



**Instructor:** Chet Scoville

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**Course Number:** ENG205H5S

**Course Title:** Rhetoric

**Course description:** A historical survey of the major theorists of rhetoric from the ancient world to the present day, including such writers as Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Vico, Spencer, Richards, Burke, Derrida, and Fish. We will explore the roots of rhetoric in Athenian political culture, trace its development through Roman law and medieval religion and literature, and consider some of its modern and postmodern varieties. Along the way, we will see the centrality in Western thought of the study and practice of persuasive speech and writing, and its relationship to politics, science, history, literature, and more.

**Rationale:** This course will provide a grounding in the earliest form of literary criticism and in one of the major currents of Western intellectual history. It may serve as a precursor or companion for ENG380, History of Literary Theory.

**Goals:** To enable students to understand rhetoric in theory and practice, and to familiarize them with some of the major texts of the Western rhetorical tradition.

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**Required Reading:** Most readings will be taken from *The Rhetorical Tradition: Readings from Classical Times to the Present*, ed. Patricia Bizzell and Bruce Herzberg, available at the UTM Bookroom. Lloyd Bitzer's essay "The Rhetorical Situation" will be available as a handout.

**Method of Instruction:** Lecture, discussion

**Method of Evaluation:** Test 15%, Short analyses 15%, Final paper 35%, Final exam 35%