

Classical Rhetoric Today: ENGL 6188

| | |
|---|---|
| Instructor: David M. Grant | E-mail: david.grant@uni.edu |
| Office: Bartlett 2011 | Office Phone: 273-2639 |
| Office Hours: M,W 9:15 – 10:00 T 11am – 12:15 pm, and cheerfully by appointment | Do not look at this space. I told you not to look at it! ☺ |

Rhetoric is an ancient and still not completely defined concept. Arising in ancient Greece and developed in the classical Athenian democracy, it has a lot to do with language and what language does. That is, rhetoric puts questions of meaning or interpretation off to the side a bit and foregrounds instead the effects language has on others. Sometimes meaning and interpretation are bound up here, but this isn't necessarily so. Contemporary language theorists John Searle and J. L. Austin distinguished between the locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary forces of speech to note how a statement such as "Gee, it is cold in here" might, without further language, lead one to close an open window. Rhetoric is always dependent upon context as well as audience, purpose, timing, standards of reason, appropriate emotion, character of the speaker, and even both accepted and contested ideologies. What is said (or written) cannot be separated from who, what, when, where, and how something is said or written. In short, rhetoric points to all those things about language in the world rather than just language in a book.

We will examine language from this perspective, especially as we currently understand how that was theorized in the Classical world, from about 800 BCE to around the fall of the Roman Empire between 200 and 400 CE. Part of this requires us to situate ourselves in the 21st Century and understand how we are looking back through time to this earlier epoch. This is quite different from looking back to the Classical age and thinking we can understand it directly. We look through a glass darkly, as it were, seeing through the Renaissance and Medieval ages to the civilizations before them. Because of this, we will address issues of translation and historiography, both of which will be informed by contemporary theories of language and rhetoric. Finally, we will need to address the degree to which Classical sources serve as inspiration or starting point for rhetorical and poetic theories as they are adapted to our contemporary time and place. In what ways do these considerations address ethics, existence, representation, composition, teaching, or social media and communication technology?



"School of Athens," by Raphael.

And this brings us back to doing. What will all this accomplish? As an ancient conversation about the nature and power of language, rhetoric offers much to teachers, writers, digital humanities scholars, entrepreneurs, and nearly anyone interested in how language is active in the world. There may be few magical formulae, recipes, or shortcuts; indeed, the considerations of 2,500 years are quite complex. Yet, such considerations allow a kind of purchase on language use in approaching occasions to write, speak, read, and listen. In short, studying rhetoric's

classical origins is a way to *master* language rather than have it master you. As a graduate level course, then, this is very appropriate.

GRADING

Your participation is very important since this course relies on the back-and-forth sharing of ideas and interpretations. Please be careful about attendance! I understand that inclement weather, children, work, your own health, and families need to be juggled alongside the demands of graduate coursework. I can understand one or two absences due to such issues. Beyond that and your grade may suffer as a result. We may be able to arrange some remote link so students can participate from their homes, but we will need to arrange that ASAP. Until we know our technical limitations, try not to be absent.

You will also be responsible for three short papers and one longer paper. Two short papers will be responses to the readings and discussions with limited amounts of extraneous research. One short paper will be a review of a book of your choice dealing with classical rhetoric in the modern day. The final paper will be more research intensive and, hopefully, will follow from your book review. These papers will be as follows:

| | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------|
| Response #1: Pre-Hellenic and Sophists | DUE February 10 | 20% grade |
| Response #2: Plato and Deconstruction | DUE March 8 | 20% grade |
| Response #3: Book Review | DUE April 6 | 20% grade |
| Final Paper | DUE May 4 | 25% grade |
| Participation | DUE everyday | 15% grade |

POLICIES

Please be aware of all UNI policies and procedures, including but not limited to

1. Academic Honesty and Ethics
2. Equity and Anti-Harassment
3. Accommodations for Disabilities
4. School Cancellations
5. Academic Assistance (e.g., the Writing Center)

These are available on the UNI website and in the school catalogue.

Schedule

Tentative and subject to change. Please be advised of announcements of this during class.

January 13: Introduction, Rhetoric, and the Problems of Looking at the Classical Age from the 21st Century.

| Required | Suggested |
|--|--|
| Williams, CH 1 Fahenstock, Jeanne. " Rhetorical Arts of Cooperation. " In Class: Fish, handouts, timelines | Purdue OWL Vidcast on Rhetoric (click here) Booth, Wayne C. "The Rhetorical Stance." <i>CCC</i> October 1963. Knoblauch & Brannon, "Philosophy in the Writing Class: Teaching with a Purpose." |

January 20: Some Triad and Binary Structures of the Classical World.

| Required | Suggested |
|---|--|
| Williams, CH 2 Kirby, " The Great Triangle. " Vickers, " The End of Rhetoric. " Wick, " The Feminist Sophistic Enterprise. " Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> (excerpt; lines 750-1300). Slagle, Diane and Rose, Shirley. " Domesticating English Studies. " | Vitanza, Victor. "' Some More' Notes Toward a 'Third' Sophistic'." Schilb, "History of Rhetoric and Rhetoric of History." Ianetta, " Disciplinary, Divorce, and Displacement... " Kingsley, Peter. "Greeks, Shamans, and Magi." |

January 27: Sophists I

| Required | Suggested |
|---|---|
| Williams, CH3 - Protagoras (all), Gorgias ("On Non-Being;" "Encomium of Helen"), Antiphon ("On Truth"). Poulakos, " Toward a Sophistic Definition of Rhetoric. " Schiappa, " Sophistic Rhetoric: Oasis or Mirage? " Unknown Author, " Dissoi Logoi. " Richards, " How to Read a Page. " | Rickert, "On Locating Kairos in Space/ Time" Kinneavy, "Kairos: A Neglected Concept..." Sullivan, " The Epideictic Character of Rhetorical Criticism. " Lyotard, <i>The Postmodern Condition</i> |

