

Instructor: Chester N. Scoville

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, Ramus, Vico, Spencer, I. A. Richards, Kenneth Burke, Wayne Booth, Jacques Derrida, 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*.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: Bizzell and Hertzberg, "General Introduction," Plato, Aristotle

Method of Instruction: Lecture/discussion.

Method of Evaluation: Five short analyses, mid-term test, final paper.