The Rhetoric Field Exam
This list corresponds to the English Department’s Rhetoric Field Exam, which has three questions, to be answered over four hours. One of those questions must be based on the texts from the Ancient list. One question must be on the texts of another historical period. The third question may be on any historical period or texts from a B-List (suggestions below) assembled by the student in consultation with the exam committee.

CORE LISTS

Ancient Rhetoric

Greek
Anonymous
Dissoi Logoi
Demetrius
On Style
Gorgias
Encomium of Helen
Hermogenes
On Types of Style
Isocrates
Against the Sophists
To Nicoles
Longinus
On the Sublime
Plato
Gorgias.
Phaedrus
Aristotle
Rhetoric
Roman

Cicero
   *The Orator*
   *On Invention*

Pseudo-Cicero
   *Ad Herennium*

Quintilian
   *Institutes of Oratory*

Augustine
   *On Christian Doctrine*

Medieval to Enlightenment Rhetoric

Medieval

Alcuin
   *Disputation on Rhetoric and on Virtues*

Christine de Pisan
   *The Treasure of the City of Ladies*

Anonymous of Bologna
   Principles of Letter Writing (*Three Medieval Rhetorical Arts*)

Geoffrey of Vinsauf
   The New Poetics (*Three Medieval Rhetorical Arts*)

Robert of Basevorn
   The Form of Preaching (*Three Medieval Rhetorical Arts*)

Rudolph Agricola
   *Three books Concerning Dialectical Invention*

Early Modern

Francis Bacon
   *The Advancement of Learning*

Laura Cereta
   Letter to Augustinus Aemilius, Curse against the Ornamentation of Women
   Letter to Bibulus Sempronius, Defense of the Liberal Instruction of Women

Peter Ramus
   *Arguments in Rhetoric against Quintilian*
Rhetorical Theory and Criticism

Desiderius Erasmus
*Ciceroniana*

George Puttenham
*The Art of English Poesy*

Thomas Wilson
*The Arte of Rhetorique*

**Enlightenment**

Hugh Blair
*Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*

George Campbell
*The Philosophy of Rhetoric*

Margaret Fell
*Women's Speaking Justified, Proved, and Allowed by the Scriptures*

Sarah Grimke
*Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Women*

Thomas Sheridan
*A Course of Lectures on Elocution*

Giambattista Vico
*The New Science*

Alexander Bain
*English Composition and Rhetoric*

Friedrich Nietzsche
*Friedrich Nietzsche on Rhetoric and Language*

**Modern and Contemporary Rhetoric**

**Modern**

IA. Richards
*Philosophy of Rhetoric*

Richard Whately
*Elements of Rhetoric*

Mikhail Bakhtin
*Speech Genres and Other Late Essays*
Rhetorical Theory and Criticism

Wayne Booth
*Modern Dogma and the Rhetoric of Assent*

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

Chaim Perelman and Lucie Olbrecht-Tyteca
*The New Rhetoric: A Treatise on Argumentation*

Richard Weaver
*Language is Sermonic*

**Contemporary**

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
*The Language of Signifyin(g): Rhetorical Difference and the Orders of Meaning*

Jürgen Habermas
*The Theory of Communicative Action*

Jacques Derrida
“Plato’s Pharmacy”

Helene Cixous
“The Laugh of the Medusa”

Luce Irigaray
“The Power of Discourse and the Subordination of the Feminine”

**SECONDARY SOURCES**

Candidates are encouraged to begin with an overview of the history and theory of rhetoric, to help ground and guide their reading of the primary texts (a need that is especially acute for candidates without an undergraduate degree in rhetoric)—for instance, any of the following.

James Herrick
*The History and Theory of Rhetoric: An Introduction*

Craig R. Smith
*Rhetoric and Human Consciousness: A History*

George Kennedy
Candidates are encouraged to keep at hand (digitally or physically) as they study, encyclopaedic reference works on the history and theory of rhetoric, which can serve as scorecards for larger themes at play in the work of many theorists and/or at play over many centuries)—for instance, any of the following.

