

Rhetoric

Overview

The Department of Rhetoric is a leading center for interdisciplinary research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences. Linked by a common interest in the functions of discourse in all its forms, faculty and students engage the theoretical, historical, and cultural dimensions of interpretation and criticism, in fields as diverse as political theory, gender, law, media studies, philosophy, and literature. The department is also committed to the study of rhetorical traditions, from the classical era to contemporary rhetorical theory.

Undergraduate Program

Rhetoric (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/rhetoric/>): BA, Minor

Graduate Program

Rhetoric (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/rhetoric/>): PhD

Rhetoric

RHETOR R1A The Craft of Writing 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Rhetorical approach to reading and writing argumentative discourse. Close reading of selected texts; written themes developed from class discussion and analysis of rhetorical strategies. Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the Entry Level Writing Requirement

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: 1A

RHETOR R1B The Craft of Writing 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Intensive argumentative writing drawn from controversy stimulated through selected readings and class discussion. Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Previously passed an R1A course with a letter grade of C- or better. Previously passed an articulated R1A course with a letter grade of C- or better. Score a 4 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English Literature and Composition. Score a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English Language and Composition. Score of 5, 6, or 7 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: 1B

RHETOR 2 Fundamentals of Public Speaking 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session

Basic principles of rhetoric as applied to the criticism and practice of public speaking.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 10 Introduction to Practical Reasoning and Critical Analysis of Argument 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2023

An introduction to practical reasoning and the critical analysis of argument. Topics treated will include: definition, the syllogism, the enthymeme, fallacies, as well as various non-logical appeals. Also, the course will treat in introductory fashion some ancient and modern attempts to relate rhetoric and logic.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5-9 hours of lecture and 1-1 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 20 Rhetorical Interpretation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024

Introduction to the study of rhetorical interpretation, examining how language and performance generate and communicate meaning, from literature, art, film and politics to visual and material culture.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 22 Rhetoric of Shakespearean Drama 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 1996 10 Week Session

This class examines the way in which a distinctively rhetorical concern with persuasion, tropes, topicality, and modes of appeal can be engaged in readings of Shakespearean texts. Using written documents from the period along with contemporary rhetorical criticism and theory, the class analyzes the importance of rhetoric in the production and performance of Shakespeare's plays, in their particular rendering of verbal conflict and the scene of persuasion, and in the analysis of their participation in larger cultural contests over the legitimacy of the prevailing political, legal, moral, or natural order.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 24 Freshman Seminars 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2019, Spring 2019

The Berkeley Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small-seminar setting. Berkeley Seminars are offered in all campus departments, and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

RHETOR 30 Theory and Practice of Public Speech 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Theoretical and practical instruction prepare students to vocally address diverse audiences in a variety of situations across multiple media.

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: To recognize differences across social and media presentation contexts and skillfully compose and adapt presentations to suit these different situations.

To recognize differences across social and media presentation contexts and skillfully compose and adapt presentations to suit these different situations.

Student Learning Outcomes: Mastery of contemporary issues of public presentation and refinements to personal public presentation skills.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5-9 hours of lecture and 1-1 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 39 Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Priority given to freshmen and sophomores

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final Exam To be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

RHETOR 39I Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 1.5 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2012

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Priority given to freshmen and sophomores

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1.5-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

RHETOR 50 Big Words in Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

What is everyone talking about when they talk politics? Do you wish you had an entry point into the conversation? Or a guide to its ABC's? Do you wonder why everyone else seems to have such strong opinions? Or why your own opinions seem too strong—or not strong enough to go anywhere? Do you like to think about words and meanings and where they come from and how they change? Each week, students will read a selection involving one particular word and also a contemporary instance of it in discussion or debate. By the end of the course, students will understand that the words used in political and legal discourse have a history and philosophy that is worthy of further humanistic (or rhetorical) study.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 0 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 0 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 60 Big Words in Law 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

