



ENGL 325

INTRODUCTION TO RHETORICAL STUDIES



Instructor:	Dr. Daniel P. Richards
Class Time:	Wednesday 7:10pm-9:50pm
Classroom:	Gornto 222+Synchronous Online
Class Website:	rhetoric325.wordpress.com
Office:	BAL 5032
Office Hours:	MW 6-7pm, F 10-11a (Skype)
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Overview

This course provides students with a theoretical-historical review of writing about rhetoric in the Western tradition from ancient Greece through the Early Middle Ages, drawing explicit connections between these writings and our contemporary sociopolitical moment. The assignments in the course are designed to move students toward gaining a mastery and appreciation for the thought of ancient and classical thinkers and becoming more proficient at making and evaluating written and oral argumentation.

Delivery

This course will be taught synchronously, with some students sitting in person in Gornto 222 and others streaming in via WebEx from local satellite campuses or from home. All distance students, regardless of their CRN designation, are welcome to join in person.

Course Texts

Foss, Sonja K. *Rhetorical Criticism: Exploration & Practice*. 3rd ed., Waveland Press, 2004.
Herrick, James. *The History & Theory of Rhetoric: An Introduction*. 5th ed., Routledge, 2012.

Course Website

This course has its own website: rhetoric325.wordpress.com. It is in the student's best interest to bookmark this site in their web browser as this will be the main source of lecture notes, resources, assignment descriptions, and readings. Blackboard will be used only for the submission of assignments and access to grades and feedback.

Email Policy

All emails sent to the instructor must have the following elements: pertinent title, appropriate greeting, clear sentences, concise paragraphs, and a signature indicating full name. It is expected that students check their Old Dominion email account daily.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism will result in the failure of the assignment and possibly of the course. Students cannot use work completed for credit in previous courses to count towards this course nor can they lift ideas or content from a print or online source without proper citation.

Accommodations

In accordance with university policy, a student who wishes to receive some instructional accommodation because of a documented sensory and/or learning disability should contact the instructor to discuss this accommodation. Any student who has a concern or needs to make special arrangements for meeting the requirements of the course is encouraged to speak with the instructor. The instructor must be notified in the first two weeks of the course of any students requiring accommodations. If you have questions about assistance, please contact the Office of Educational Accessibility at 757-683-4655 or visit odu.edu/educationalaccessibility.

Student Athletes

If you are a student athlete, please provide your travel schedule and game schedule indicating when you will need to participate in athletic events. While travel for athletics is acceptable, the student will need to make up any missed work.

Submitting Assignments & Late Policy

Assignments are due at 11:59pm of the due date specified in the syllabus. If there are issues with Blackboard submissions, it is the student's responsibility to send the work via email to the professor as backup. Late assignments will receive a third of a letter grade penalty per day late, including weekends. Extensions will be negotiated on a situational basis but permission must be sought in advance and for legitimate reasons.

Weighting Scale

Letter grades will be assigned for each assignment and are enumerated as such:

A (92.5-100)	B+ (87.5-89.9)	C+ (77.5-79.9)	D+ (67.5-69.9)	F (<59.9)
A- (90-92.4)	B (82.5-87.4)	C (72.5-77.4)	D (62.5-67.4)	
	B- (80-82.4)	C- (70-72.4)	D- (60-62.4)	

Assignments

Students will complete a variety of assignments ranging in length and depth. The aims of each assignment, however, are the same: to facilitate analysis and synthesis. Specifics on the two papers will be shared in class.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Submission</i>	<i>Length</i>
Readings Logs	20%	Weekly	1 page
Class Discussion	20%	Weekly	—
Historical Rhetoric Paper	20%	Oct. 15	4 pages
Rhetorical Criticism Paper	40%	Dec. 10	8 pages
Glossary Entry (Bonus)	+2%	Nov. 15	1 page

Reading Logs

In order to ensure comprehension and synthesis of the weekly reading material, students will submit reading logs weekly throughout the semester. The reading logs will consist of student attempts to synthesize the readings based upon specific questions given by the professor. The logs should contain specific quotes (works cited page doesn't count towards word total) and should aim to put the texts and authors in conversation with each other in a way that is meaningful. The reading logs are due before class time to Blackboard.

Class Discussion

To engage meaningfully in class discussion means that students should complete the readings ahead of time and identify specific points or questions beforehand, respond appropriately to questions posed by the professor in class, and work to continue or transition conversations started by peers not abruptly end them. Some students will participate in person, while others will participate from a distance. The expectations for all students are the same.

Historical Rhetoric Paper

Students will compose a paper that compares and contrasts two different perspectives on rhetoric from the historical figures covered in class and applies these differences to a contemporary issue, figure, or event.

Rhetorical Criticism Paper

Students will select a public speech given by any politician in the running for presidential candidacy during this election cycle or any other and select one of the critical approaches covered in Foss's text to frame their rhetorical analysis of the speech.

Glossary Entry (Bonus)

Students will receive up to 2% bonus added onto their final grade if they are able to identify a rhetorical move, fallacy, or technique used in the victory or concession speeches of the presidential election held on November 8th. The entry must include direct quotation, context, and explanation.

Schedule

Below is a schedule of the readings and due dates for the semester. Any changes will be noted on the course website. Readings not found in the Foss or Herrick texts can be retrieved on the course website under “Readings.”

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Readings</i>
1	Aug 31	Foss, Ch. 1; Klein & Mason; Galef
2	Sept 7	Herrick, Ch. 1; Blanda (“Other Side”); Blankenhorn
3	Sept 14	Herrick, Ch. 2; Isocrates’ <i>Against the Sophists</i> ; This American Life
4	Sept 21	Herrick, Ch. 3; Plato’s <i>Gorgias</i> ; Mercieca
5	Sept 28	Herrick, Ch. 4; Aristotle’s <i>On Rhetoric</i> ; Masters; Doctorow
6	<i>No Class</i>	Herrick, Ch. 5; Cicero’s <i>De Oratore</i> ; Bobic; BBC News
7	Oct 12	Herrick, Ch. 6; St. Augustine’s <i>De Doctrina Christiana</i> ; Kenyon
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8	Oct 19	Herrick, Ch. 9; Oliver; Blanda (“Tyranny of Facts”); Doctorow
9	Oct 26	Foss, Ch. 2, 3 (pp. 11-55); Herrick, Ch. 10 (pp.209-216); Bush
10	Nov 2	Foss, Ch. 7 (pp. 193-201); Foss, Ch. 9 (pp. 299-304); Chait; Obama
11	Nov 9	Foss, Ch. 10 (pp. 333-55); Herrick, Ch. 10 (pp. 217-224); Ivin
12	Nov 16	Foss, Ch. 8; Herrick, Ch. 11 (pp.229-237); Solnit
13	<i>No Class</i>	—
14	Nov 30	Foss, Ch. 6; Herrick, Ch. 11 (pp. 238-242); Clinton
15	Dec 7	Herrick, Ch. 1; Wallace
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		Criticism Paper, Due Dec 10

Withdrawal

A syllabus constitutes a contract between the student and the course instructor. Participation in this course indicates your acceptance of its content, requirements, and policies. If you believe that the nature of this course does not meet your interests, needs or expectations (amount of work involved, class meetings, assignment deadlines, course policies, etc.), you should drop the class by the drop/add deadline.