

Instructor: Chester N. Scoville

Course number: ENG205H5F

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.

Required Reading: 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.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: Gorgias, *Dissoi Logoi*, Plato

Method of Instruction: Lecture/Discussion

Method of Evaluation: Five short exercises (total 35%), midterm test (30%), final exam (35%).