

Classical Rhetoric for Writing Syllabus

Course Title: Classical Rhetoric for Writing

Course Information: Day, time, Classroom TBD

Moderator: Kara Heyne

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Course Description:

Classical Rhetoric for Writing is a comprehensive high school English course. High school students with a strong writing background will get new insights and practice into the integration of rhetoric and logic into their academic writing.

The course will focus on the book *Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student* by Edward Corbett and Robert Connors, working through the book at a steady rate through the course of the semester, supplemented by logic texts and *Figures of Speech* by Arthur Quinn. *Classical Rhetoric* covers a comprehensive lesson on Aristotelian rhetoric and analysis. Student will learn the various arguments and figures used in Aristotelian logic and rhetoric and how to analyze texts accordingly. These lessons will be supplemented with logic review exercises and a study in *Figures of Speech* which will help students polish and improve their own writing techniques. The course material will be supplemented with student writing assignments, analysis, and exams to make sure students are integrating and retaining the material.

Grades will be based on participation (chiefly through in class discussions), short answer homework assignments, 3 exams and 4 writing assignments.

Required Readings and Resources:

Main Course Text: *Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student* by Edward Corbett and Robert Connors.

Evaluation: Participation: 25%, Homework: 25%, Tests/Essays: 50% (7% per each test and essay)

Grading Scale: 94-100 A, 90-93 A-, 87-89 B+, 84-86 B, 80-83 B-, 77-79 C+, 74-76 C, 70-73 C-, 60-69 D, 59 and below F. Incomplete = I.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism by definition is taking someone else's words or thoughts and claiming that they are yours. The good news is, we will be talking A LOT about that in this course and our other writing courses. The bad news is, this means that you should not use the "copy/paste" functions on your computer without understanding how to properly cite your sources. Plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty will result in removal from the course. If you are in doubt about whether something is wrong, just ask!

Course Schedule:

Weeks 1-13 Introduction through Chapter 2: Discovery of Arguments

Week 1: Introduction to Rhetoric (Preface)

Week 2: CRMS Chapter I: Introduction. Rhetorical Analysis. (2-24)

Week 3: Chapter II: Formulating a Thesis, 3 Modes of Persuasion, Formal Logic (27-52)

Week 4: CII: Formal Logic, cont. (53-77)

Week 5: The Topics (77-87)

Week 6: Special Topics (88-120) Writing Assignment 1.

Week 7: "Looking for an Argument" "Rhetorical Invention" (120-140)

Week 8: External Aids to Invention (141-174)

Week 9: Essays for Analysis (174-190)

Week 10: Further Essays for Analysis (190-208)

Week 11: Further Essays for Analysis (209-230)

Week 12: Further Essays for Analysis (230-256) Writing Assignment 2

Week 13: In Class Exam

Weeks 14-24 Chapter 3 and 4: Arrangement and Style

Week 14: The Parts of a Discourse (256-270)

Week 15: Further Parts of a Discourse (270-291)

Week 16: Concluding Remarks and Readings for Analysis (291-315)

Week 17: Further Readings for Analysis (315-337)

Week 18: Grammar, Diction, Composition (337-359) Writing Assignment 3

Week 19: Study of Style (359-377)

Week 20: Figures of Speech (377-411)

Week 21: Imitation (411-448)

Week 22: Readings for Analysis (448-471)

Week 23: Further Readings for Analysis (471-484)

Week 24: In Class Exam

Week 25-Week 30 Chapter 5 and 6: Progymnasmata and Survey of Rhetoric

Week 25: A Sequence of Assignments (485-489) Writing Assignment 4

Week 26: Classical Rhetorics and Middle Ages (489-499)

Week 27: English Rhetorics (499-517)

Week 28: Rhetoric in the 19th and 20th Centuries (517-544)

Week 29: Final Review

Week 30: Last In-Class Essay