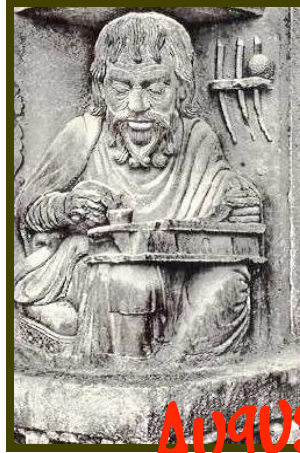


# Rhetoric



Augustine to Nietzsche

## ~~Principles and Practices II~~

Since no one can engage in discourse without discovery, so the system of discourse is the system of discovery

--Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius

In the fall of the year of Lord, two thousand and four

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:30-12:20

Roy Coutts Engineering Lecture Hall, 206

Course conductor: Allen of Harris, cleped "Randy"

Office hours: Hours: 8:00 - 9:20, Mondays, Wednesdays; 10:00-11:00, Tuesdays

### Course epitome

Quoth the calendar:

"A study of rhetorical theories and practices from late Antiquity, Medieval, Renaissance, and the Enlightenment periods, with an emphasis on how those theories and practices reflect changing attitudes towards language, society, and the self."

Well, yes, there's that. More specifically, though, we will see rhetoric in middle age, mature, reflective, strong and hitting its stride. But also a little grey at the temples, a bit soft around the middle, undergoing a crisis of identity and looking for a hot little red sports car to maintain its vigour: theology, poetics, psychology, whatever.

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## Texts

RHETORIC IN THE MIDDLE AGES, Jerry Murphy. Medieval & Renaissance Texts & Studies, 2001 (University of California Press, 1974).

Course reader; other readings will be required, as listed on the schedule below; follow the links (on the on-line version of this syllabus).

Also, it will be very useful get your hands on a decent intro-to-history-and-theory-of-rhetoric textbook and read the suitable passages (roughly, Greek, Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, and Enlightenment, as we cover those periods). Alternatively, web searches can uncover bits and pieces of this material, in partially reliable ways.

FOR THE DIE-HARDS: THREE MEDIEVAL RHETORICAL ARTS, Jerry Murphy. Medieval & Renaissance Texts & Studies, 2001 (University of California Press, 1971).

STYLE GUIDE: Aaron, McArthur, THE LITTLE, BROWN COMPACT HANDBOOK. First Canadian edition. Toronto: Addison Wesley Longman, 1997; ISBN 0-673-98311-0

## What must thou do?

Requirement	Grade	Date
Midterm	20%	29 October
Final	30%	When and where we are told
Essay	30%	6 December
Being Rhetorical	20%	all the live-long day

## Exams

MIDTERM. You will have to know both "facts" and "ideas" for this course. The midterm will test mostly the former, with multiple-choice, true-false, short-answer questions. It will cover material up to and including the 27 October class.

FINAL. More of the same, but with some essay questions thrown in to chart the "ideas" quotient of the course. It will cover the entire course.

## Being rhetorical

Come to class, contribute to discussions, participate in the development of the course. Your clearest opportunities for contributions will be on our Disputin' Fridays, but you need to be engaged in the course every time you're in class (and you need to be in class).

WAYS TO GET A GOOD GRADE: ask relevant questions, make salient observations, look for and point out connections in the material, complain about the unbelievable pressure of having to be rhetorical on demand, ...

WAYS TO GET A MEDIOCRE GRADE: sit in your seat; avoid eye contact with the professor.

WAYS TO GET A POOR GRADE: stay away from class, make long irrelevant commentaries, treat your fellow students with extravagant disrespect, ...

## Essay

Start thinking about your essay immediately. I'm not kidding. It will not have to be very long (1,500 - 2,000 words), but it will have to be very good. This is a third-year RPW course; you should be writing and thinking about rhetorical issues at an advanced level, and you should know how to write and research an academic essay.

You can do a critical analysis of some text (very broadly construed--a pamphlet or a movie can be a text in this sense), or you can write a more strictly theoretical paper.

**CRITICAL ANALYSIS.** Start with a concept (ethos, figuration, faith, ...) and watch it develop through the course (indeed, help it develop through the course; see "Being rhetorical" above). Do some outside reading on it (a.k.a. library research). Collect original data illustrating it (a.k.a. empirical research): find an appropriate text to analyze, and find appropriate secondary research, on both the concept and the text. Write a paper which shows (1) awareness of how that concept is rhetorical, especially in the terms of the period we are studying; and (2) original thought on how that notion operates in the text of your choice.

**THEORETICAL.** Alternately, you might do a more purely theoretical paper,--say, comparing Cicero and Augustine on the notions of value in discourse, or discussing the role of sermons on the development of rhetoric. Again, you would need to demonstrate (1) awareness of the rhetorical dimensions of the concepts under discussion, and (2) original thought on its function in the context you examine. But your focus should be on rhetorical theory or general practices, not on a specific text.

### EVALUATION

My evaluation will depend on the cogency, conceptual sophistication, research depth, and rhetorical appropriateness of the paper--standard issue academic criteria.

## Notes

Do the readings BEFORE the assigned class.

If you have any questions, please make sure you ASK them.

Familiarize yourself with POLICY #71, especially as to plagiarism and other forms of cheating.

## Some Links

*Rhetorica ad digitum*

*Augustine of Hippo*

*Silva Rhetoricæ.*

Schedule			
Date	Topics		Readings
	Monología	Disputatio	
13 September	Hello; how art thou?		
15 September	Rhetoric—in general		Plato's <a href="#">Phaedrus</a>
17 September	Rhetoric—classical		Murphy I
20 September	Augustine		Augie ( <a href="#">De doctrina Book 4</a> )
22 September			Murphy II
24 September		Faith and rhetoric	
27 September	Boethius - Labeo		Murphy III
29 September	Agricola		Reader—Agricola
1 October	Philosophy and rhetoric		
4 October	Three rhetorical arts		Murphy IV
6 October			Murphy V
8 October		Figures of speech	Reader—Peacham; Murphy Appendix
11 October	Give ye thanks		
13 October	Three rhetorical arts		Murphy VI
15 October			
18 October	Humanism		Reader—Melanchthon
20 October			Intro text-Renaissance
22 October		The rhetorical life	
25 October	Ramus and the dialectical backlash		Reader—Ramus
27 October			
29 October	Midterm		
1 November	Bacon and the rise of empiricism		Reader—Bacon
3 November			
5 November	Science and rhetoric		Sprat, <a href="#">History, Sect. XX</a>
8 November	The Enlightenment		Intro text—Enlightenment
10 November	Classes cancelled: read, write, think; get your essays in gear		
12 November			
15 November	Vico		Intro text—Vico
17 November	Blair		Intro text—Blair
19 November	Ideology and rhetoric		
22 November	Campbell		Campbell, <a href="#">Philosophy of Rhetoric Chpt 1</a>
24 November			Intro text—Whately
26 November	Psychology and rhetoric		
29 November	Aristotle/Whately		
1 December	Nietzsche		Reader—Nietzsche
3 November	Truth and rhetoric		<a href="#">Epistemology &amp; Rhetoric</a>
6 December	Course review, exam preparation, thanks for all the fish		

Three rhetorical arts