

## **RHE 330D Classical to Modern Rhetoric Fall 2008**

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Unique Number: 45255

Place and Time: Monday & Wednesday, 11–12:30; PAR 104

Instructor: John Ruskiewicz

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Office Hours: MW 3:30–5 and by appointment

**Goals:** **Rhetoric 330D Classical to Modern Rhetoric** will survey the history of rhetoric, one of the original seven liberal arts, exploring its impact on political, religious, and literary discourse in the West from antiquity to (almost) modern times.

In "Classical to Modern Rhetoric," we will examine the theorists and practitioners who shaped the arts of speaking and writing in Europe and America. We will read several classical texts (including Phaedrus, the Rhetoric of Aristotle, selections from Cicero and Quintilian) to understand how rhetoric was taught and practiced in antiquity and where it stood in relationship to the other arts of the trivium: logic and grammar. The influence of rhetoric in the Medieval and Renaissance periods will be presented chiefly through literary and religious texts—for example, selected English sermons, Julius Caesar, Areopagitica, and so on. We will also examine the influence of rhetoric on English prose style and the on the development of scientific and philosophical writing.

In the modern period, the course will examine British/Scottish neo-classical and belletristic rhetorics, particularly as they shaped systems of education and literary tastes in England and America. The decline, near disappearance, and renewal of the rhetorical tradition in the last century will be chronicled (briefly) through the work of major theorists, including Kenneth Burke and Richard Weaver.

Our focus throughout the semester will be both theoretical and practical: we will read the theory and then examine cultural and political applications

**Coursework:** Coursework in RHE 330D will focus on readings from the work of major rhetoricians and several artists. There will be a midterm and final examination. You will also prepare a series of position papers (approximately 500 words) submitted to the Blackboard Discussion Board for feedback and response, revising them for submission as the major

component of the final portfolio. Finally, you will also prepare a twenty-minute oral report on a subject related to the history of rhetoric; these reports will be scheduled throughout the term. I will also schedule conferences with you to work on both your portfolio and oral report.

**Grades:** To pass the course, you must turn in **on time** a full set of response papers. Timely submission of these items is a course requirement: you may not submit position papers for the first time in your final portfolio—though you may, of course, revise them significantly. Your final grade will be calculated according to the average of the major projects with the following values: Midterm exam / 30% Final exam / 30% Oral Report / 10% Portfolio / 30% For more details, check the grading grid on Blackboard. Note that this formula presumes satisfactory attendance and the completion of all routine assignments (including reading assignments) on time. Your final course grade will be awarded on the following averages: A / 100–90 B / 89–80 C / 79–70 D / 69–60 F / 59–0 Please note that a 69 is a "D," 79 is a "C," an 89 a "B." Do not discard any drafts, notes, papers or research materials you produce during the course until after you have received a final grade. You may want to keep course materials in a folder or on Webspaces. Your final portfolio will be submitted in both electronic and paper form. You will need to learn how to load files to Discussion Boards on the RHE 330D Blackboard site. The process is as simple as attaching a document to email.

**Materials and Textbooks:** For this class, you will need to purchase:  
Bizzell, Patricia and Bruce Herzberg. *The Rhetorical Tradition*. 2nd Ed. Boston: Bedford—St. Martin's, 2001.  
John Ruszkiewicz, et al., *The Scott Foresman Handbook for Writers*. 8th edition. New York: Prentice, 2008—or any comparable handbook

**Attendance/Late Assignments:** You are expected to attend class regularly and to participate in in-class editing, revising, and discussion. If you miss six classes or more, you will fail automatically. Please take attendance seriously.

Position papers and other out-of-class assignments are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned. You will be penalized for late papers or for missing your assigned oral presentation day. Short out-of-class assignments or Web forum postings are not accepted late. There is no makeup of in-class work and no extra credit.

**Scholastic Responsibility/Complaints:** Turning in work that is not


your own or any other form of scholastic dishonesty will result in a major course penalty (including possible failure in the course). A report of the incident will also be made to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Bring any questions you have about grades or policies to me first. Complaints we cannot resolve can be taken to the Associate Director of the Division of Rhetoric and Composition (Parlin 3).

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities** : The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic adjustments for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TDD.

**Web-based Class Sites** Since fall 2001, web-based, password-protected class sites have been available for all accredited courses taught at The University. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources are types of information that may be available within these sites. Site activities could include exchanging e-mail, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, class e-mail rosters will be a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1. For information on restricting directory information see:  
<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi00-01/app/appc09.html>

**Cell Phones:** Turn off your cell phone before cl



(08F) CLASSICAL TO MODERN RHETORIC-W (45255)

- Announcements
- Syllabus
- Faculty Information
- Course Documents
- Assignments
- Communication
- My Grades
- Discussion Board
- External Links
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- CCA
- Research Tools


**COURSE MANAGEMENT**

- Control Panel
- Course Tools
- Course Links
- Evaluation
- Users and Groups
- Customization
- Packages and Utilities
- Help


## Syllabus

Create Item Build Evaluate Collaborate More

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**330D Syllabus—Paper Version**  
Attached Files [330DSyll\\_Ppr.doc](#) (40 KB)



