

English 474 Ethnic Rhetorics

Course: English 474
Time: M W F 02:30P - 03:20P
Location: 106 Wartik
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Course Description

While classical Western rhetoric continues to offer theoretical guidance in communication and composition studies, its cultural limitations have been increasingly exposed by recent studies of non-Western, ethnic rhetorical theories and practices. This course will survey issues that have emerged in ethnic rhetorical studies and how they have consequently expanded our horizons on human communication, including ritualistic, visual, oral, and written. Students will read about and watch movies on rhetorical practices of ancient Greeks, ancient Chinese, African Americans, Native Indians, and Chinese Americans. The class will discuss the implications of non-Western rhetorical theories and practices for communication in the age of globalization.

Course assignments include readings, research notes, and a semester-long rhetorical project on a topic of your choice. 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 assigned texts and watch movies. You prepare your research notes for class discussions. For the research project, you will first prepare a research proposal (about 500 words), then a preliminary research paper, and finally a final research paper. 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 (6 sets) - 60 points
Research proposal - 10 points
Preliminary research paper - 10 points
Final research paper - 20 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 (2nd Ed.)*. Trans. George A. Kennedy. Oxford University Press, 2007.
Confucius. *The Analects of Confucius*. Trans. Arthur Waley. Vintage, 1989.
Lao Tsu. *Tao Te Ching*. Trans. Gia-Fu Feng and Jane English. Vintage, 1997.
Plato. *Phaedrus*. Trans. Robin Waterfield. Oxford University Press, 2003.

Course Schedule

1/12 Monday	Introduction
1/14 Wednesday	Hubbard - "It Takes a Rhetorical Village"
1/16 Friday	Simon - "Seeing More in Cabinets and Blockbusters"
1/21 Wednesday	Kennedy - "Rhetoric in Greece and Rome"
1/23 Friday	Plato - <i>Phaedrus</i> (Introduction)
1/26 Monday	Plato - <i>Phaedrus</i>
1/28 Wednesday	Aristotle - <i>On Rhetoric</i> (Introduction; Book 1: Chapter 1-3)
1/30 Friday	Aristotle - <i>On Rhetoric</i> (Book 1: Chapter 4-7, 9-11)
2/2 Monday	Aristotle - <i>On Rhetoric</i> (Book 2: Chapter 1-2, 12-13, 18-22; Book 3: Chapter 1-3, 13)
2/4 Wednesday	Jost - "Sweating the Little Things in Sidney Lumet's <i>12 Angry Men</i> "
2/6 Friday	Movie No. 1 - <i>12 Angry Men</i>
2/9 Monday	Movie No. 1 - <i>12 Angry Men</i>
2/11 Wednesday	<i>Tao Te Ching</i> (Chapter 1-40)
2/13 Friday	Combs - <i>The Dao of Rhetoric</i> (Chapter 1-2)
2/16 Monday	<i>Tao Te Ching</i> (Chapter 41-40)
2/18 Wednesday	Combs - <i>The Dao of Rhetoric</i> (Chapter 8)
2/20 Friday	Due: Research proposal
	Movie No. 2 - <i>Charlotte's Web</i>
2/23 Monday	Movie No. 2 - <i>Charlotte's Web</i>
2/25 Wednesday	Conference on research proposal
2/27 Friday	Confucius - <i>The Analects</i> (Introduction)
3/2 Monday	Lu - "Conceptualization of Yan and Ming Bian"
3/4 Wednesday	Confucius - <i>The Analects</i> (Book 1-10)
3/6 Friday	Mao - "What's in a Name?"
3/16 Monday	Confucius - <i>The Analects</i> (Book 11-20)
3/18 Wednesday	You - "The Way, Multimodality of Ritual Symbols, and Social Change"
3/20 Friday	Kennedy - "North American Indian Rhetoric"
3/23 Monday	Powell - "Extending the Hand of Empire"
3/25 Wednesday	Enoch - "Semblances of Civilization"
3/27 Friday	Murphy - "Silence" and Red Wing - "Indian Communications"
3/30 Monday	Movie No. 3 - <i>Broken Arrows</i>
4/1 Wednesday	Movie No. 3 - <i>Broken Arrows</i>
4/3 Friday	Movie No. 3 - <i>Broken Arrows</i>
4/6 Monday	Gilyard - "Preface" and Smitherman - "Meditations on Language..."
4/8 Wednesday	Moody - "Enslaved Women as Autobiographical Narrators"
4/10 Friday	Due: Preliminary research paper
	Pittman - "Black Women Writers and the Trouble with Ethos"
4/13 Monday	Conference on preliminary research paper
4/15 Wednesday	Movie No. 4 - <i>Lean on Me</i>
4/17 Friday	Movie No. 4 - <i>Lean on Me</i>
4/20 Monday	Movie No. 4 - <i>Lean on Me</i>
4/22 Wednesday	Mao - "Opening Topics"
4/24 Friday	Mao - "From Classroom to Community"
4/27 Monday	Movie No. 5 - <i>The Joy Luck Club</i>
4/29 Wednesday	Movie No. 5 - <i>The Joy Luck Club</i>
5/1 Friday	Movie No. 5 - <i>The Joy Luck Club</i>
5/8 Friday	Due: Final research paper

