
5:00-7:50 Thursdays; HH 150

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Office Hours TBA

Course Description: Calendar: A study of rhetorical theories and practices from late Antiquity, Medieval, Renaissance, and the Enlightenment periods, with an emphasis on how those theories and practices reflect changing attitudes towards language, society, and the self. We will consider how rhetoric—a core subject of the European university curriculum during this period—revivifies and struggles against the classical models integral to the tradition. Particular attention will be given to rhetoric as both creating and reflecting social standards. ENGL 309A is not a prerequisite for this course, but some understanding of the rhetoric of the classical period will be helpful.

Course Objectives: You will develop your understanding of some of the major trends in and theorists of rhetoric from the late medieval period to the end of the eighteenth century. You will have the opportunity to focus upon a historically informed analysis of one of the texts studied, and to apply the material from the course to an analysis of a text of your choice.

Required Text: Engl.309B Course Readings, Courseware Package available at the Bookstore


Course Requirements and Overview:

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<td>Presentation</td>
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Midterm: The midterm will be held during the first hour of the class on October 22. It will be a series of identification/true or false/short answer questions dealing with the material covered up to and including the class of October 15. You will be responsible for material from lectures and discussions held in class as well as from the readings, although you will not be responsible for material from student presentations.

Presentation: You will be responsible, with a partner, for a presentation of fifteen minutes or so which will help to add depth to the class’ understanding of one of the texts under study. You will analyze the text, engaging in research which will clarify, and help
to historicize, something significant about the purpose or audience of the work under question. The presentation will be accompanied by a one- to two-page outline and a bibliography.

**Essay:** Your essay will be between 2,000 and 2,500 words and will analyze a text through the lens of one of the theories or theorists we have studied this term. The subject of your analysis can be an excerpt from literary work, a song, a speech, an advertisement—anything with aesthetic and persuasive effect—and it can be from the era we are studying or the current era. You will need to append your text to the end of your analysis for my reference. Documentation must meet MLA standards. Your topic must be cleared with me at least two weeks in advance of the due date, and you will need to engage in external research.

**Final Test:** The final test will be held for the entire class of December 05, and will consist of short questions, plus an essay question which will ask you to engage the theories learned in class, either to analyze those theories or to apply them in a rhetorical analysis of a text. The final test is cumulative, and you will be responsible for the material from discussions and lectures as well as from the readings.

**Late and Missed Test and Assignments:** A penalty of 5% per school day will be levied for any assignment handed in late without prior permission or documented emergency. The midterm and final test may not be rescheduled without adequate documentation (i.e., a doctor’s note indicating an illness which will significantly impact performance). Failure to provide adequate documentation will result in a zero on the test.

**NOTE:** for the purposes of late or missed tests or assignments, a “valid reason” for absence or lateness includes significant illness, family emergency, impassable weather conditions, accident, etc. It does not include vacations or assignments in other classes.

**Assignment Submission:** **PLAGIARISM DETECTION SOFTWARE (TURNITIN) WILL BE USED TO SCREEN ASSIGNMENTS IN THIS COURSE. THIS IS BEING DONE TO VERIFY THAT USE OF ALL MATERIAL AND SOURCES IN ASSIGNMENTS IS DOCUMENTED. IN THE FIRST LECTURE OF THE TERM, DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE USE OF TURNITIN IN THIS COURSE.**

Essays must be submitted online via turnitin.com and also handed in to me in hardcopy (if you do not wish to hand in your essay via turnitin, you must arrange alternative arrangements, including an annotated bibliography, with me on or before October 29). If you do not hand in your hard copy of your essay during class time, you must submit it to the English department drop box in Hagey Hall.

**Academic Integrity:**

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions.
A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):**
http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

**Academic Integrity Office (UW):** http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

**Note for students with disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.
Schedule of Classes:
(Note: Schedule subject to change)

Sept. 17: Introduction. Foss, Foss and Trapp (from Contemporary Perspectives on Rhetoric: A brief history of rhetorical thought)

Sept 24: Augustine (On Christian Doctrine, Book IV)
Hart and Daughton (from Modern Rhetorical Criticism)

Oct. 01: Anonymous of Bologna (from The Principles of Letter Writing)
Robert of Basevorn (from The Form of Preaching)
Rupert of Deutz (Should a Monk be Allowed to Preach?)

Oct. 08: Christine de Pisan (from The Treasure of the City of Ladies)
Desiderius Erasmus (from Copia: Foundations of the Abundant Style)

Oct. 15: Peter Ramus (from Arguments in Rhetoric against Quintilian)
Francis Bacon (from The Advancement of Learning)

Oct. 22: **Midterm**
Margaret Fell (Women’s Speaking Justified, Proved, and allowed by the Scriptures)

Oct. 29: John Locke (from An Essay Concerning Human Understanding)

Nov. 05: Thomas Sheridan (from A Course of Lectures on Elocution)
Gilbert Austin (from Chironomia)

Nov. 12: George Campbell (from The Philosophy of Rhetoric)

Nov. 19: David Hume (from Of the Standard of Taste)
Edmund Burke (from A Philosophical Enquiry)

Nov. 26: Hugh Blair (from Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres)
**Essays Due**

Dec. 03: **Final Test**