**RHE 330D Classical to Modern Rhetoric Syllabus**  
*Enabled: Statistics Tracking*

**Fall, 2008 -- RHE 330D -- Section 45255**

**Class Schedule**

<a href="#">August</a>	<a href="#">September</a>	<a href="#">October</a>	<a href="#">November</a>	<a href="#">December</a>
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**August**

**August 27**  
Course introduction/policies

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**September**

**September 3**  
Stanley Fish, "Rhetoric" (1605–27); Introduction to the Classical Period (19–39)  
Position Paper #1: Response to Stanley Fish, "Rhetoric" due in Discussion Board

**September 8**  
Gorgias (42–46); Anon, "Dissoi Logoi" (47–55); Isocrates, "Against the Sophists" (67–75); Plato (80–86)

**September 10**  
Plato, Gorgias (87–138)

**September 15**  
Phaedrus (138–68)  
Position Paper #2: Response to Plato's Phaedrus due in Discussion Board

**September 17**  
Aristotle (169–77); Rhetoric Bk 1 (Sections I–IV, 179–88 and Section XV, 210–13)

**September 22**  
Rhetoric Bk 2 (213–36); Rhetoric Bk 3 (236–40)  
Discussion of Oral Reports (PowerPoint presentation)  
Position Paper #3: Response to Aristotle's Rhetoric due in Discussion Board

**September 24**

Rhetorica ad Herennium, (241–42; browse 248–65, beginning with Section VIII; read 265–82 a little more closely, beginning with Section XXXI)

**September 29**

Cicero (283–88) De Oratore (from Bks II–III 320–39)

**October****October 1**

Oral Report: To Be Scheduled

Begin reading Quintilian (359–63) Institutes of Oratory (Chs I–VII, 364–77; Chs XV–XVI, 385–91; BK X, Chs II–III, 400–07; BK XII, Ch 1, 412–18)

**October 6**

Position Paper #4: Response to Institutes of Oratory due in Discussion Board

Introduction to Medieval Rhetoric (431–47); Augustine (450–54) On Christian Doctrine Bk IV (456–85)

**October 8**

Anonymous [of Bologna] The Principles of Letter Writing (492–502)

**October 13**

Midterm examination

**October 15**

Introduction to Renaissance Rhetoric (555–77); Erasmus (581–85); Copia (597–609; skim Bk II, 609–27)

**October 20**

Peter Ramus (674–80), "Arguments in Rhetoric Against Quintilian" (681–97)

Oral Report: Chesna Bowman (Cicero's "Pro Caelio")

Position Paper #5: Response to "Arguments in Rhetoric Against Quintilian" due in Discussion Board

**October 22**

Thomas Wilson (698–701) The Arte of Rhetorique (702–09, 730–32);

Francis Bacon (736–39) The Advancement of Learning/Novum Organum (740–47)

Oral Report: Josh Aquilar

**October 27**

Shakespeare/Milton

Speeches from *Julius Caesar* and *Henry V*

Oral Report: Courtney Brown

**October 29**

Introduction to Enlightenment Rhetoric (791–812)

John Locke, "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding," (814–27)

Oral Report: Ryan Thomas (Jonathan Swift)

**November****November 3**

Giambattista Vico (862–64), On the Study Methods of Our Time, Section VII (871–75)

Gilbert Austin (889–90), Chironomia (890–97)  
Hugh Blair (947–49) Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, Lecture XXV (969–74)

**November 5**

Introduction to Nineteenth Century Rhetoric (983–98)  
Richard Whately (1000–02), from Elements of Rhetoric (1003–14)  
Oral Report: Caroline Disney (Rhetoric and Acting)

**November 10**

Alexander Bain and Adams Sherman Hill (1141–44); Alexander Bain (1145–48); Adams Sherman Hill (1149–51)  
Position Paper #6: Response to Whately, Bain & Hill due in Discussion Board  
Oral Report: Callie Chalmers and Cathy Rigney (Salem Witchcraft Trials)

**November 12**

Herbert Spencer (1152–54), from *The Philosophy of Style*, (1154–67)  
Oral Reports: Lindsey Purvin (Gilbert Austin) and Nicole Wells

**November 17**

Oral Report: Charlotte Rook (Judith Butler), Collin Eaton, Vanessa Hicks, and Rebecca Caldwell (Michel Foucault).

**November 19**

Oral Reports: Chris Edwards (Chaim Perelman), Caitlin Sullivan ((Virginia Woolf), and Ehioze Osadiaye.

**November 24**

Introduction to Modern & Postmodern Rhetoric (1183–1202); Kenneth Burke (1295–97), A Grammar of Motives, on "Identification" (1324–29), Language as Symbolic Action (1340–47)  
Oral Report: : Ajay Patel and Brad Barry (Stephen Toulmin)

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**December****December 1**

Richard Weaver (1348–49), "Language Is Sermonic" (1351–60)  
Oral Report: : Gordon Muir

**December 3**

Stanley Fish, "Rhetoric," again, (1605–27)  
Final portfolio of Position Papers due.  
Oral Report: : Austin Reilly

**December 16**

Final examination: 9–12 am in Parlin 104.

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*Page last updated July 7, 2008, by John Ruskiewicz.*