

Communication Studies (COMS) 361 Lecture 08
Spoken and Written Discourse
Fall 2007

Saturday 13:00 – 17:00; Class Dates: Sept. 15, 22, 29; Oct. 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 17, 24; Dec. 1

Instructor: Jeremy Leiper
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Office Hours: Wednesday 12-1 or by appointment

Course Description

This course focuses on the study and practice of (mostly contemporary) rhetoric. The course utilizes lectures, discussion, student presentations, oral and written assignments, readings, and film clips to demonstrate rhetoric and offer opportunities for analysis. The student will learn how to incorporate rhetorical structures into their own work (both written and spoken) and how to analyze the use of rhetoric in the work of others. The course also aims to equip the student with effective essay writing and presentation skills for use in their own field.

Objectives of the Course

To introduce rhetoric (both ancient and contemporary), and familiarize the student with the tools of rhetoric.

To investigate and discuss the role of rhetoric in Western culture.

To teach the student to identify and analyze rhetorical devices in spoken and written discourse, and to assess the student's ability to do so.

To both teach and assess the use of rhetoric as well as the planning, organization, production, presentation, revision, and analysis of both written and spoken arguments. In terms of written discourse this course also aims to teach proper grammar, argument and essay structure, and use of the MLA format (see paragraph on Writing Skills below). It is also the goal of this course to practice these skills within the field of the student's own major whether or not that is Communication and Culture.

To provide a friendly, mature, tolerant environment for effective learning.

Textbooks and Readings:

Lunsford, Andrea A., and John J. Ruszkiewicz. *Everything's an Argument*. 4th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006.

Additional readings to be provided in class.

Assignments and Evaluation

Oral Assignment #1: Speech to Inform (Group) - 10% Due: Sept. 29

Oral Assignment #2: Speech to Persuade (Individual) - 25 % Due: Oct. 20 – Nov. 24

Written Assignment #1: Argument to Inform - 10 % Due: Oct. 13

Written Assignment #2: Rhetorical Analysis (of in class presentation) - 20% Due: one week after presentation analyzed and no later than Dec. 1

Written Assignment #3: Proposal for Final Paper and short answer assignment - 5% Due: Nov. 17

Written Assignment #4: Essay (Argument to Persuade/Rhetorical Analysis) - 30% Due: Dec. 1 (This is a 1200-1500 word research paper which must cite external sources. The topic for the final paper is open. Please begin considering possibilities for your topic immediately.)

Assignments will not be accepted over email.

All assignments are expected in MLA format.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS110; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Writing Skills Statement

Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see www.comcul.ualgary.ca/info. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: www.efwr.ualgary.ca

Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Communication and Culture:

A+ (96-100); A (92-95); A- (86-91); B+ (81-85); B (77-80); B- (71-76);
C+ (65-70); C (62-64); C- (59-61); D+ (55-58); D (50-54); F (0-49)

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (SS 106, efwr.ualgary.ca) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Communication and Culture see www.comcul.ualgary.ca/su

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see the U of C Research Ethics "Information for Applicants," sections 3.0 to 9.0, inclusive:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/research/html/ethics/info_undergrad.html

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

TBA