

CMST 3167: RHETORIC & CIVILIZATION

Spring 2019

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Office: 327 Coates Hall

Email: khastr1@lsu.edu

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10:30-12

**Email to schedule a meeting that does not fit within office hours*

Welcome!ⁱ

COURSE DESCRIPTION

During the past three millennia, Western civilizations have flowered, prospered, and fallen at the hand of rhetoric. With the rise of urban culture and the emergence of mass culture, the study of public deliberation has taken center stage in enlightening our understanding of how societies coalesce, fragment, and provide their denizens with appropriate definitions of what it means to be a citizen. The art of rhetoric, both in its practice and theoretical investigation, stands at the center of this process. Our capacities to speak, create iconography, and use new communication technologies are indispensable to the rise of civic culture and democratic practice. This course will explore the history of the practice and theoretical investigation of rhetoric from antiquity to the present. By sharpening an understanding of the complex processes that shape our cultural consciousness, one is afforded a glimpse at the social activities that define who and what we are.

The goal of this course is to demonstrate how rhetoric functioned in the context of civilization dating back to the Greeks. Throughout the semester, we will strive to meet the following objectives:

- 1) Trace the history of rhetorical theory from antiquity to the present.
- 2) Explore key shifts in rhetorical theory at significant points in western history.
- 3) Develop an appreciation for rhetoric as a central component in the evolution of human consciousness.
- 4) Understand the way rhetorical theory has emerged from particular political and cultural contexts.
- 5) Inquire into the relationships between rhetoric and epistemology and rhetoric and communication.

READINGS

- E-textbook: "A New History of Classical Rhetoric," George Kennedy (2009)
- E-textbook: "A Synoptic History of Classical Rhetoric," James Murphy, et al. (2003)
- Additional readings will be posted on Moodle, or available online and through the LSU Library

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance & Participation: Your attendance at each class meeting is expected. You are expected to attend all classes just as you would be expected to go to work every day if this was any other job. Attendance does not simply mean you show up. You must be actively engaged in order to receive any participation points. If I notice that at any time during the class you are doing work for another class, surfing the Internet, shopping on Amazon, etc., you will not receive participation points for the day.

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Readings: Readings under each weekly description should be completed prior to the date of the module. It is imperative that you discipline yourselves to complete these readings in a timely fashion. In some cases, the readings will be directly relevant to the weekly essay (if you choose that week to write your essay). The readings will sometimes be used for class discussion, therefore each class member should come to class prepared to discuss three points from each reading that he or she found to be significant or interesting. The instructor will call on class members by name to discuss these points, a discussion that will be joined in by the entire class. Class preparation for this assignment will be taken into account in computing the course participation part of the course grade.

Missed Presentations & Late Work:

Major class assignments will be submitted online with hard deadlines as indicated on the course schedule. Assignments will not receive full credit if turned in after the deadline. If an assignment is due in class, it must be turned in before class starts. In other words, if you arrive late to class or submit it after class has already started, the assignment is late and will automatically be penalized.

Late work and make-ups will be accepted in *extreme circumstances* and *require documentation*. I follow LSU PS-31 regarding excused absences. Should you miss class, it is YOUR responsibility to get in touch and provide the documentation on the day you return to class. Just as with any other job, you would certainly make every effort to contact your co-workers or boss if extenuating circumstances prevented you from meeting an important deadline. The same should be true for this class.

You will have 1 class week to make up missed work, provided you have documentation for the specific day absent. Missed work without approved documentation cannot be made up. Excessive absences should be referred to the Dean of your college.

Note: Excuses are provided through the Student Health Center or the Dean's Office when you have to miss all of your classes because you are hospitalized, have a severe illness, experience a death in the family, or have some other trauma. Any of these must be documented. Begging your dean for an excuse because you didn't feel like coming to class, missed a major assignment, or lying about an illness is unethical and wastes everyone's time. In those cases, you might be subject to action by the University Honor System.

Technology Policy:

There are some students that use their laptops in class effectively. There are others that use their laptops as a means to pay partial attention. Inappropriate use of laptops in class is not just ill advised, it is also disruptive, distracting, and disrespectful. Use of a laptop in class is a privilege, not a right. If you abuse this privilege you will receive a 0 for participation that day, and in some cases you may be asked to leave. If I notice a preponderance of students abusing this privilege, I will ban laptops.

