



Instructor: Dr. Chester N. Scoville

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Course Number: ENG 205 H5F

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 Gorgias, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Giambattista Vico, Herbert Spencer, I. A. Richards, Kenneth Burke, Wayne Booth, and Stanley 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.

Required Reading:

Readings will be taken from Bizzell and Herzberg's *The Rhetorical Tradition*, with the exception of Lloyd Bitzer's essay "The Rhetorical Situation," which will be available as a handout.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: Bitzer, Fish, Booth

Method of Evaluation: Three short analyses 30%; Mid-term test 20%; Final essay 20%; Final exam 30%