

Communications Studies (COMS) 469 - Lecture & Lab 01
Rhetorical History and Criticism
Winter 2013
WF 12:00-12:50 ST 063 Lab: WF 13:00-13:50 ST 063

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Office Hours: WF 14:00-15:00, or by appointment Tues, Wed, Fri, or by telephone.

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 the criticism of historical and contemporary public communication. Prerequisite: COMS 369.

Objectives of the Course

- To understand the history of rhetoric in its social context from the classic to the contemporary period
- To gain competence in rhetorical analysis of texts, media and their contexts
- To apply rhetorical principles to the processes of composition and performance

Internet and electronic communication device information

During student presentations, the use of electronic devices is not permitted. At other times, use electronic devices for course related functions only. Show professional courtesy and attentiveness to the instructor and fellow students by using technology silently and discreetly. Minimize visual distractions from your laptop screen.

The Instructure Canvas online course management system (<http://www.instructure.com/>) will be used instead of Blackboard. Students will be sent an email invitation and will register during the first two weeks of class. For convenient access, the course's area on Blackboard will provide a link to Canvas.

format standards. In your outline or draft, include a link to the artifact you are critiquing. The abstract is a 200-word paragraph summarizing your essay. The outline should include your essay's main arguments in full sentences and sub-points in point form. The complete draft of the final essay should have a full introduction, include all major headings or components, and should be at least 70% of the required final length.

2. Essay peer reviews, 5%. Students will be assigned to peer review groups of 4-5 students and review two designated peers' outlines or drafts on each peer review day. Each student will come to class on Feb. 6 and Apr. 3 prepared for peer review. Student groups will provide each other with writing feedback and advice while the instructor circulates the room. Students will also review one of their peers' final essay drafts in a 250-word peer review letter posted online on the peer review forum by April 3. Within two days after peer review days, post on the forum a brief message about what you learned from the peer review experience, and any plans for writing or revision.

3. Presentation peer reviews, 5%. Students will sign up for peer reviews of 2 student presentations during the term. Reviews should be at least 250 words each and in complete sentences, should cover content, organization, style and delivery, and should be posted online in the peer review forum within two business days after the presentation.

Each of the sub-components above will be noted as complete/incomplete during term. Formative instructor feedback may be provided occasionally as time permits, or during an appointment. After the end of classes the components will be scored for quality, completeness and timeliness.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Assignment submission

All assignments will be submitted online and graded online. Do NOT email your assignments directly to the instructor. Submit your assignments online via the course management system, Canvas, as instructed, in .doc, .docx or pdf file format.

It is the student's responsibility to verify online submission and to keep a secure backup copy of each submitted assignment. After submitting a file, download your file from the course management system and open it to verify that it is the correct version and there were no file transfer errors. If Canvas is not working, submit your assignment to the course's drop box on Blackboard and notify the instructor. If internet access is unavailable, submit in paper within the grace period. SS320 has a stamp and sign-in system for assignment submission, and an after-hours drop box in the wall. *Re-submit the assignment electronically via Canvas as soon as possible when access is available.*

Assignment deadlines

Presentation materials, Outlines, Drafts, Peer Reviews, etc. must be submitted online to the appropriate online discussion forum before the beginning of a class (12:00PM).

Essay final versions are due online by 11:59PM on their deadline. A grace period of 12 hours is allowed for unanticipated technical difficulties, short-term illness, or unexpected scheduling challenges. A student is automatically permitted a 48-hour deadline extension if his/her Presentation is scheduled on a day when an Essay's final version is due.

Policy for Late Assignments

Late assignments may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. For peer review components, a late penalty may apply for each late item. Documentation may be required to waive late penalties.

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 and ID number on the first page of the final version.* (However, please do not place your ID number on drafts and messages posted on the class discussion board.) You will also 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

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

	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 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

The schedule of readings, student presentations, deadlines, and exams will be posted online on the course's website.