ENGL 309B: Syllabus

Medieval to Pre-Modern Rhetoric
TTh 4:00-5:20pm
HH 139
Professor Rebecca Tierney-Hynes
Phone: (519) 888-4567 x35667
Email: rtierney@uwaterloo.ca
Office: HH 254
Office hours: TTh 5:30-6:30
Course website: http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/~rtierney

Course Description:

This course is designed to broaden your knowledge of the rhetorical tradition in the context of medieval and early modern history. We will explore the theory and practice of rhetoric as it is reformed and reenvisioned by readers of ancient rhetoric, first in Europe, then in England. The period we will examine made classical rhetoric central to education, to religious practice, to moral philosophy, and to court politics. From about 1300 to about 1700, the practice of rhetoric and its terms of art were essential to negotiating English identity in both personal and political contexts. We will assess the ways in which this period deployed the classical rhetorical tradition, transforming it into a system that could explain a wide range of complex phenomena from human emotion to a new scientific practice.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to deepen your knowledge of the history of rhetoric in the English context. The course also aims to develop your critical and analytical skills, both in writing and orally.

Required Texts:

- *The Rhetorical Tradition*, eds. Bizzell and Herzberg
- handouts

The textbook is available at the UW Bookstore (SCH).
The website is required reading. You are responsible for all information posted on the course website.

Method of Evaluation:

Mid-term Test #1: 15% (June 9)
Essay #1: 15% (due June 25)
Essay #2: 30% (due July 23)
Final Exam: 30%
Participation: 10%
One-hour in-class mid-term writing test (15%) – **Week 6 (June 9)**

- There will be a choice of six passages, four of which you will identify by author and title, and then describe the significance of the passage to the themes of the text as a whole.
- This test is optional. If you choose to sit the mid-term, your final mark on the course will be calculated according to the percentages on the syllabus (i.e. midterm: 15%; final exam: 30%) unless your mid-term mark is lower than your final exam mark, in which case your mid-term mark will be dropped and your final exam will be worth 45%. If you do not choose to sit the mid-term, or you are not able to be there, your final exam mark will account for 45% of your final mark.
- It is **strongly recommended** that you write the mid-term.
- No make-up mid-terms will be given for any reason, including illness.

1500-word paper (15%) – **Week 8 (June 25)**

2000-word paper (30%) – **Week 12 (July 23)**

- All essays must be typed, double-spaced, have 1 ¼ inch margins, use 12pt Times New Roman font, include citations and a works cited list in MLA format, and meet the minimum word counts outlined above.
- Applied topics are exempt from the standard minimum page count, but they must match the specifications outlined in the essay question.
- You are welcome and encouraged to come and speak to me about your paper topics in advance. In addition to my office hours, I am always available by appointment. You can make an appointment by phone, email, or in person after class. While I do my best to see students at times that are convenient for them, I cannot always make time at the last minute for appointments. If you want to be guaranteed a meeting outside my office hours, you must contact me at least one week in advance. Otherwise, I will do my utmost to fit you in, but I cannot guarantee you an appointment.
- **Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 2% per working day.**
- Late essays should be submitted to the English Department office. The essays must be put in the department drop-box (HH 2016E, beside HH 228). Essays will be stamped by department staff. If your essay is lost because you did not ensure that either I, the drop-box, or a department staff member received it, you will be held responsible for that loss.
- Please keep a copy of your work. In the case of a lost essay, I will require another copy.
- I do not accept emailed or other electronic submissions.
- A doctor’s note or a note from counselling services is required to avoid a late penalty. The note must document a serious illness or other serious crisis during the period immediately before and on the due date of the essay.
- You are permitted one extension of two business days on one essay, no questions asked. **No other extensions will be given for any reason.**
Exam (30%)
- There will be a choice of six passages, four of which you will identify by author and title, and then describe the significance of the passage to the themes of the text as a whole.
- There will be a choice of three essay questions, one of which you will write on for one hour.
- Your answer must engage with at least three of the course texts you have encountered.
- You may not discuss the same aspects of the same texts in your essay that you discussed in your short answers. If you discuss the same topics, using the same texts in both sections, you will receive an automatic zero on the short answer.
- You must remain available for the entire exam period.

Participation (10%)
- Active, informed participation is essential to your individual success in this course, as well as to the success of the course as a whole.
- I do not give marks for attendance; while a small component of your participation mark is for attentive and respectful listening, you will not do well on participation if you do not speak in class.
- You cannot make up participation points. There is no substitute for your presence in the class.

Course Policies:

Appointments:
- You are welcome and encouraged to come and speak to me about the course material, difficulties with the course, tests and papers, plans for the future, or any other academic topic. In addition to my office hours, I am available by appointment. You can make an appointment by email (rtierney@uwaterloo.ca), or just stop by.