Rhetorical Issues

1. Contexts and the Initiation of Discourse

What specific rhetorical contexts are addressed? How is rhetorical exigency handled?
What initiates the discursive act? *Kairos*? How is this defined?
Is there an art for initiating discourse? *Stasis*? *Status*? How is this defined?
Does the text discuss a disagreement over these aspects?

2. Topics

Is there an art of *topoi* or topics? What kinds of topics are presented (general, specific?)
Are topics theorized? Exemplified? List topics and their categories.
What are the purposes of the topics? To arrive at judgment, to find material to support judgments already in hand, to adapt discourse to audience?
Does the text discuss a disagreement over this aspect?

3. Rhetorical Reasoning

What is the nature of rhetorical reasoning (e.g., dialogic, *dissoi logoi*, enthymemic)
Is this reasoning theorized? Exemplified?
What kind of epistemology (e.g., probability, certainty) does rhetoric employ?
What kinds of claims are made for rhetoric's relation to "truth"?
What relationship is suggested between language and "thought"?
Does the text discuss a disagreement over this aspect?

4. Province of Rhetoric: Subject Matters, Borders

How is "matter" of rhetoric characterized? Is rhetoric restricted to particular domains?
What is rhetoric's relationship to other types of study and inquiry or other disciplines: (poetics, philosophy, law, science, theology, homiletics, politics etc.)?
What is rhetoric' relationship to the political, social, and economic conditions?
Does the text discuss disagreement over these aspects?

5. The Rhetor and *Ethos*

What are the subject positions of the rhetor? Who can speak, who is marginalized?
What is the nature and relative importance of *ethos* (in relation to *logos* and *pathos*)?
Is there an art of *ethos*: Strategies for achieving it?
What is the relationship between *ethos* and ethics, if any?
Does the text discuss a disagreement over this aspect?

6. The Audience and *Pathos*

How does the text characterize the audiences for discourse?
What is the nature and relative importance of emotion (in relation to *logos* and *ethos*)?
Is there an art of *pathos*: strategies for achieving it?
Does the text discuss a disagreement over these aspects?

7. Genres and Style

What are rhetoric's genres or discourse classifications?
Are they theorized? Exemplified?
What are the features of these genres?
What types of styles are theorized or exemplified?
Does the text discuss disagreements over these aspects?

8. The education of the Rhetor and Rhetoric as an Art

Is rhetoric characterized as 1) a set of rules (craft), 2) a set of theoretical principles of transferable strategies capable of reflecting or guiding practice and being adapted to specific contexts (art), or 3) the product of genius and/or a mysterious function of language?
What is the role and definition of an art (*techné*) per se?
What relationships are suggested among art, talent (nature), practice, and imitation in the development of the rhetor? Are they equal in importance?
What is the character of the relationship between the "teacher" and the "student"?

Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSIONS FOR VOLUME 7 WILL BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING JANUARY 30, 2009. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR WORK FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FEATURES BEFORE JANUARY 30, 2009.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Young Scholars in Writing: Undergraduate Research in Writing and Rhetoric is a refereed journal dedicated to publishing research articles written by undergraduates in a wide variety of disciplines associated with rhetoric and writing. It is guided by these central beliefs: (1) that research can and should be a crucial component of rhetorical education and (2) that undergraduates engaged in research about writing and rhetoric should have opportunities to share their work with a broader audience of students, scholars, and teachers through national publication.

Young Scholars in Writing seeks theory-driven and/or research-based submissions from undergraduates on the following topics: writing, *rhetoric*, composition, professional writing, technical writing, business writing, discourse analysis, writing technologies, peer tutoring in writing, writing process, writing in the disciplines, and related topics. Submissions to this refereed journal should be 10-25 double-spaced pages in MLA format. Essays exceeding 25 pages will not be considered.

Please submit an electronic copy of manuscript in Microsoft Word to the editor, to Dr. Laurie Grobman, at leg8@psu.edu.

- Author's name must not appear on the manuscript.
- Send a separate file which includes author's name, address, institutional affiliation, email address, and phone number.
- All submissions must be accompanied by a professor's note that the essay was written by the student. The professor should email this note to Dr. Laurie Grobman at leg8@psu.edu.