February 3: Sophists II, with Special Attention to Isocrates

| Required | Suggested |
|--|--|
| <p>Williams, CH 3: Isocrates, pp 75 - 107. Rummel, "Isocrates' Ideal of Rhetoric." Jaeger, "The Rhetoric of Isocrates." Poulakos, "Isocrates' Use of Doxa."</p> | <p>Benoit, William. "Plato and Isocrates on Rhetorical Education" Chase, Kenneth. "A Commentary on Isocrates' Antidosis." Hauser, "Rhetorical Democracy." Fleming, "Rhetoric as a Course of Study." Feigenbaum, "Rhetoric and Mathematics.."</p> |

February 10: Plato's *Gorgias*

(Application for Graduate Symposium due Friday, if participating. Click [here to learn](#) more.)

| Required | Suggested |
|---|---|
| <p>Williams, CH 4 108-114; 142-189. Kauffman, "Enactment as Argument in the Gorgias." McComiskey Agrippa, from "On the Uncertainty and Vanity of the Arts and Sciences."</p> | <p>Plato, <i>Gorgias</i> (Trans. James Nichols), Cornell UP, 1998. Plato, <i>Gorgias</i> (Trans. W.C. Helmbold), Bobbs-Merril, 1952. Clifford Vaida, <i>Rhetorica</i>, "The Relevance of Plato's <i>Gorgias</i>."</p> |

February 17: Does Plato Reconsider? *Phaedrus* and the Intellectual Tradition of the Western World

| Required | Suggested |
|--|--|
| <p>Williams, CH 4, 190-220. Murray, "Disputation, Deception, and Dialectic." Kahn, "Phaedrus and the Limits of Writing." (From Plato and Socratic Dialogue: The Philosophical Uses of a Literary Form)</p> | <p>Schenker, David. "The Strangeness of the <i>Phaedrus</i>." <i>Amer. Journal of Philology</i> 127 (2006), 67-87. Kastely, James. "Respecting the Rupture: Not Solving the Problem of Unity.." <i>Philosophy & Rhetoric</i>, 35.2 (2002), 138-151. Ingram, Jason. "Plato's Rhetoric of Indirection: Paradox as a Site of Agency and Transformation." <i>Philosophy & Rhetoric</i> 40.3 (2007), 293-309.</p> |

February 24: The Legacy of *Pharmakon*: Translation and Logography

| Required | Suggested |
|---|---|
| Nichols' translation of <i>Phaedrus</i> Overview of Derrida (click here for .pdf) Searle, " Technology and the Perils of Poetry ; or, Why Criticism Never Catches Up." | Derrida, "Plato's Pharmacy." Available in full text here. |

March 2: Aristotle as Technical Manual

| Required. | Suggested. |
|---|---|
| Williams, CH 5, 222 - 255. Kinneavey, "William Grimaldi; Reinterpreting Aristotle." Perelman and Olbrechts-Tyteca. "Introduction." Corbett, "The Three Modes of Persuasion." | Kennedy, G. <i>Aristotle: On Rhetoric: A Theory of Civic Discourse.</i> |

March 8: Aristotle Reconsidered

| Required | Suggested |
|--|--|
| Williams, CH 5, 255 - 279. Kennedy, G. from Aristotle On Rhetoric: A Theory of Civic Discourse. Foley, " Peri Ti? Rhetoric's Domain. " Miller, C. " What's Practical About Technical Writing? " | Grimaldi, William Fr. Rhetoric I and II. |

March 14 - 18: SPRING BREAK

March 23: Cicero and the Politics of Latin Republican Rhetoric

| Required | Suggested |
|---|--|
| Williams, CHs 6 & 7 (pp 316 - 335; 337-359). Unknown, "Rhetorica ad Herennium" (excerpt). Walker, Jeffrey. Mucklebauer, John. | Deleuze, <i>Difference and Repetition.</i> Foucault, <i>The Order of Things</i> Gibbon, <i>Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.</i> |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Kimball, Bruce. | |
|-----------------|--|

March 30: Latin Litteraturizations: Second Sophistic, Style, Sublimity

| Required | Suggested |
|--|--|
| Williams, CH 8 MacLeish, Ars Poetica Longinus, "On the Sublime." Mailloux, from "The Institutional Rhetoric of Literary Criticism." | Coleridge, "On the Principles of Genial Criticism." |

April 6: Quintillian and the Return of Pedagogy

Presentation: Andrea Wulf, 6:30pm, location TBD

| Required | Suggested |
|--|-----------|
| Williams, CH 9 Antiphonius, "Progymnasmata." Keith, Mountford , et al. Fleming, David. Boyle, Casey. | |

April 13: Into the Medieval: Augustine, Christian Doctrine, and Rhetoric from the Pulpit.

| Required | Suggested |
|---|-----------|
| Williams, CH 10, 416 - 430, 449 - 46?? and 493 - 506; 512- 517 Petrarch, " Letter to Tommaso de Messina ." | |

April 20: Contemporary Adaptations of Classical Themes: Composition

| Required | Suggested |
|---|-----------|
| Welch, " Ideology and Freshman Textbook Production ." | |

April 27: Contemporary Adaptations of Classical Themes: Critical Theory

TBD

May 4: FINAL PROJECTS DUE