

Communication Studies COMS 469 – Lecture 01
Rhetorical History and Criticism
Fall 2012
Wednesday/Friday 12:00 – 13:50

Instructor: Geoff Cragg
Office Location: SS 300
Office Phone: 403 220-4843
E-Mail: cragg@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Wed 2-4 pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course will examine rhetorical theories from ancient to modern times, with particular emphasis on the development of theories to meet the changing social and philosophical needs of each age. In addition to studying this body of rhetorical knowledge, you will also employ rhetorical concepts to analyze public discourse and other texts. Assignments will help you to develop your skills in public speaking and academic writing.

Objectives of the Course

This course has the following objectives:

1. To examine the origins and trace the evolution of rhetoric, with particular attention to classical and contemporary perspectives;
2. To provide you with opportunities to develop your performance in academic writing and presentations;
3. To introduce you to rhetoric as a field of scholarship.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Use of cellphones is not permitted during class. You are welcome to use laptops, but only for course-related work or note-taking, and not during presentations. Please show professional courtesy to fellow students at all times.

Textbooks and Readings:

Our textbook will be *The Rhetorical Tradition 2nd edition*, edited by Bizzell and Hersberg, St Martin's Press. This text has been used a number of times and used copies should be available.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment	Due Date	Length	Value
First Essay	Oct 5	6-8 pages	15%

Your first essay will be based on a selection from the Classical or Medieval section of the textbook. It is not an assignment that requires outside research; rather, it depends on a careful close reading of the text you have chosen. In addition to a detailed explanation of the text, you will also present a thesis on the interest or relevance of your author's ideas to the present day. You will be evaluated on the accuracy and detail of your analysis, the strength of your argument, and the quality of your organization, style, and editing.

First Presentation	Oct 19- 26	8 minutes	15%
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For this assignment, you will adapt the content of your previous essay for a presentation to the class. You may use whatever technology is helpful to your purpose, but be careful that it does not take over. You will be evaluated on the skill with which you adapt your material for the presentation, as well as organization, delivery, and your address to the audience (including their questions). You may use notes, but not a full script.

Proposal for Termpaper	Nov 2	2-3 pages	10%
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In this assignment you will have the freedom to examine any form of rhetorical communication, barring advertising or news presentation. Be careful to explain how your topic relates to rhetoric, specify what primary discourse you will analyze, and state your research questions clearly. You will also include an annotated bibliography of at least five sources.

Second Presentation	Nov 16-23	8 minutes	15%
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For this assignment, you will adapt the project you identified in your proposal for a brief presentation to the class. Make sure that you have a definite argument backed by strong examples. You may use whatever technology you wish to assist you. You will be evaluated on your address to the audience, the strength and coherence of your argument, and your delivery.

Termpaper	Dec 5	10-12 pages	25%
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In this paper, you will have the opportunity to refine and develop the content of your presentation. Feel free to revise your material, incorporate further research and re-focus

or expand your thesis. You must USE either APA or MLA format for citations. You will be evaluated on the strength and clarity of your argument, your use of illustrative material, the skill of your analysis, and the quality of your organization and editing.

Takehome Final Exam Dec 14 8 -10 pages 20%

For this assignment, you will answer one of the essay questions created by the class during the last week of term. It does not involve outside research; you should refer to course readings and discussion, as well as relevant materials from your term paper project. Please use APA or MLA citation format. You will be evaluated on the clarity of your argument, your understanding of the sources you employ, and the paper's organization and editing.

Please note that you must submit all assignments to pass the course and that you are required to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Please hand in your essays directly to me if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; 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 my mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

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. If you realize that submitting an assignment on time will be difficult, please contact me **before** the due date so that we may discuss alternative arrangements.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department 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 <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. 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: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System

In this class, you will receive grades in the 4-point scale (2.7, 3.0, 3.3) *rather than* percentages. Sometimes you may receive grade points between letter grades. For example, 3.5 is the numeric equivalent of a B+/A-, the average of a B+ (3.3) and an A- (3.7).

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture: (Revised, effective September 2008)

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	Grade Point Value (see U of C Calendar: Academic Standing)
A+	96-100	4
A	90-95.99	4
A -	85-89.99	3.7
B+	80-84.99	3.3
B	75-79.99	3
B-	70-74.99	2.7
C+	65-69.99	2.3
C	60-64.99	2
C-	55-59.99	1.7
D+	53-54.99	1.3
D	50-52.99	1
F	0-49	0

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 (3rd Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

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 Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"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 Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:
<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

To be handed out in class.