

Title: Rhetorical Theory and Written Discourse

New

- I. **Catalog Description:** Historical survey of rhetorical theory (Aristotle to the moderns), with emphasis on critical examination of texts. 3 credit hours.
- II. **Prerequisites:** EN100, EN140, and any 200-level literature course (except LI243).
- III. **Purposes and Objectives:**
 - A. To give the students a practical grasp of the theory developed by classical and modern rhetoricians.
 - B. To give the students experience in the application of literary critical principles to masterpieces of nonfiction.
 - C. To enable the students to write as a rhetorician making writing decisions in light of rhetorical theory.
 - D. To give the students an understanding of the ethical nature of rhetoric.
- IV. **Expectations of Students:**
 - A. To satisfactorily complete a series of written projects of a critical and analytical nature.
 - B. To pass tests on the principles of the major rhetorical movements.
 - C. To participate in class discussions.
 - D. Graduate students will complete an extra project in the form of a seminar paper appropriate for conference presentation.
- V. **Course Outline:**
 - A. Introduction to Rhetoric 3 hours
 - 1. Methodology
 - 2. Definition
 - 3. Terminology
 - B. Classical Rhetoric 12 hours
 - 1. Theory
 - a. The Statement: Aristotle
 - b. The Counterstatements: Plato, Cicero, and Quintillian
 - 2. Readings for critical analysis: Homer, Thucydides, and Plato
 - C. Medieval and Renaissance Rhetoric 9 hours
 - 1. Theory
 - a. St. Augustine and the Beginning of Homiletics
 - b. Erasmus, Vives, and Ben Jonson and the Merging of the Poetic and Rhetoric
 - c. Peter Ramus and the Dichotomy of Reason and the Imagination
 - 2. Readings for critical analysis: Selections from St. Paul, Ben Jonson, Shakespeare, John Donne, and John Milton
 - D. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Rhetoric 9 hours

1. Theory	
a. Rhetoric and the Scientific Style: Bacon, Locke, and Hobbes	
b. The Doctrine of Propriety and the Modern Prose Style: John Dryden	
c. A Neo-classical Perspective: Longinus and Sublime	
d. A Belletristic and Epistemological Rhetoric: Lord Kames, George Campbell, and Hugh Blair	
2. Readings for critical analysis: Selections from Jonathan Edwards, Abraham Cowley, <i>The Federalist Papers</i> , Thomas Babington Macaulay, James Boswell, and Alexander Pope.	
E. Modern Rhetoric	12 hours
1. Theory	
a. Rhetoric as Meaning: I.A. Richards	
b. Rhetoric as Motive: Kenneth Burke	
c. Rhetoric as Value: Richard Weaver	
d. Rhetoric as a Way of Knowing: Richard Young and Alton Becker	
2. Readings for critical analysis: Selections from Wallace Stevens, John Crowe Ransom, and Cleanth Brooks	
Total	45 hours

VI. Textbook: To Be Determined

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

A. Undergraduate Students	
1. Quizzes	10%
2. Midterm exam	20%
3. Final exam	20%
4. Research paper	30%
5. Participation	20%
B. Graduate Students	
1. Quizzes	10%
2. Midterm exam	20%
3. Final exam	20%
4. Research paper	20%
5. Participation	10%
6. Conference paper	20%

VIII. Academic Policy Statement

The Undergraduate Bulletin defines academic dishonesty as "...those acts which would deceive, cheat, or defraud so as to promote one's scholastic record...", and states that "[v]iolations of academic honesty represent a serious breach of discipline and may be considered grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the university". You are expected to understand and abide by the rules governing academic honesty. The official statement about academic honesty, including plagiarism, may be found in the University's Code of Student Conduct

(<http://www6.semo.edu/stuconduct/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct%20Jan%202004-Revised%20Jul%202008.pdf>).

A common example of academic dishonesty is plagiarism, defined in the university Code of Student Conduct as “the act of passing someone else’s work off as one’s own” and, additionally, as “using the essential style and manner of expression of a source as if it were one’s own.” Any student submitting an assignment that fits either of these descriptions, will, at a minimum, receive a zero on that assignment with no opportunity to re-submit it. If you have *any* questions about what might qualify as academic dishonesty, you should ask me about them. This is definitely one case in which you’re better off asking permission rather than forgiveness.

IX. Student with Disabilities

Southeast Missouri State University and Disability Support Services remain committed to making every possible educational accommodation for students with disabilities. Many services and accommodations which aid a student’s educational experience are available for students with various types of disabilities. It is the student’s responsibility to contact Disability Support Services to become registered as a student with a disability. Accommodations are implemented on a case by case basis. For more information visit the following site: <http://www6.semo.edu/lapdss/index.htm>

X. Civility and Harassment

The University strives to offer learning experiences and opportunities designed to help students think effectively, develop the capacity to communicate, discriminate among values, and make relevant judgments. A major determinant of a successful educational experience is a shared sense of respect among and between the students and their instructor. Mutual respect for all as well as a no tolerance policy on harassment of any kind is expected. Every student at Southeast is obligated at all times to assume responsibility for his/her actions, to respect constituted authority, to be truthful, and to respect the rights of others, as well as to respect private and public property.