- Walter Jost and Wendy Olmsted, ed
  *A Companion to Rhetoric and Rhetorical Criticism*

- Andrea A. Lunsford, ed.
  *The SAGE Handbook of Rhetorical Studies*

- Michael MacDonald, ed
  *The Oxford Handbook of Rhetorical Studies*

- Thomas O. Sloane, ed
  *Encyclopaedia of Rhetoric*

**The B List**

Each student writing the exam has the option to prepare a list with the committee of 20-25 items specific to the student’s interest; the alternative is to write an exam based only on the historical categories. The B List should be equivalent to 6 books and 14 articles, but not every area will have a literature that breaks down thusly. No items on the list may be duplicates from the core list, though the candidate may want to pay special attention to them in the context of the B-list. The B-list must be organized around (1) domain-specific rhetoric, such as the rhetoric of literature, medicine, science, technology, politics, or games; (2) theoretical approaches, such as cognitive rhetoric, feminist rhetorical theory, or rhetorical genre theory; or (3) specialized historical period, such as the Medieval Ars Poetriae, the Early Modern Figurists, or the Elocutionary movement. Any domain or approach that has a substantial supporting literature that the committee and the student agree upon is acceptable, whether it is identified on this list or not.

**Starter B Lists**

The following lists are meant only to be suggestive, as seed items for possible B lists.
Argumentation theory

Stephen Toulmin

*The Uses of Argument*

Frans H. van Eemeren et al., eds.

*Fundamentals of Argumentation Theory: A Handbook of Historical Backgrounds and Contemporary Developments*

Christopher W. Tindale

*Acts of Arguing: A Rhetorical Model of Argument*

Cognitive rhetoric

Kenneth Burke

*Philosophy of Literary Form*

Jeanne Fahnestock

*Rhetorical Figures in Science*

Richard Gregg

*Symbolic Inducement and Knowing*

Cross-cultural Rhetoric

Philip Halldén

“What Is Arab Islamic Rhetoric? Rethinking the History of Muslim Oratory Art and Homiletics”

George Kennedy

*Comparative Rhetoric*

Wenshan Jia et al., eds.

*Chinese Communication Theory and Research*

African-American Rhetoric

Banks, Adam.

*Digital Griots: African American Rhetoric in a Digital Age.*

Jackson, Ronald L., Elaine B. Richardson, eds.

*Understanding African American Rhetoric: Classical Origins to Contemporary Innovations.*

First Nations Rhetoric

Vizenor, Gerald

*Manifest Manners: Narratives on Postindian Survivance*

Powell, Malea

“Rhetorics of Survivance: How American Indians Use Writing”
Lyons, Scott Richard
“Rhetorical Sovereignty: What do American Indians Want from Writing?”

Disability rhetoric
Jay Timothy Dolmage
Disability Rhetoric

Cynthia Lewiecki-Wilson and James C. Wilson, eds
Embodyed Rhetorics: Disability in Language and Culture

Peter Wayne Moe
“Revealing Rather Than Concealing Disability: The Rhetoric of Parkinson's Advocate Michael J. Fox”

Feminist rhetorical theory
Jane Donawerth
Conversational Rhetoric: The Rise and Fall of a Women's Tradition, 1600-1900

Jane Donawerth, ed.
Rhetorical Theory by Women Before 1900

Karen A. Foss, Sonja K. Foss and Cindy L. Griffin
Feminist Rhetorical Theories

Rhetoric and philosophy
Richard A. Cherwitz, ed.
Rhetoric and philosophy

Steven Mailloux, ed.
Rhetoric, Sophistry, Pragmatism

Robert Wardy
The Birth of Rhetoric

Propaganda
Stanley B. Cunningham
The Idea of Propaganda: A Reconstruction

Jacques Ellul
Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes

Nicholas J. O'Shaughnessy
Politics and Propaganda: Weapons of Mass Seduction

Rhetoric of literature
Kenneth Burke
Counter-statement

Wayne Booth
Rhetoric of Fiction
The Company we Keep

Rhetoric of media

Ian Bogost
How to do Things with Videogames

Marshall McLuhan
The Gutenberg Galaxy

Heather Urbanski, ed.
Writing and the Digital Generation: Essays on New Media Rhetoric

Politics and Rhetoric

Kenneth Burke
Attitudes Toward History

Christian Kock and Lisa S. Villadsen, eds.
Rhetorical Citizenship and Public Deliberation

John S. Nelson
Tropes of Politics: Science, Theory, Rhetoric, Action

Rhetoric of science

Randy Allen Harris, ed.
Landmark Essays in the Rhetoric of Science: Case Studies

Alan G. Gross
Starring the Text

Jeanne Fahnestock
Rhetorical Figures in Science

Rhetoric of technology

Charles Bazerman
The languages of Edison's light

Ian Bogost
Alien Phenomenology

Walter J. Ong
Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word
Rhetorical genre theory

Carolyn Miller

“Genre as Social Action.”
“Blogging as Social Action: A Genre Analysis of the Weblog” (with Dawn Shepherd)
“New Genres, Now and Then.”

Charles Bazerman and James Paradis, eds.
Textual Dynamics of the Professions: Historical and Contemporary Studies of Writing in Professional Communities