

World Rhetorics

<p>Course: English 303M Time: Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 - 3:45 P Location: 101 Electrical Engineering West</p>	<p>Instructor: Xiaoye You Office: Burrowes 135 Phone: (814) 863-0595 Email: xuy10@psu.edu Office Hours: Tuesday 10-11A and Thursday 1:30-2:20P or by appointment</p>
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Course Description

While classical Western rhetoric continues to offer theoretical guidance in studying human communication, its cultural limitations have been increasingly exposed by recent studies of non-Western rhetorical traditions. This course will survey issues that have emerged in cross-cultural rhetorical studies and the ways that they have consequently expanded our horizon on human communication, including ritualistic, oral, and written. Students will read scholarly discussions on intercultural communication and classical rhetorical texts, including Chinese, Greek, Indian, and Near-Eastern. The class will discuss implications of non-Western rhetorical theories for oral and written communication in the age of globalization.

Course assignments include readings, research notes, a report on cultural exchanges and a semester-long research project on intercultural rhetoric. You need to complete required readings before class. For the research notes, you will choose or be assigned a certain rhetorical topic, and you focus on this topic while you read primary, classical texts. You prepare your research notes for class discussions. You will also be introduced to an intercultural communication class in Taiwan and then you engage some online exchanges (at least four times) with students in that class on suggested topics as well as topics of your own interest. You will write a report of around 1000 words at the end of the semester to report and reflect upon your intercultural communication experience. For the research project, you will first prepare a research proposal (about 500 words), then a preliminary research report, and finally a final research report. Please use the standards set by *Young Scholars in Writing: Undergraduate Research in Writing and Rhetoric* in your own research and writing.

Grades will be assigned as follows,

- Research Notes - 50 points
- Research Proposal - 10 points
- Preliminary Research Report - 10 points
- Final Research Report - 20 points
- Report on Cultural Exchanges - 10 points

Required Texts

The following texts and a course pack are required. The books are available at both Penn State Bookstore and Student Bookstore. The course pack can be purchased at Kopease (426 East College Avenue, telephone: 238-7674).

- Aristotle. *On Rhetoric: A Theory of Civic Discourse*. Trans. George A. Kennedy. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Combs, Steven C. *The Dao of Rhetoric*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2005.
- Confucius. *The Analects of Confucius*. Trans. Arthur Waley. Vintage, 1989.
- Kennedy, George A. *Comparative Rhetoric: An Historical and Cross-Cultural Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Li, Xiaoming. "Good Writing" in *Cross-Cultural Context*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1996.
- Lao Tsu. *Tao Te Ching*. Trans. Gia-Fu Feng and Jane English. Vintage, 1997.
- Mao, LuMing. *Reading Chinese Fortune Cookie: The Making of Chinese American Rhetoric*. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 2006.
- Plato. *Phaedrus*. Trans. Robin Waterfield. Oxford University Press, 2003.
- The Bhagavad Gita*. Trans. W. J. Johnson. Oxford University Press, 2007.

Schedule

Week 1 (August 28, 30) Contrastive Rhetoric

Tuesday: Introduction

Thursday: Kaplan - "Cultural Thought Patterns in Intercultural Education"
Hubbard - "It Takes a Rhetorical Village"

Week 2 (September 4, 6) Contrastive Rhetoric

Tuesday: Li – "Good" Writing in *Cross-Cultural Context* (p. 1-36)

Thursday: Li – "Good" Writing in *Cross-Cultural Context* (p. 37-58, 111-128)

Week 3 (September 11, 13) Comparative Rhetoric

Tuesday: Kennedy - *Comparative Rhetoric* (Prologue, Chapter 1, 2)

Thursday: Kennedy – *Comparative Rhetoric* (Chapter 5, 9)

Week 4 (September 18, 20) Greek Rhetoric

Tuesday: Plato – *Phaedrus*
Due: Research Proposal, 1st draft

Thursday: Aristotle – *On Rhetoric* (Book 1)

Due: Introductory Email for the Cultural Exchange

Week 5 (September 25, 27)

Tuesday: Conference on Research Proposal

Thursday: Aristotle – *On Rhetoric* (Book 2, 3)

Week 6 (October 2, 4) Daoist Rhetoric

Tuesday: *Tao Te Ching* (Introduction, Chapter 1-40)

Due: Research Notes on Greek Rhetoric

Thursday: *Tao Te Ching* (Chapter 41-81)

Combs – *Dao of Rhetoric* (Chapter 2 “Laozi and the Natural Way of Rhetoric”)

Due: Research Proposal, final draft

Week 7 (October 9, 11) Daoist Rhetoric

Tuesday: Combs – *Dao of Rhetoric* (Chapter 4 “Sunzi and the Rhetoric of Parsimony; Chapter 6 “Is *The Tao of Steve* Really ‘The Way’?”)

Thursday: Combs – *Dao of Rhetoric* (Chapter 7 “Values East and West in *Antz* and *A Bug’s Life*”; Chapter 8 “*Shrek* as the Daoist Hero”)

Week 8 (October 16, 18) Confucian Rhetoric

Tuesday: Confucius – *The Analects* (Introduction)

Lu - “Conceptualization of Yan and Ming Bian”

Thursday: Confucius – *The Analects* (Book I-X)

Mao – ““What’s in a Name?””

Week 9 (October 23, 25) Confucian Rhetoric

Tuesday: Confucius – *The Analects* (Book XI-XX)

Due: Preliminary Research Report, 1st draft

Thursday: You - “The Way, Multimodality of Ritual Symbols, and Social Change”

Week 10 (October 30, 1) Chinese American Rhetoric

Tuesday: Mao – Reading Chinese Fortune Cookie (Chapter 1-3)

Due: Research Notes for Confucian Rhetoric

Thursday: Mao – Reading Chinese Fortune Cookie (Chapter 3-6)

Week 11 (November 6, 8)

Conference on the Preliminary Research Report

Week 12 (November 13, 15) Near Eastern Rhetoric

Tuesday: Lipson – “Ancient Egyptian Rhetoric”

Thursday: Watts - “Story-List-Sanction”

Week 13 (November 20, 22)

Thanksgiving, no class

Week 14 (December 27, 29) Indian Rhetoric

Tuesday: Kennedy – *Comparative Rhetoric* (Chapter 8)

Due: Research Notes for Near Eastern Rhetoric

Thursday: *Bhagavad Gīta* (Introduction, Chapter 1-6)

Week 15 (December 4, 6) Indian Rhetoric

Thursday: *Bhagavad Gīta* (Chapter 7-18)

Due: Final Research Report, 1st draft

Thursday: Stroud – “Multivalent Narratives and Indian Philosophical Argument”

Week 16 (December 11, 13)

Conference on Final Research Report

Week 17 (December 17)

Monday: Due: Research Notes for Indian Rhetoric

Final Research Report

Report on Cultural Exchange