ENGL 4573.01: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism  
SP 2013

Prof. Roger Cherry  
Office: DE 363  
cherry.3@osu.edu  
W F 11:10 -12:30 Bolz Hall 317  
Office Hrs: W F 1:00-2:00  
Phone: 292-6065

English 4573 reviews ancient and modern rhetorical theory to explore how speaker (or writer), audience, purpose, and occasion interact as key discourse variables. A general theme of the course is the relationship between philosophy and rhetoric and the role of discourse in shaping what counts as knowledge in our world. The course also explores the relationship between rhetorical skill and ethical responsibility. We will learn how to analyze spoken or written texts from a rhetorical point of view, and we will apply our knowledge of rhetoric in practical speaking and writing situations.

TEXTS:  


REQUIREMENTS:

• Project 1: Rhetorical Analysis. 4-6 pp. analysis of a recent rhetorical document (a written document or a speech for which you have a transcript).

• Project 2: Rhetorical Analysis OR Written Persuasive Argument (4-6 pp.) OR Persuasive Speech (15 min. delivered to the class) OR Research Paper (4-6 pp. on some topic in rhetoric). (Rhetorical Analysis can be repeated for Project 2.)

• Project 3: Written Persuasive Argument (4-6 pp.) OR Persuasive Speech (15 min. delivered to the class) OR Research Paper (4-6 pp. on some topic in rhetoric). (Project 3 must be different format from Project 2.)

• Project 4: Lead class discussion of a video rhetorical artifact. Show a video (e.g., speech, television commercial) to the class and lead discussion of the rhetoric of the piece.

• Participation. A portion of your grade (10%) will be based on your contributions to the classroom community as a whole, including preparation for and participation in class discussion. Adequate preparation requires reading textbook assignments and raising issues and questions in a thoughtful and respectful way. Participation also includes your contributions to effective group work, particularly the quantity and quality of your suggestions for revising and editing the work of others.

• Attendance & Punctuality. You are expected to attend each class session and to be on time. Emergencies and illness do arise, of course, and missing a class or two during the quarter might be unavoidable. Your final grade will be lowered 2/3 of a letter grade for each class you miss beyond two (e.g., a B+ would drop to a B-). In addition, you are permitted 2 “grace” tardies. Beyond the 2 “grace” tardies, each additional one will lower your final grade by 1/3 of a letter.
This policy is in effect from the date you were first enrolled, not from the date you first attended. You are responsible for making sure that your attendance is recorded on the attendance sheet that circulates during class and for reporting when you are late. The policy does not mean that you have two “unexcused” absences in addition to any “excused” absences. The two allowed absences include both “excused” and “unexcused” absences. Appropriate accommodations to this policy can be made in extraordinary circumstances (e.g., hospitalization, death in the family, military service, etc.). If you encounter such circumstances, let the instructor know; otherwise, do not feel compelled to report or explain your absences.

- If you miss class, please do not email the instructor and ask “what we did in class.” Instead, email one of your colleagues with that question and consult the Carmen site to see if there are any announcements or changes to the schedule, etc.

**Plagiarism:** It is academically dishonest, and often illegal, to present someone else’s ideas or writing as your own. You cannot use even short phrases or parts of sentences obtained from other sources (published or unpublished) unless you use quotation marks when necessary and properly acknowledge and document your sources. Submitting your own previous work is also academically dishonest, as is submitting the same work to satisfy requirements in two or more classes simultaneously without instructor permission. You are accountable for furnishing upon request all the sources and all preliminary work (notes, rough drafts, etc.) that you use in preparing your written work. Failure to provide such materials will be considered evidence of academic dishonesty and will be handled accordingly. Plagiarism of any kind will constitute grounds for failing English 4573 and may result in further disciplinary action at the professor’s discretion, or at the discretion of the Department of English or the University.

**Technology:** We are fortunate to live in an age when text production has been greatly facilitated by extraordinary computer and printing technologies. Unfortunately, however, sophisticated machines can sometimes be temperamental. Be sure to plan ahead and allow time to compensate for any technological mishaps that might arise. Technological misfortunes will not be accepted as excuses for failing to meet deadlines in English 4573.

**Disability Services:** The Office for Disability Services, located in 150 Pomerene Hall, offers services for students with documented disabilities. Contact ODS at 2-3307 to register for their services, and please let me know of any accommodations you might need for the course or the classroom.

**FINAL GRADES:** Final grades will be computed as follows:

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