ENGL 4170-001        UNT    Fall 2003

PRINCIPLES OF RHETORIC

MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.    Curry Hall 322

Instructor: Ulrike Jaeckel, Ph. D.
Office: 407 B Language Building
Office phone: (940) 565-2156; 565-2050 (to leave a message)
Office hours: MW 3:30-4:30 p.m., F 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., and by appointment
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Aims of the course:

• To gain a rough overview of the history of rhetoric
• To understand competing definitions of rhetoric
• To examine three major “themes” in rhetoric: its relationship to epistemology, its role in the advancement of minorities, and--throughout--the conundrum of “style”
• To become acquainted with concepts and terms used in rhetoric
• To reflect on the relationship between one’s own writing and issues in rhetorical theory


Assignments:

• Weekly readings from Bizzell and Herzberg, including preparation of ca. one column to be read aloud to the class
• A get-acquainted reaction to Gorgias (two copies), due August 27
• Seven informal response papers (2 typed pages), to serve as discussion starters (20% of course grade)
• A dialogue between three authors discussed during weeks 1-6, due October 13 (20%)
• A Long paper (ca. 10 pages) on a rhetorical issue of your choice, due December 1 (30%)
• An oral report on an additional author from Bizzell and Herzberg (10%)
• A final exam (20%).

You must complete all assignments in order to pass this course.

Revision policy: In order to experience the growth and clarification of your ideas and the satisfaction coming from an improved paper, you are invited to revise your papers before (not after) they are graded. We will conduct at least one peer editing session in class and hold one-on-one conferences as needed.
Late papers: Unless you have a strong reason for needing more time and make arrangements for an extension in advance, late papers will lose one letter grade.

Attendance: Attendance is necessary for our ongoing work. If you are absent, you not only deprive yourself of needed feedback to your own ideas, but you also rob your classmates of the reactions and advice that they need from you. Missing more than two weeks’ worth of class meetings (six) for reasons other than university-excused activities, will adversely affect your final grade for the course.

Note: Phone in a message at 565-2050 or e-mail me when you have to be absent.

Special accommodations:

The Department of English policy states that, “in accordance with the terms and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act, your teacher will cooperate with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for you if you qualify as student with disabilities. Please register with ODA, and please present your written request to your teacher on or before the 4th class day.”

Therefore, if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information that I should know about, or if you need special consideration in case the building must be evacuated, please see me as soon as possible so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Competencies for this course include the ability to complete extensive reading assignments, analyze texts, complete in-class writing assignments, and take essay exams.

Plagiarism: According to the UNT Undergraduate Catalog, “the term ‘plagiarism’ includes, but is not limited to: the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials” (90).

Penalties for plagiarism may range from assigning an “F” for the specific assignment, to assigning an “F” for the course, to dismissal from the university.
**Paper format:** Unless the genre of a paper calls for a different format, type all graded assignments double-spaced, leaving a one-inch margin all around. In the upper right-hand corner of page one provide

- Your name
- The kind of assignment
- The date
- The name of the course
- Instructor’s name (U. Jaeckel)

Very important: Number the pages!

Always include all drafts when you hand in a paper to be graded. Do not put your papers in any kind of folder. Just staple them together so that the final version sits on top.

Requirements for ungraded pieces will be announced.

**Grading:** The final version of a paper will be graded on whether it appropriately responds to the situation from which it emerges. Some features to be looked for are:

- Complexity as well as clarity of thought
- A tone appropriate to the purpose and audience of the piece
- Well-supported development of main points
- Judicious use of sources
- Coherent sentence structure
- Mastery of grammar, mechanics, and documentation

To receive a high grade, a paper has to fulfill these criteria in an unusually competent manner. A lower grade reflects the need of further practice in the cited areas.

