

CLASSICAL RHETORIC

Course: 90:321
Tuesday & Thursday 3:55-5:15
Heldrich Science Building 201
Douglass Campus

Instructor: J. McGlew
Ruth Adams 009
Office hours: by appointment
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COURSE SYLLABUS

This class offers an introduction to the study and practice of rhetoric in the Classical Age of Greece – the fifth and fourth century B.C.E – when persuasive public speech became a crucial element of political power and when also the means and methods of persuasive public speaking became a distinct field of study. Like all great inventions, the art of rhetoric stands in close relation to the time and place in which it came to exist. As we learn what constituted persuasive speech for the Greeks, we will also explore the political and social circumstances of the city, Athens, that most particularly nurtured the nascent art of rhetoric and fostered the philosophical concepts and controversies that rhetoric and its study provoked. The latter portion of the class will focus on ancient and modern funeral orations as an example of a tradition of successful public oratory that continues to this day.

This course will be conducted largely as a discussion class.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Paper (10 pages on an assigned topic due May 2): 20%
Midterm: 20%
Final: 25%

Participation: 35% (this means coming to class, contributing helpfully to discussions, responding fairly and generously to other students).

Academic dishonesty will be treated in accord with the university's policies: see:
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/instructors.shtml>.

Books (available in the Rutgers Bookstore)

Kennedy, George A., trans. Aristotle: On Rhetoric: A Theory of Civic Discourse (1991).

Plato, Gorgias, trans. James H. Nichols (1998).

Online Texts (you are welcome to use conventional print editions)

Iliad Book 9: <https://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/homer/iliad9.htm>

Pericles' "Funeral Oration"

[http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Pericles%27s_Funeral_Oration_\(Jowett\)](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Pericles%27s_Funeral_Oration_(Jowett))

Antiphon, First Tetralogy: <http://artflx.uchicago.edu/perseus-cgi/citequery3.pl?dbname=GreekTexts&getid=1&query=Antiph.%202>

Lysias 1: <http://artflx.uchicago.edu/perseus-cgi/citequery3.pl?dbname=GreekTexts&getid=1&query=Lys.%201>

Lysias 2: <http://artflx.uchicago.edu/perseus-cgi/citequery3.pl?dbname=GreekTexts&getid=1&query=Lys.%202>

Plato's Menexenus: <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/webbin/gutbook/lookup?num=1682>
or <http://artflx.uchicago.edu/perseus-cgi/citequery3.pl?dbname=GreekTexts&getid=1&query=Pl.%20Menex.%20234a> (page through to conclusion)

Demosthenes 60 (Funeral Speech): <http://artflx.uchicago.edu/perseus-cgi/citequery3.pl?dbname=GreekTexts&getid=1&query=Dem.%2060>

M. Antony, Shakespeare, Julius Caesar: <http://www.ibiblio.org/ais/speechan.htm>

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address:

<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/speeches/gettysburg.htm>

Lyndon B. Johnson speech of 11/27/1963 (Kennedy's assassination)

Ronald Reagan speech of 1/28/86 (Challenger explosion)

G. W. Bush speech of 9/11/01 w/ text:

www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/gwbush911addresstothenation.htm

Barack Obama's speeches of 11/10/09 (Fort Hood)

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/01/13/us/20110113_CONSOLATION_INTERACTIVE.html

w/ text: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/11/10/obama-ft-hood-speech-full_n_352633.html

Obama's speech of 1/12/11 http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/12/obama-arizona-memorial-sp_n_808335.html

Also for a catalogue of rhetorical figures, see

<http://www.uky.edu/AS/Classics/rhetoric.html>

Class Schedule (changes are inevitable; check SAKAI for revised versions)

Week 1 (Jan 18/20): Course Introduction & Historical Overview

Iliad Book 9

Week 2 (Jan 24/27): Rhetoric as an Art: The Sophists

Background on the Sophists: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/s/sophists.htm>
Gorgias, Defense of Helen (in Kennedy, trans, Aristotle: On Rhetoric.
pp. 283-87. For an online translation, see

<http://classicpersuasion.org/pw/gorgias/helendonovan.htm>.

Gorgias, Defense of Palamedes, online at
<http://www.humanistictexts.org/gorgias.htm>.

Week 3 (Feb 1/3): Antiphon, First Tetralogy & Lysias 1

For more on Antiphon and the Tetralogies, see:
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/v776483255uw77v6/> and M. Gararin, Antiphon, The Athenian (2002).

Week 4 (Feb 8/11): Rhetoric & Truth: Plato Gorgias

Week 5 (Feb 15/17): Aristotle: On Rhetoric

Week 6 (Feb 22/24): Aristotle: On Rhetoric, cont.

Week 7 (Feb 28/Mar 3): Demosthenes, Third Philippic in Kennedy, trans. Aristotle
On Rhetoric: pp. 277-92.

Week 8 (Mar 8/11): Catch-up & Midterm

Part 2: Funeral Orations

Week 9 (Mar 21-24): Pericles' "Funeral Oration"

Week 10 (Mar 28-31): Lysias 2

Week 11 (Apr 4-7): Plato's Menexenus & Demosthenes 60 (Funeral Speech)

Week 12 (Apr 11/14): M. Antony, Shakespeare, Julius Caesar

Week 13-14 (Apr 18/21/25/28): US Presidential Consolation Oratory

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (11/19/1863)

Lyndon B. Johnson speech of 11/27/1963 (Kennedy's assassination)

Ronald Reagan speech of 1/28/86 (Challenger explosion)

G. W. Bush speech of 9/11/01

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/gwbush911addresstothetation.htm>

Barack Obama's speeches of 11/10/09 (Fort Hood) & 1/12/11 (Arizona)

Week 15 (May 2): PAPER DUE & Review for Final

Final Exam: May 11 4-7 pm (in the usual classroom)

Please Note

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508 which mandate that reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities and accessibility of online information. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services, the designated office on campus to provide services and administer exams with accommodations for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Kreeger Learning Center, 151 College Ave, Suite 123, phone number 732-932-2848. I look forward to talking with you soon to learn how I may be helpful in enhancing your academic success in this course.