



Syllabus

Rhetoric and Emotions from Antiquity to the Modern Era - 44843

Last update 14-01-2016

HU Credits: 2

Responsible Department: english

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof Rita Copeland

Coordinator Email: rcopelan@sas.upenn.edu

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Copelan Rita

Course/Module description:

The study of the history of the emotions has emerged recently as an important outgrowth of such fields as cultural studies, psychoanalysis, ethics, and the history of medicine. The history of rhetoric opens another window onto emotions; current interest in historicizing emotional responses underscores the continuing relevance of rhetorical thought, whether in its pre-modern doctrinal formations or the broader cultural constructions of rhetoric in our own era. As an art or practice, rhetoric was charged with the task of persuasion through emotional appeal; as a theoretical field, rhetoric developed sophisticated ways of analyzing emotional behaviors. The opportunities are wide open for thinking concretely and historically about rhetoric's role in mobilizing and giving formal expression to the passions. This intensive seminar will introduce students to the history of rhetorical theory from Greco-Roman antiquity through the Middle Ages and early modern period, and finally to examples of modern rhetorical thought, using the lens of emotional persuasion as our guiding focus throughout. We will read works about persuasion and emotion by various theorists, practitioners, and historians of rhetoric, including Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Boethius, Al-Farabi, Averroes, Dante, Chaucer, Judah Messer Leon, Hobbes, Vico, Erich Auerbach, and Hayden White.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- relate rhetorical theory to other kinds of emotions theory*
- understand the important concepts of rhetoric, especially as these might relate to literature or philosophy*
- recognize how rhetorical theorists have drawn on poetics, ethics, and political theory*

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar

Course/Module Content:

Theories of rhetoric in Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Boethius, Al-Farabi, Averroes, Dante, Chaucer, Judah Messer Leon, Hobbes, Vico, Erich Auerbach, and Hayden White.

Required Reading:

Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Boethius, Al-Farabi, Averroes, Dante, Chaucer, Judah Messer Leon, Hobbes, Vico, Erich Auerbach, and Hayden White.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 40 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 50 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: