

ENGL 362: Rhetorical Traditions (SPRING 2014)



Course and section number: ENGL 362-001

Class day/time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10-10:50 a.m.

Class location: CE Chavez Bldg., Room 304

Instructor: Professor Matthew Abraham

Office: Modern Languages 428

Office hours: 11:15-12:30 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and by appointment

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Course goals:

This course is devoted to studying the history of rhetoric as it has developed over the last twenty-five hundred years. In the first half of the course, we will read the major texts within the rhetorical tradition, including Aristotle's *On Rhetoric*, Plato's *Gorgias* and *Phaedrus*, as well as selections from what is called the modern period, e.g. Hugh Blair, Richard Whately, and George Campbell.

The second half of the course will turn to the considering the role of contemporary rhetoricians (Ernesto Grassi, Chaim Perelman, Richard Weaver, Kenneth Burke, Stephen Toulmin, etc.), including women and ethnic minority rhetoricians who have struggled to become a part of the Western rhetorical tradition or who have worked completely outside it.

Required text:

Berquist et al. *The Rhetoric of Western Thought: From the Mediterranean World to the Global Setting*. Kendall Hunt, 10th edition.

Attendance policy: Attendance will be taken every class period. You are allowed *three absences* without penalty. After the third absence, I will reduce your final grade by a half-letter.

Weekly quiz: With the exception of the first week, we will have a reading quiz once a week during the first twenty minutes of class. It is important to show up at the beginning of class, as I will not allow you to make up a missed quiz or extra time if you are late. I will drop your lowest quiz score in calculating your final grade. Please note that these quizzes are announced and are meant to create an incentive for not missing class. The quizzes are meant to help you keep up with the reading.

**** There will be no Mid-term exam administered in this class because of the number of quizzes in the course.**

***** The final exam will be administered on Wednesday, May 14th from 10:30-12:30 p.m. in our designated classroom.** Because of the comprehensive nature of the exam, it is essential that you keep up with the weekly reading.

Précis project—Each student will produce a relatively brief summary (four typed pages) of a selection in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*. You will receive detailed instructions for this project in coming class sessions. The due date for this assignment is Friday, March 14th.

Grading criteria

Weekly quizzes (14 total X 20 points each= 280 points)—45%

Précis of a selection in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought* (50 points)—15%

Final Exam (100 points)—35%

Participation—5%

******Desire to Learn Site and Class list-serv:** If you visit <https://d2l.arizona.edu>, you will see that—by virtue of being enrolled in this class—you have access to course materials through the course blackboard site, as well as access to the class email list, which will facilitate communication between all of us during the semester. As is so often the case, the best ideas pertaining to the course material often come to you when you are not in class. By posting your ideas to the class-list, you can help me and others to understand the material a little better. If you have a question, please feel free to post it to the list, as others might have a similar question. You are required to make **at least three** substantive postings to the list-serv this semester. I hope to have some of the authors of our course texts join in us in online conversation.

Disability Support: Please see: <http://drc.arizona.edu/students>

Statement from <http://drc.arizona.edu/faculty-staff/syllabus-statement>:

Accessibility and Accommodations:

It is the University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You

are also welcome to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

Academic Integrity Policy: Please see:

http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/sites/deanofstudents.arizona.edu/files/code_of_academic_integrity.pdf

Avoiding Plagiarism

Helpful Link: <http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>

Schedule:

WEEK #1:

Wednesday, January 15th: Introductions

Friday, January 17th: Discuss pp. 1-15 in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #2

Monday, January 20th: No Class, MLK Day

Wednesday, January 22nd: Discuss pp. 15-30 (On the Social Origins of Rhetoric and Rhetorical Systems) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, January 24th: Discuss pp. 35-52 (On the Social Origins of Rhetoric and Rhetorical Systems cont.) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #3

Monday, January 27th: Discuss pp.53-66 (Plato's Moral-Philosophical View) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, January 29th: Discuss 67-81 (The Scientific Approach of Aristotle) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, January 31st: Discuss pp.83-98 (The Education of the Citizen-Orator: Isocrates, Cicero, Quintillian) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #4

Monday, February 3rd: Discuss pp. 99-112 (The Christianization of Rhetorical Thought from Roman Times to the Renaissance) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, February 5th: Discuss 105-112 (The Christianization of Rhetorical Thought from Roman Times to the Renaissance cont.) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, February 7th: Discuss pp. 112-117 (Women's Rhetoric from Medieval to Enlightenment Times) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #5

Monday, February 10th: Discuss pp. 125-140 (Neoclassicism, the Belletristic Movement, and the Rhetoric of Hugh Blair) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, February 12th: Discuss pp.140-147 (Prelude to the Platform: Woman's Transition to the Public Sphere) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, February 14th: Discuss pp. 149-156 (The Epistemologists) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #6

Monday, February 17th: Discuss pp. 156-167 (The Epistemologists cont.) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, February 19th: Discuss pp. 171-179 (The Rhetorics of Campbell and Whately) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, February 21st: Discuss pp. 179-189 (The Rhetorics of Campbell and Whately) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #7

Monday, February 24th: Discuss pp. 191-203 (The Elocutionary Movement) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, February 26th: Discuss pp. 205-215 (American Experimentations with Rhetoric) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, February 28th: Discuss pp. 215-235 (American Experimentations with Rhetoric cont.) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #8

Monday, March 3rd: Discuss pp. 237-254 (Women Emerge as Speakers) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, March 5th: Discuss pp. 261-272 (I.A. Richards and a Meaning-Centered Theory of Rhetoric) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, March 7th: Discuss pp. 273-290 (Kenneth Burke's Theory of Dramatic Rhetoric) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #9

Monday, March 10th: Discuss pp. 291-306 (Richard Weaver and Rhetoric as Value) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, March 12th: Discuss pp. 307-315 (The Rhetorics of Ernesto Grassi and Jurgen Habermas) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, March 14th: Continue discussion of Habermas *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*; **Précis due.**

SPRING BREAK (March 15-23)

WEEK #10

Monday, March 24th: Discussion of p. 317-318 (Rhetoric Centered upon Argument) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, March 26th: No class; catch up on reading

Friday, March 28th: No class; catch up on reading

WEEK #11

Monday, March 31st: Discuss pp. 319-336 (Stephen Toulmin on the Nature of Argument) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, April 2nd: Discuss pp. 336-345 (Toulmin etc.) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, April 4th: Discuss pp. 347-358 (Chaim Perelman on Practical Reasoning) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #12

Monday, April 7th: Discuss pp. 359-377 (Perelman cont., Michael Meyer and a Problematic Theory of Rhetoric) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, April 9th: (Perelman and Meyer cont.) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, April 11th: (Perelman and Meyer cont.) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #13

Monday, April 14th: Discuss pp. 381-390 (Toward a Rhetoric for the New Millennium) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, April 16th: Discuss pp. 390-401 (Toward a Rhetoric for the New Millennium cont.) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, April 18th: Discuss pp. 403-409 (Marshall McLuhan) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #14

Monday, April 21st: Discuss pp. 411-426 (Michel Foucault) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, April 23rd: Discuss pp. 427-439 (Berlin's Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, April 25th: Discuss pp. 443-459 (Protest Rhetoric and Social Movements) in *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

WEEK #15

Monday, April 28th: Complete *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Wednesday, April 30th: Complete *The Rhetoric of Western Thought*

Friday, May 2nd: Review for Final Exam

WEEK #16

Monday, May 5th: Review for Final Exam

Wednesday, May 7th: Last day of class

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 14th, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.