ENGLISH 309B RHETORICAL THEORY AND PRACTICE FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT

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Extension: 2946
Email: DGOODWIN

Course Objectives: After completing this course students should have

1) a theoretical framework for analyzing the rhetorical motives behind changes in rhetorical theory and practice, especially
2) an understanding of how different historical periods generate different theories of rhetoric to reinforce and challenge social, political, religious, and intellectual structures and hierarchies

Course Organization: This course consists of a series of lectures/discussions covering three periods of rhetoric (the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the Enlightenment) as well as four major issues ("Rhetorics of Religion," "Rhetoric, Writing, and the Social Construction of the Self," "Rhetorics of Reform/ Rhetorics of Reaction," "Rhetoric and the Aesthetic"). After these lectures, you will form groups of threes or fours. For one class during the latter half of the term, each group will meet with me in my office for 2 - 2.5 hours. During this time, one student will read a 4-5 page abstract of a 8-10 page paper written for the occasion. For next 20 minutes, the other two students (who will have read the paper in advance and have done their own research on the topic) will respond to the paper. Each student will take turns reading and being a respondent. When your tutorial is over, you need not attend any other classes. You will need this time, however, to prepare for a final examination (I will give the questions out in advance).

Course Marks Breakdown:

Tutorial Paper: 40 marks
Tutorial Response: 20 (10 + 10) marks
Final Examination: 40 marks

Course Text: *The Rhetorical Tradition: Readings from Classical Times to the Present*. Edited by Patricia Bizzell and Bruce Herzberg.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND TOPICS

I. RHETORICS OF RELIGION

Suggested Contemporary Readings from *The Rhetorical Tradition:

Kenneth Burke, *A Grammar of Motives, A Rhetoric of Motives, Language as Symbolic Action*

Richard Weaver, *Language is Sermonic, The Phaedrus and the Nature of Rhetoric*

May 7      St. Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*

12  St. Augustine

14  Robert of Basevorn, *The Form of Preaching*

19  Thomas Wilson, *The Arte of Rhetorique*

21  Margaret Fell, *Women's Speaking Justified*

26  READING WEEK

28  READING WEEK

II. RHETORIC, WRITING, AND THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE SELF

Suggested Contemporary Readings from *The Rhetorical Tradition:

Mikhail Bakhtin, *Marxism and the Philosophy of Language, The Problem of Speech Genres*

Michel Foucault, *The Archaeology of Knowledge, The Order of Discourse*

Helene Cixous, *The Laugh of the Medusa, A Woman Mistress*

Julia Kristeva, *Women's Time*

June 2      Anonymous of Bologna, *The Principles of Letter Writing*

4  Erasmus, *Copia: Foundations of the Abundant Style*

9  Erasmus

11  Christine de Pisan & Laura Cereta, *The Treasure of the City of Ladies, Defense of the Liberal Instruction of Women*
III. RHETORICS OF REFORM/ RHETORICS OF REACTION

Suggested Contemporary Readings from The Rhetorical Tradition:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>Peter Ramus</td>
<td>Arguments in Rhetoric Against Quintilian</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Francis Bacon</td>
<td>The Advancement of Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>John Locke</td>
<td>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Giambattista Vico</td>
<td>On the Study Methods of Our Time</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Friedrich Nietzsche</td>
<td>On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense</td>
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July 2  Richard Whately, Elements of Rhetoric
        TUTORIAL PAPERS DUE

IV. RHETORIC AND THE AESTHETIC

Suggested Contemporary Readings from The Rhetorical Tradition:

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>Thomas Sheridan</td>
<td>A Course of Lectures on Elocution</td>
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<td>Gilbert Austin</td>
<td>Chironomia</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Hugh Blair</td>
<td>Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres</td>
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<td></td>
<td>George Campbell</td>
<td>The Philosophy of Rhetoric</td>
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V. TUTORIALS