"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" (UW Course Catalogue).

The art of rhetoric dominated European culture – law, politics, literature, education, and so forth – all the way from the fifth century BCE to the end of the eighteenth century. In fact, the history of this “empire” of rhetoric, as Roland Barthes calls it, is so immense that it “grants us access to a super-civilization: that of the geographical and historical West.” This course offers students an introductory overview of rhetorical theory in the Middle Ages and Renaissance (400 AD to 1600). Through a close reading of brief selections from exemplary texts of medieval and Renaissance rhetoric alongside four plays of William Shakespeare, students will gain a sophisticated understanding of the history, theory, and practice of rhetoric – the “Queen of the Sciences” – in these two crucially important epochs in western intellectual history.

January
5  Administration
7  No class
12 Cappella  Act I King Richard III
14 Augustine Act II
19 Fortunatianus Act III
21 Emporius; Priscian Act IV
26 Boethius; Isidore Act V
28 Bede; Alberic

February
2  Petrarch Acts I, II King Henry IV, Part Two
4 Trebizond; Valla Act III
9 Agricola Act IV
11 Mirandola; Erasmus Act V; essay 1 due in class
16 Break
18 Break
23 Agrippa; Vives Act I Troilus and Cressida
25 Melanchthon Acts II, III

March
2  Speroni Act IV
4 Amyot; Ramus Act V
9 No Class
11 No Class
16 Wilson Act I Love’s Labour’s Lost
18 Puttenham Act II
23 Montaigne Act III
April
1 Essay 2 due in HH 256 by 5:00 pm.

Requirements

10% Daily Written Responses
For each class you must write a 150 word (½ page) response that offers three insights into the texts under discussion for the day, along with three supporting quotations from the texts. Your response need not be a unified paragraph. Devote two points to the primary rhetoric texts and one point to the Shakespeare play under discussion that day. For the rhetoric texts, suggest why the work under discussion is significant to the field of rhetoric. For the plays, your insights may focus on any rhetorical dimension of the text. These reading responses demonstrate that you have analyzed the text closely; they also serve as excellent resources for composing your essays. Responses are to be submitted at the end of each class in which they are due: under no circumstances – except a note from a physician explaining your absence from class – will late or emailed responses be accepted. Responses will be read but not graded or returned – you receive credit for completing the assignments. Format: 150 words (half a page); double-spaced; 1” margins; 12 point Times New Roman font.

10% Class Participation
As is customary in a humanities class, students are expected to contribute to class discussion on a regular basis. In addition, as part of their participation grade, students will also be asked (in advance) to use their responses to lead class discussion of specific sections of the texts and plays (approximately 5 minutes).

10% Quiz
This quiz will ask you to define key concepts, identify important authors and passages, and answer questions about topics covered in lecture and class discussion. It is therefore important to take copious, careful notes.

30% Midterm Essay (6 pp.)
Write an essay in which you compare three texts on the first half of the syllabus (up to and including Mirandola and Erasmus). Please note: you can only discuss one Shakespeare play in your essay. Be sure to support your interpretation with an argument and relevant citations from the text. Format: 12 point; Times New Roman; 1” margins; MLA style.

40% Final Essay (9 pp.)
Write an essay in which you compare and/or contrast any three texts on the second half of the syllabus (after Mirandola and Erasmus). Please note: you can only discuss one Shakespeare play in your essay. Be sure to support your interpretation with an argument and relevant citations from the text. Format: 12 point; Times New Roman; 1” margins; MLA style.

Policies

Attendance
In keeping with the University of Waterloo’s undergraduate attendance policy, students are “expected to attend all meets” of the course and may be required to “present documentation proving the reasons for non-attendance” (UG Calendar). Students who miss more than three classes without providing adequate documentation from a physician may, at the discretion of the professor, be penalized 1% per subsequent absence on their final grade. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class, so do not be late. Chronic tardiness will count against participation grades.

**Late Penalties**

Unless an extension has been requested and granted in advance, the professor reserves the right to subtract 5% (per day) from the assignment grade.

**Reader**

Rhetoric involves the close scrutiny of texts, images and other artifacts. Students are therefore required to purchase and bring the texts to every class.

**Civility**

Students are expected to be informed, attentive and courteous in class. Gossiping, note-passing and other types of uncivil behaviour will be discouraged. For the sake of the class as a whole, the professor reserves the right to ask disruptive students to leave the classroom. Please turn off PDAs, cellular phones, and laptop computers in class.

**University of Waterloo Policy on Academic Offences (including plagiarism)**

**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](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](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](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)

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