RWS 602: Modern Rhetoric and Composition

Spring 2015 - SHW 106 – Wednesdays 3:30-6:10

Instructor Contact:
Ellen Quandahl
SHW 109 – W 2:00 – 3:00, Th
11:30 – 12:30 and by appointment
equandah@mail.sdsu.edu
(619-594-6833)

Description

In the 20th and 21st centuries reconceptualizations of language and human nature result in an interest in difference, acknowledgements of ways in which forces beyond the intentions of authors speak through authors’ words, and waning confidence in the transparency of language. Questions about who speaks, for whom, about what, and in what situation take on new urgency. Rhetoric is said to “revive” and new directions in research proliferate. RWS 602 will investigate some of the many themes and theoretical approaches that are now lively in this changing discipline.

The course will be structured as a reading course that uses writing to work through complex ideas and to practice the technē of rewriting—the moves that writers engage in when working with the texts of others.

Required texts, available at the SDSU bookstore:


All other readings will be available online through SDSU Library databases or provided on Blackboard as pdfs. Please have the text for each class session along with you and in an easily readable form that you can refer to and annotate.

Student learning outcomes:

- To articulate key terms, definitions, and accounts of textual practices in contemporary rhetorical theory and writing studies
- To reflect on and articulate ways of constructing and understanding contemporary rhetorical theory
- To articulate and extend theoretical concepts to rhetorical performances in various media
• To describe key questions and problems in contemporary rhetorical theory and composition studies
• To practice writerly moves such as coming to terms, forwarding, countering, taking an approach, and revising.

Requirements

• A two to three page paper exploring the reading will be due each week. These may involve using writerly moves described by Harris to investigate course texts.
• Two take-home papers. Prompts will be distributed 2 weeks in advance of due dates.
• Careful preparation of each week's reading and thoughtful participation (contributions to discussion; rhetorical listening).
• At least one consultation during office hours.

No late papers will be accepted except by prior arrangement with me.

Grading:

Informal weekly papers  25%
Take-home paper 1  30%
Take-home paper 2  30%
Participation in the seminar  15%

Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation.

Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Introductions; Harris, “Introduction” – in class</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td><strong>Rhetorical Situation:</strong> Bitzer; Edbauer; Burke, “Rhetorical Situation” (in Bb); Harris, “Coming to Terms” (Chapter I, pages 13-33)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td><strong>Difference:</strong> Alexander and Rhodes; Barthes (in Bb); Pratt; Harris, “Forwarding” (Chapter 2)</td>
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4 Feb. 10  **Memory and place:** Poirot and Watson; Olson; Haskins

5 Feb. 17  **Agonism:** Crosswhite (in Bb); Roberts-Miller, “Fighting;” Harris, “Countering” (Chapter 3); Friend.

6 Feb. 24  **Kenneth Burke:** “Terministic,” “Signs;” Pollan, “Plant” (all three are in Blackboard)

7  **Thursday, March 3 – Landmark Lectures.**

8 Mr. 9  **Composing and reading images:** everyone read Carter, Cloud; select one more: Salinas or Perry. All read Harris, “Taking an Approach” (Chapter 4)

9 Mr. 16  **Archive:** select two: Jarratt, “Classics and Counterpublics;” Strickland; Enoch and Van Haitsma;

10 Mr. 23  **Composing: Taking an approach; finding new problems:** Kastely Paper #1 due.

11 April 7  **Multilingualism:** Canagaresh; Jordan; Pratt (again)

12 April 14  **Freud:** *On Dreams;* Quandahl

13 April 21  **Composing/teaching: a formative debate:** Elbow and Bartholomae; Harris, “Afterword”

14 April 28  **The field of rhetoric:** Jarratt, “Rhetoric”

15 May 5  **Audience:** Branch, Charland

May 6-12 Exam Week. Essay #2 due.
Bibliography for RWS 602 – Spring 2016


____. “What are the Signs of What.” LAS. 359-379.


Enoch, Jessica and Pamela VanHaitsma. “Archival Literacy: Reading the Rhetoric of


Olson, Christa J. “But in regard to these (the American) continents’: U.S. National Rhetorics and the Figure of Latin America.” *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 45.3 (2015): 264-277.