Graded papers will receive the following point values:

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The point value for each paper will be multiplied by its percentage value; the sum of these products, divided by 100, will constitute the final grade for the course, which will be calculated on the following scale:

- 3.6 and up = A for the course
- 2.6 and up = B for the course
- 1.6 and up = C for the course
- 0.6 and up = D for the course
- Less than 0.6 = F for the course
Tentative Schedule

(Note that this schedule is tentative. Dates and page numbers may have to be adjusted if needed. “All” means “read all pages by that author in our book.” Response papers will be due on the first day that a reading is to be discussed. Oral reports (O.R.) will be scheduled once the size of the class is determined.)

Week 1, August 25, 27, 29

I. Classical rhetoric--definitions and principles
Gorgias, Encomium of Helen (all)
Isocrates (all)

Week 2, September 1, 3, 5
Plato, Phaedrus (all: 138-155, 155-168)
(O.R.: Dissoi Logoi; Plato, Gorgias)
9/1: No class--Labor Day

Week 3, September 8, 10, 12
Plato, continued
Aristotle, Rhetoric (read 179-188; skim 189-193; read 196-205; read 207 r.c. - 210; read 213-219)

Week 4, September 15, 17, 19
Aristotle, continued (219-224; 225-29; 232-33; 236-40)
Cicero, DeOratore (read 289-300; skim XVIII-XXI; read 303 XXII; skim XXIII-XXIV; read XXV-XXVII; skim XXVIII-XXIX; read XXX-XXXV; read XLIX-LI; READ LIV; read LIX; read 319-320 top. Read 320-326c.1; skim 326 r.c. - 329 l.c.; read 329 r.c. - 332; skim 333-334; read 335-339)
(O.R.: Longinus; Ad Herennium)

Week 5, September 22, 24, 26
Augustine, On Christian Doctrine (Ch. 1-11 [456-460], Ch. 21-29 [464-467], Ch. 32-34 [468-470], Ch. 38-42 [471-474], Ch. 49-64 [477-485])

II. Rhetoric and epistemology
Bacon (all)

Week 6, September 29, October 1, 3
Locke (all)
(O.R.: Vico)
Nietzsche (all)

Week 7, October 6, 8, 10
Draft of dialogue due October 6
Bakhtin (1210-26, TBA)
Burke (1298-1303; 1324-1327, 1335-1340; 1340-47)
Week 8, October 13, 15, 17
Dialogue due October 13
Foucault (1439-1444; 1460-1470)
Derrida (all)

Week 9, October 20, 22, 24
(O.R.: Toulmin)
III. **Rhetoric and Minorities**
Fell (all)
Scudéry (all)
(O.R.: Aspasia; Christine de Pizan; de la Cruz)

Week 10, October 27, 29, 31
Grimké (all)
Douglass (all)
(O.R.: Astell; Stewart; Willard)

Week 11, November 3, 5, 7
Woolf (all)
Anzaldúa (all)
(O.R.: Cixous)

Week 12, November 10, 12, 14
Gates (1551-1555 l.c. middle; 1559-1561; 1563 r.c. bottom - 1565; 1568
r.c. bottom - 1572; 1575 r.c. - 1581 [do your best!])
**IV. Rhetoric as a discipline: contracting and expanding**
Quintilian (359-61, skim 361-63, read 366-7 [II], 369-373 [IV], 384-396
[XIV-XVIII], 396-400 [XIX-XXI], 403-408 [III+IV], 412-20 [I-II.15])
(O.R.: Anonymus on *The Principles of Letter Writing*; Basevorn)

Week 13, November 17, 19, 21
Draft of long paper due November 21
Ramus (all)
Campbell (902-907; 909-914; 923-929; 938-942)
(O.R.: Erasmus; Wilson)

Week 14, November 24, 26, 28
Blair (956-961; 964 r.c. - 968 l.c. middle)
Bain (all)
(O.R.: Sheridan; Austin)

11/28: no class—Thanksgiving holiday

Week 15, December 1, 3, 5
Long paper due December 1
Bring writing handbook to class December 1
Preparation for final exam
12/5: No class—review for final (attendance voluntary)

*Wednesday, December 10       8:00-10:00 a.m.       Final exam*