

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

RHET 3403 Rhetorics and Poetics

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: RHET 3203 Textual Research Methods or consent of instructor

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Instruction in rhetorical and poetical history and theory from classical to contemporary periods, including the history of rhetoric and poetics as disciplines.

B. Additional Information

None.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze historical and theoretical texts on rhetoric and writing, including a consideration of how those texts helped shape the discipline.
2. Analyze significant rhetorical theories/principles within their historical contexts and identify the speaker/writer to whom they are attributed.
3. Identify and analyze specific connections and divergences between rhetorical theory and writing theory.
4. Analyze specific ways that rhetorical theory informs the process of composing as well as specific ways the composed text enacts theories of rhetoric.
5. Produce focused, developed, and well-edited texts that demonstrate an understanding of both rhetorical theory and composition theory and an ability to apply such theories to a variety of discourse occasions and existing texts.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Historical and theoretical texts on rhetoric and writing from speakers/writers such as Plato, Aristotle, Burke, Toulmin; Emig, Flower and Hayes, Berlin, and Bizzell
- B. Relationship between rhetoric and writing
- C. Writing as response to, connection with, and application of the theories/ principles of rhetoric and writing studied
- D. Conventional academic style for written texts with proofreading to eliminate usage weaknesses and to develop coherence