

COMMUNICATION STUDIES 383

Rhetoric Theory

(Summer 2022 Online/Asynchronous)

Instructor: Dr. Kevin McClure

Office: 213 Davis Hall

Office Phone: 874-4726

Office Hours: Summer 2022 Office Hours: By appointment using Webex

E-mail: kmccclure@uri.edu (*best way to contact me is via messages on Brightspace*)

Course Description: The course surveys and analyzes rhetorical communication theories and theorists from classical to contemporary times and focuses on rhetoric's relationships with philosophy, knowledge, reason, science, technology, and culture.

Brightspace: This class is entirely on-line (asynchronous) and requires consistent participation and presence on the learning platform. It also requires college-level media literacy skills. Since the course makes extensive use of pod cast lectures, digital handouts and power points presentations, it is essential that students have the skills to retrieve and access various types of media with some dexterity. Please be sure that your computer's software and web browser are up-to-date and that you have the necessary add-ons to open mp3 files, pdfs, and power point presentations.

Classroom Protocol:

For this online course, Brightspace is our "classroom." Please refer to the first announcement for details on how we will proceed.

In the online learning environment, "attendance" is measured by your presence on the site, via the analytics tools in Brightspace. The importance of regular log-ins and completion of the modules in a timely fashion cannot be overstated. If you have never taken an online course, Brightspace will take some getting used to but it is quite simple. I will regularly send announcements to your URI email account updating you on assignments. I recommend that you check out the Online Learn Orientation at <https://web.uri.edu/its-covid19/using-brightspace-2/>. This short orientation will provide you with an introduction to the important aspects of taking an online course. I further recommend that you get in the habit of daily attendance online to maximize your successful completion of the course. Please refer to the Daily Schedule for the readings, assignments, pod casts, power points, handouts, quizzes, and exams.

Technology Requirements:

Computer access to the internet is required in order to successfully navigate this course. Firefox is the recommended browser for Brightspace compatibility and can be downloaded free from www.mozilla.com/firefox. You will require additional plug-ins (Adobe Reader, Adobe Flash, Real Player, QuickTime). These are all free downloads. Internet Explorer for Windows, version 6 or higher is also an option. Be sure to turn off the pop-up blocker.

Brightspace Help:

Here is the link for help: <https://web.uri.edu/itservicedesk/>.

Online Learning

As stated above, the best way to begin this course is to read the first announcement, the syllabus and the daily schedule; the table of contents, the announcements, the syllabus, and the daily schedule are your map to this course.

Disabilities

This course endorses university policies with regard to accommodating people with disabilities. I will make every effort to accommodate learning disabilities but obviously I must be made aware of anyone's specific needs as soon as possible.

Office of Disability Services:

1. Any student with a documented disability is welcome to contact me early in the semester so that we may work out reasonable accommodations to support your success in this course. Students should also contact Disability Services for Students, Office of Student Life, 330 Memorial Union, [401-874-2098](tel:401-874-2098).

2. From the University Manual: **6.40.10 and 6.40.11 Accommodations for Qualified Students With Disabilities.**

Students are expected to notify faculty at the onset of the semester if any special considerations are required in the classroom. If any special considerations are required for examinations, it is expected the student will notify the faculty a week before the examination with the appropriate paperwork.

Course Objectives: The overall objective of Communication Studies 383 is for students to achieve a critical understanding of the major historical and contemporary rhetorical theories, theorists and concepts associated with the study of human communication as the art of rhetoric and rhetoric's role in the development and history of western thought. Toward that end students will need to demonstrate that they can:

1. Identify, summarize and contrast the major rhetorical theories and concepts developed by the major classical Greek and Roman figures, including the Sophists, Isocrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero. (Quiz One)
2. Identify, summarize and contrast the major rhetorical theories and concepts that developed during the Medieval, Renaissance and Enlightenment eras, including those of St. Augustine, Cappella, Petrarch, Valla, Pico, Vico, Bacon, Hume, Locke, and Campbell. (Quiz Two)
3. Identify, summarize and contrast the major rhetorical theories and concepts of contemporary rhetorical theory, including those of Kenneth Burke, Feminism, the critical theorists, the new rhetoric theories of Perelman, Toulmin and Habermas, and poststructuralists such as Derrida, Foucault, and Bahktin. (Quiz Three)

