

University of Calgary
Department of Communication and Culture

Communication Studies COMS 469 (L 01):
Rhetorical History and Criticism

Winter 2014
Lecture WF 12:00 – 12:50
Lab WF 1:00 – 1:50

Instructor:	Dr. Doug Brent
Office Location:	SS 312
Office Phone:	(403) 220-5458
E-Mail:	dabrent@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	http://people.ucalgary.ca/~dabrent/
Office Hours:	Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00 or by appointment (I realize that you may not be available during my regular office hours but I will always make time to see you.) Note: it is often easiest to make appointments by e-mail to avoid the after-class scrum. Please place the words COMS 469 in the subject line to avoid getting mixed up with administrivia – I always try to get to student e-mails first.

Course Description

A study of rhetorical thought and action from the classical period to the modern age, with an emphasis on the interaction between rhetoric and philosophical, social, and political change. Theories will be applied to criticism of historical and contemporary public communication. The course will also provide opportunities for students to develop their rhetorical skill in both spoken and written discourse.

Additional Information

- Lecture and tutorial activities will be combined in a single class with a 10-minute break. Students are expected to be present for the entire class.
- Please check the Blackboard site frequently.
- Notes: Prerequisite: Coms 361 or 369. Credit for both Coms 469 and 461 is not allowed.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops are permitted for note taking only. Please respect the instructor and your fellow students by not using computers for other purposes during classes or tutorials. iPods,

cellphones and gaming devices must be off during class. If you are expecting an emergency call, please let me know at the beginning of the class.

Textbooks and Readings:

Bizzell, P., & Herzberg, B. (2001). *The rhetorical tradition: Readings from classical times to the present*. (2nd ed.) Boston: Bedford / St. Martin's. Used copies should be available

Additional readings linked from the detailed schedule or posted on Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation

All assignments must be completed or a grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

All written work will be submitted electronically via Blackboard. Detailed instructions will be provided. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

5% Brief presentation on rhetorical passage (scheduled Jan. 22 – Feb. 12, depending on topic)

For this brief (five to ten minute) presentation, choose a passage from your textbook featuring one of the rhetorical figures up for discussion on that day. Present and explain the passage and comment on its usefulness to you as a student or practitioner of rhetoric today. Avoid simply summarizing the passage, although a quick overview of important themes will be helpful.

10% Essay on rhetorical passage. Due one week after your presentation.

This will be an 800- to 1100-word essay based on your presentation.

20% Mid-term exam (Friday Feb. 14)

The mid-term exam will consist of multiple choice and short-essay questions related to the texts studied from classic times up to and including the Enlightenment

0% (but required) Proposal for final paper (Wednesday February 26)

Submit a one- or two-paragraph description of your proposed final essay topic. Comment on why the topic interests you and what theorist(s) covered so far might be useful in your analysis. (No reference list is required.) You will receive feedback on the proposal

20% Group presentation seminars (Feb. 26 – March 19)

Each group will have 40 - 50 minutes to present one rhetorical figure in some depth. You will not be required to follow up with an essay.

10%: Final presentation (March 19 – April 9). This will be a nine-twelve minute presentation on the topic covered in your final essay.

25%: Final paper (Due one week after your presentation date)

In your final paper, you will apply both classical and modern rhetorical theories to analyze a persuasive text or set of texts, event, movement, or controversial topic, contemporary or historical. The text(s) you analyze may include persuasive texts or speeches, advertising, fiction, or performance. Length: 2000 to 2500 words plus a reference list.

10%: In-class final exam. (Friday April. 11)

The in-class final will be an open-book exam consisting mostly of short answer and essay questions based on the group presentations, assigned readings, and material presented by the instructor covering the 18th and 19th century, modern and post-modern periods. The exam may include questions based on student presentations. You will have 110 minutes (nearly two hours) to complete the exam.

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.

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). If you want to come by SS322 to look at a final exam after classes have ended, you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification. or 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://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

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

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

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 Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) 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.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

TBA