

English 435

Studies in Rhetoric and Composition Theory

Focus: Historical/Philosophical Rhetoric: A Survey with Emphasis on the Classical Tradition

Dr. Darci Hill, Professor

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Office Hours: TT 12:15-1:15, 4:45-5:15, others by appt.

### **Course Objectives:**

This course should serve to integrate seemingly disparate areas of inquiry in written composition, speech, literature, history, and philosophy. All of these disciplines—in fact, all disciplines—can be greatly enriched and strengthened through a study and application of rhetoric. Some of the topics this course will seek to explore are, classical rhetorical principles and their augmentations throughout history, style and stylistics, the coupling of rhetoric and logic, and the various philosophies of rhetoric and how they have vastly influenced the world of academe and public life.

As the focus of this particular semester is on historical rhetoric, students who acquire advanced training in rhetoric will be better prepared for careers in writing and/or teaching than those who do not. To phrase this concept another way, students who acquire advanced training in rhetoric will be more “marketable” than those who do not.

### **Major Texts:**

Bizzell, Patricia, and Bruce Herzberg, eds. *The Rhetorical Tradition: Readings from Classical Times to the Present*. Boston: Bedford Books of St. Martin's, 1990.

Golden, James, et al, eds. *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Dubuque, Iowa:

Kendall/Hunt, 1976, rpt. 1997.

### **Optional but highly recommended sources:**

Corbett, Edward P. J and Connors, Robert. *Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.,

Oxford, England: Oxford UP, 1999. (\*\*\*)Nota Bene: Any edition of this book is recommended. Our library may have a copy of an earlier edition.)

Corbett, Edward P. J., et al, eds. *Essays on the Rhetoric of the Western World*. Ohio State UP:

Kendall/Hunt, 1976, rpt. 1997.

Horner, Winifred B. *Rhetoric in the Classical Tradition*. New York: St. Martin's, 1988.

### **Course Requirements:**

A seven-entry annotated bibliography (Due Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>).

This research project will explore one of the five rhetorical components or a rhetorical principle or concept other than those five. The format for this project will be discussed in class and on an accompanying handout. **(Individual conferences with the professor concerning this paper are strongly recommended.)**

### **OR**

A scholarly review over a book-length study from a list provided by the professor.

One oral presentation in which you teach your colleagues what you have learned in your research conducted for your annotated bibliography or your scholarly review. (Due Dates TBA)

Other short, extemporaneous presentations—3-5 minutes.

Other short written exercises or research assignments

One written rhetorical analysis of a literary work, a philosophical treatise, or an historical document. **(All topics must be pre-approved with the professor. Individual conferences with the professor concerning this paper are strongly recommended.)**

Two, possibly three exams.

Three typed commonplace book entries (with 3 entries per submission). Commonplace book assignments will be explained in class and on an accompanying handout.

C.P. # 1 Due Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

C. P. #2 Due Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

C. P. #3 Due Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Weighting of each assignment will be provided in class and will also be accessible through Blackboard.

**(Nota Bene: This is a tentative syllabus and is subject to change at the professor's discretion.)**