- All other technology (smart phones, etc.) are NOT permitted for use during class. Use during class will result in substantial reduction in overall course participation points with an increasing reduction in points for each use thereafter.
- In case of emergencies requiring cell phone access during the class session, you should notify your professor before class begins and attempt to sit near the entrance to the classroom.

Recording: No recordings (audio or video) are allowed in the classroom. This includes not taking photos of the class or any of the class resources (such as the PPT instructor slides). Students are also not allowed to record other students in the course without their permission.

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Extra Credit: No extra credit assignments will be allowed.

Academic Etiquette: Do not carry on side conversations or read the newspaper during class. Do not text, update your relationship status on Facebook, tweet/subtweet, take selfies, post pictures of your food on Instagram, etc. I will ask you to leave the room if you are disturbing others. Turn off all cellular phones prior to entering class. *If you are on your phone, computer, electronic device, etc. for any reason not related to the class discussion or during presentations, you will not receive credit for the class. I won't make a deal of it during class, but it will be noted.*

Connecting with Faculty and Students: Respect, respect, respect! Just as you would treat colleagues in the workplace or classmates in a classroom, your faculty and colleagues in this course also deserve your respect. The best way to get a hold of me is either during office hours or via email. It is strongly encouraged that you email ahead of time to let me know if you plan to attend office hours. This way, I can be best prepared to help you.

E-mail Etiquette: If you have a question or concern, please let me know immediately. Likewise, I will respond as soon as possible on weekdays during normal working hours. Practice your communication skills whenever you post a message or send an email. Your tone should be friendly and professional. When you email, you should treat it like formal correspondence. In other words, do not use "texting" language. If I get an email like this: "what r we doing tmrw? NE thing important?" I will ignore it. In an email it is standard to have a greeting, a main body in which the request or question is stated, and a sign-off.

I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours if received during standard business hours during the week. Expect responses in 48-72 hours for emails received on holidays or over the weekend. I will not discuss grades via email. Come see me during my office hours or before/after class if you need to discuss grades.

Quality Engagement: Respect involves providing quality work for others to receive and respond to. Don't waste the time of your classmates or faculty by submitting work you haven't spent any time developing. If you do not understand any material covered in class, please do not hesitate to come to my office hours. Also feel free to ask questions during the lecture.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS & GRADING

Final grades for the course will be determined using this grading scale, based on the percentage of possible points achieved in the above assignments (for a maximum of 100 points):

A+ = 97-100%	A = 93-96	A- = 90-92	
B+ = 88-89	B = 83-87	B- = 80-82	
C+ = 78-79	C = 73-77	C- = 70-72	
D+ = 68-69	D = 63-67	D- = 60-62	F = 59 and below

ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS (30% of overall course grade):

Definitions of Rhetoric Paper	10%
Rhetorical Analysis	20%

REACTION PAPERS (14% of overall course grade):

Paper #1	7%
Paper #2	7%

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EXAMS (30% of overall course grade):

Midterm Exam.....	15%
Final Exam	15%

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE (26% of overall course grade)

First Half	13%
Second Half	13%

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Essay #1—Definitions of Rhetoric: In this essay, you will explore the various definitions of rhetoric offered by the rhetorical theorists and philosophers discussed throughout the first-half of the semester. You should compare and contrast the various definitions and identify where they came from. You should also discuss how rhetoric operated in civilization and the tensions that arose from it. This essay should be 5-7 pages, double spaced. You will submit your final essay online, through Turn It In software on Moodle.

Essay #2—Rhetorical Analysis in Contemporary Civilization: In this essay, you will apply your critical reading skills in effort to “break down” how rhetoric operates in our society today. Additional directions for your rhetorical analysis can be found Moodle. You will submit your final essay online, through Turn It In software on Moodle.

Reaction Papers: Two times over the course of the semester, you are required to turn in reaction papers on the readings for that week; you choose the weeks. Each paper is worth 7 points and must be submitted via email by 9pm the Monday or Wednesday before the class you write about. The papers are structured to encourage you to develop your own arguments and evaluations of the topics in the course. A grading rubric will be provided on Moodle.