Late Penalties:
- Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 2% per business day.
- Late essays should be submitted to the English Department office. The essays must be put in the department drop-box (HH 2016E, beside HH 228). Essays will be stamped by department staff. If your essay is lost because you did not ensure that either I, the drop-box, or a department staff member received it, you will be held responsible for that loss.
- Please keep a copy of your work. In the case of a lost essay, I will require another copy.
- I do not accept emailed or other electronic submissions.
- A doctor’s note is required to avoid a late penalty. The note must document a serious illness during the period immediately before and on the due date of the essay.
- You are permitted one extension of two business days on one essay, no questions asked. No other extensions will be given for any reason.
Participation:
- I do not give marks for attendance.
- A small component of your participation mark is for attentive and respectful listening, but you will not do well on participation if you do not speak in class.
- I am always available to discuss strategies for effective participation, ways to overcome shyness, and topics you wish to raise in class but feel you’d like to run by me first.
- I post a discussion question for each class. Preparing a response to this question is an easy way to ensure a good participation mark. You can prepare with a short written answer (two or three sentences is more than enough) to be read aloud in class, with point-form notes, or by discussing the question with a classmate or with me in advance.

About email:
- Questions that require lengthy or complex responses cannot always be taken up over email. I am always happy to read these emails, but I will respond to emails that require exceptionally long responses by asking you to come to my office hours or make an appointment to see me.
- Email is not a substitute for in-person appointments, email participation is not a substitute for in-class participation, and I will not answer questions over email that have been canvassed in the lectures. If you miss a lecture, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate.
- I check my email very regularly, and can generally be counted on to respond relatively quickly. Do not, however, expect instant responses. 24 hours is the minimum amount of time you need to wait before sending the same query again.
- Remember that hotmail and yahoo are much less reliable than a uwaterloo account. If you use one of these servers, be aware that a lack of response may indicate that my response bounced. I can’t resend responses interminably – if it bounces, I won’t send it again.
- I never give out marks on email. I want you to see the context for your mark at the same time that you see the mark itself.

Academic Offences:

The Faculty of Arts requires that I draw your attention to the following:
- 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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Other sources of information for students:** Academic Integrity website (Arts) Academic Integrity Office (UWaterloo)

Writing and Learning Resources on Campus:

- Professor Acheson’s Research Skills Page: [http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~rses/RSEShome.html](http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~rses/RSEShome.html)
- ELPP’s Writing Centre: (519) 888-4567 x 32837 [http://elpp.uwaterloo.ca/writingcentre.html](http://elpp.uwaterloo.ca/writingcentre.html)
- Services for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, 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 AS office at the beginning of each academic term.
- see the course website for a more extensive list of writing resources
SCHEDULE

[pg #] = page number in Bizzell and Herzberg

Week 1
May 5
  • Introduction

May 7
  • Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine* [456-85]

Week 2
May 12
  • Anon, *Rhetorica ad Herennium*, sect. I-IV; VII-XIII; XXXVI-LVI [241-82]
  • Boethius, *An Overview of the Structure of Rhetoric* [488-91]

May 14
  • Robert of Basevorn, *The Form of Preaching*, introduction [528-30]; chapter XXIV [538-39]
  • Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies* [544-45] and *Treasure of the City of Ladies* [546-51]

Week 3
May 19
  • “Renaissance Rhetoric: Introduction” [555-77]
  • Erasmus, *Copia* [597-605]; *Ecclesiastes*, Book II, sect. I-III; VII-VIII [628-32; 647-50]

May 21
  • Castiglione, *Book of the Courtier* [661-73]

May 22: Drop deadline – no penalty

Week 4
May 26

May 28
  • Bacon, *Advancement* and *Novum Organum* [740-47]

Week 5
June 2
  • Bulwer, from *Chironomia: or the Art of Manual Rhetoric* [handout]
  • Le Brun, from *Conférence sur l’expression* [handout]
June 4
- Scudéry, *Of Conversation* and *Of Speaking too much, or too little* [767-79]

**Week 6**
June 9
- **One-hour in-class test (15%)**

June 11
- “Enlightenment Rhetoric: Introduction” [791-816]
- Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, from “Epistle to the Reader” [handout]

**Week 7**
June 16

June 18
- *The Whores Rhetorick* [handout]

**Week 8**
June 23
- Astell, *A Serious Proposal* [847-61]

June 25
- **1500-word paper due (15%)**

**Week 9**
June 30
- Hume, “Of the Standard of Taste” [830-40]

July 2
- Vico, *On the Study Methods of Our Time* [865-78]

**Week 10**
July 7

July 9
- Sheridan, *Lectures on Elocution* [881-88]
- Austin, *Chironomia* [890-97]

*July 10: Drop deadline – penalty 1 – receive a WD*
Week 11
July 14
- Campbell, *Philosophy of Rhetoric* I, IV, VII-X [902-7; 923-46]

July 16
- Blair, *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*, Lectures I & II [950-62]

Week 12
July 21
- Blair, Lectures XIV, XXV, & XXXII [962-79]

July 23
- Review
- 2000-word paper due (30%)

Week 13
No class
July 28

*Aug 3: Drop deadline – Penalty 2 – receive a WF*

EXAM (30%) – Exam Period: Aug 4-15