General and Specific Objective Assessments: In order to assure that students have achieved a satisfactory level of expertise regarding the objectives of Communication 383 the following methods of assessment shall be employed:

1. **Three Quizzes (45%):** Each student shall take three objective examinations covering the major concepts of the course and textbook. The purpose of the quizzes is for the student to demonstrate ongoing competency in the cognitive concepts of the course. Each quiz corresponds with the major eras of rhetorical thought and development covered in the text and course lectures. The quizzes will be delivered on line in the form of multiple-choice, matching, true-false, and short answer. The tests are generated algorithmically (randomly) from topical pools of questions so that no two students receive identical exams. Typically, the quizzes are available for five days during the week that they are due. If a student scores below 60 % on any quiz or the final exam one retake will be allowed.
2. **Paper (30%):** Each student shall write a brief term paper (3-5 pages) in which they discuss any theorist, theory or concept that we have covered with each other, focusing on the main ideas and concepts of the two theorists discussed, how they have been used in the history of rhetorical thought. Papers are uploaded to your individual drop boxes and will be returned edited and graded to the drop box as well. Additional details will be provided with the assignment during the semester.
3. **Final Examination (25%):** Each student shall take a comprehensive examination of the material covered by the course and the textbook in which they are required to demonstrate competency in the cognitive concepts of the course. The final exam is delivered on line and will be matching, multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer and is available during most of finals week.

Announcements: The weekly schedule is set- up to parallel a MTWTH schedule typical of summer semester classes, so be sure to check-in regularly for updates. Please be sure to read announcements during the week directing students to the pertinent modules, pod cast lectures, and resource materials associated with each theory and theorist. Most of the materials that you'll need on a daily basis are located in the table of contents; these include pod casts of lectures, handouts, power points, and reviews sheets. Please preview one or two files so you can be sure that you can open these files. The quizzes and the final are located under the "quizzes" hotlink. You should read the text chapters and then listen to the podcast lectures but I will give further directions and updates via the announcement tool as we progress through each chapter and section during the semester.

I check in at least two-three times a day on the site so if you have any questions I can be responsive in a timely manner. If you do have questions please communicate them to me via the message tool, but remember to also check the “**send a copy of the message to e-mail**” box in the messaging window. I check e-mail much more often than Brightspace and may receive your query sooner.

Textbook:

Herrick, James A. *The History and Theory of Rhetoric: An Introduction*. 5th or 6th Ed. New York: Allyn Bacon, 2012.

https://www.amazon.com/History-Theory-Rhetoric-Introduction-ebook-dp-B075V5336P/dp/B075V5336P/ref=mt_kindle?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=

Renting options exist.

Distribution of Graded Assignments:

Quizzes (3 @ 15% each)	45 %
Paper	30 %
Final Exam (comprehensive)	25 %

Total **100 %**

Grade Policy:

Superior work	A to A-	(99 - 89.5)
Above average work	B+ to B-	(89.4 - 79.5)
Average work	C+ to C-	(79.4 - 69.5)
Below average work	D+ to D	(69.4 - 64.5)
Unacceptable work	F	(below 64.4)

Attendance and Participation Policy:

It is imperative that students check in multiple times per week so that you keep up with announcements, the critical posting assignments, flow of the course and exam reviews. The statistics tool informs me of everyone's downloads and the materials accessed on the site and is indicative of degrees of engagement.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational object of this institution. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, unauthorized prior possession of examinations, submitting the work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Acts of academic dishonesty may result in academic dismissal.

Late Paper Assignments

Late paper assignments will receive no higher than a "B" and only if the assignment is satisfactorily completed. Late assignments that are of deficient quality (below C) will receive no credit. *Papers not written in MLA or APA style of documentation will be deducted at least one letter grade.*