A good reaction paper contains a critical analysis of the readings and examines questions such as: What are the key concepts? What important questions were answered by the readings? What important questions are left unanswered? What readings/parts of the reading stand out and why? What are the implications of readings for our understanding of public discourse, citizenship, citizen competence and democracy? Are there any contemporary artifacts or texts that you could apply the readings to? For some of the weeks I may also provide set discussion questions that can be used to better inform your reaction papers as well. These papers should be 2-3 pages, double spaced.

*Notes on Written Essays: A working bibliography should be turned in with every assignment. It will not count toward your page limit. You should use APA or MLA style. You may include citations in the bibliography you have not yet used, but plan to.

Participation & Attendance: We have 26 classes (excluding the first day, midterm exam, and final exam) worth 2 participation points each. The first point you will receive for attending, and the second point you will earn by actively engaging in class discussion. This participation should demonstrate that you have read and analyzed the readings prior to class. Your participation should be intelligent, informed and frequent. If it becomes apparent that many in class have not read or are not participating in discussion, I will administer a pop quiz which will take the place of participation points. It is in everyone’s best interest to be prepared and thus, avoid quizzes!

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UNIVERSITY POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Plagiarism:

You are to assume that all assignments in this course are individual assignments unless explicit instructions are provided for a group project. Any student found to have turned in material not his or her own (either downloaded from the internet or written by another student) in part or in whole will immediately be reported to the Dean of Students.

The Internet has made plagiarism very easy and very tempting. Hundreds of sites offer papers, research, writing, and editing. The ease with which such material is available over the Internet does not lessen the seriousness of claiming material from the Internet as your own. See the LSU policies on plagiarism here: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html> .

Your paper would be considered as plagiarized in part or entirely if you do any of the following:

- Submit a paper that was written by someone other than you.
- Submit a paper in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references. Simply rewording a sentence does not make work your own.
- Submit a paper in which you “cut and paste” or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitations Act of 1973 states: “If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a coordinator in the Office of Disability Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations can be arranged.” After you receive the accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

LSU Commitment to Community: The LSU Commitment to Community provides a guiding ethos to the University community. Students are encouraged to exemplify the Commitment to Community in their daily lives.

Louisiana State University is an interactive community in which Students, faculty, and staff together strive to pursue truth, advance learning, and uphold the highest standards of performance in an academic and social environment.

It is a community that fosters individual development and the creation of bonds that transcend the time spent within its gates.

All students should maintain and uphold the LSU Code of Student Conduct, which states:
To demonstrate my pride in LSU, as a member of its community, I will:

- Accept responsibility for my actions;
- Hold myself and others to the highest standards of academic, personal, and social integrity;
- Practice justice, equality, and compassion in human relations;
- Respect the dignity of all persons and accept individual differences;
- Respect the environment and the rights and property of others and the University;
- Contribute positively to the life of the campus and surrounding community; and
- Use my LSU experience to be an active citizen in an international and interdependent world.

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The continued success of LSU depends on the faithful commitment by each community member to these, our basic principles. (Adopted May 1995)

TITLE IX & Sexual Misconduct Policy:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination based on the gender of students and employees of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance.

In accordance with Title IX and other applicable law, Louisiana State University (“LSU”) is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual misconduct which includes sex discrimination, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and retaliation. LSU prohibits sex discrimination and sexual misconduct. This policy applies to all persons without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.

Sex discrimination and sexual misconduct violate an individual’s fundamental rights and personal dignity. LSU considers sex discrimination and sexual misconduct in all of its forms to be serious offenses. This policy has been developed to reaffirm these principles and to provide recourse for individuals whose rights have been violated. This policy establishes a mechanism for determining when rights have been violated in employment, student life, campus support services, LSU programs and/or an academic environment.

If you have concerns regarding Title IX, you can contact:
University Title IX Contacts:

Jennie Stewart, jstewart@lsu.edu
Campus Title IX Coordinator
LSU Office of HR Management
110 Thomas Boyd Hall
225-578-8200

Maria Fuentes_Martin, mari@lsu.edu
Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students
LSU Dean of Students
333 Student Union
225-578-9442

Communication Studies Departmental Contacts:

Kayla Hastrup, khastr1@lsu.edu
CMST Instructor

Dr. Loretta Pecchioni, lpecch1@lsu.edu
Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication Studies

ⁱ Some components of this syllabus were adapted from the language of and materials previously developed by Dr. Stephanie Houston Grey, Department of Communication Studies, LSU.