In this class we will consider big words in law that are key to our present, understood as plural and global. Each semester, the course will focus on twelve timely words that demand our attention and critical reflection. We will choose words that are often mobilized in political battles, approaching them not as fixed units of speech but as sites for arguments and visions for the planet we co-inhabit. The objective is not to secure a definition for the word; it is rather to open it up and to gain appreciation for its different layers, operations, and sometimes unrealized meanings. Because law and legal words are themselves contested, we will also consider the differing commitments that people display toward what counts as law for them.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 0 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 0 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR C60 Big Words in Law 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022

In this class we will consider big words in law that are key to our present, understood as plural and global. Each semester, the course will focus on twelve timely words that demand our attention and critical reflection. We will choose words that are often mobilized in political battles, approaching them not as fixed units of speech but as sites for arguments and visions for the planet we co-inhabit. The objective is not to secure a definition for the word; it is rather to open it up and to gain appreciation for its different layers, operations, and sometimes unrealized meanings. Because law and legal words are themselves contested, we will also consider the differing commitments that people display toward what counts as law for them.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

Instructor: Esmeir

Also listed as: L & S C60X

RHETOR 98 Supervised Group Study 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2020

Instruction for a small group of students on a topic initiated by those students.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

RHETOR 100 Writing at the University: A Writing Seminar for Transfer Students 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2024

Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session

This course teaches skills necessary to succeed in major-specific research and writing tasks at UC Berkeley. Students read and discuss scholarship in writing studies and rhetoric to develop a framework for understanding the conventions of academic writing and complete a series of research tasks to determine what it means to write successfully in their major. The course culminates in an essay identifying challenges and opportunities specific to writing in a specific academic discipline.

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: Analyze the generic conventions for writing in their discipline to produce an essay explicating the challenges and opportunities specific to research and writing in their major. Identify exemplary writing and writers in their discipline to learn what it means to write successfully in their major.

Read and discuss scholarship in writing studies and rhetoric to develop a framework for understanding conventions of writing (North American Academic English).

Student Learning Outcomes: Deepen awareness with the conventions and purposes of academic writing.

Develop knowledge of best practices for research and writing in a specific major.

Refine academic writing skills to better academic goals.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 103A Approaches and Paradigms in the History of Rhetorical Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

A broad consideration of the historical relationships between philosophy, literature, and rhetoric, with special emphasis on selected themes of the classical and medieval periods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 10 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

10 weeks - 4.5 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 100

RHETOR 103B Approaches and Paradigms in the History of Rhetorical Theory II 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

A broad consideration of the historical relationship between philosophy, literature, and rhetoric, with special emphasis on selected themes within the early modern and modern periods.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 10 or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 101

RHETOR 104 Rhetorical Theory and Practice in Historical Eras 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

An examination of the relations between rhetoric, discourse, and knowledge in selected historical eras, for example the European Renaissance, the Atlantic Enlightenment, or Victorian Britain.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

10 weeks - 4.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 105

RHETOR 105T Rhetoric of Religious Discourse 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2015, Spring 2013

Consideration of the rhetoric of hermeneutics or biblical interpretation with special emphasis on the mythical, symbolic, and allegorical language as the bearer of persuasive intention.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 131

RHETOR 106 Rhetoric of Historical Discourse 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2017

A study of how historical knowledge is produced and interpreted. Topics might include narrative and representation, the uses of evidence, forms of historical argumentation, and historical controversies in the public realm.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 173

RHETOR 107 Rhetoric of Scientific Discourse 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2024, Spring 2018

Examination of the characteristic functions of discourse in and about the natural sciences; with particular examination of the ways in which scientific language both guarantees, and at the same time, obscures the expression of social norms in scientific facts.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 174

RHETOR 108 Rhetoric of Philosophical Discourse 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2020

Introduction to theoretical issues involved in applying rhetorical analysis to philosophical discourse; intensive analysis of selected philosophical works.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: 175

RHETOR 109 Aesthetics and Rhetoric 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2019

Study of the terms and means by which we make and defend judgments involving the exercise of aesthetic sensitivity or perceptiveness. Consideration of the relationship between aesthetic qualities and aesthetic value. Discussion of aesthetic criticism as the means by which the capacities and salience of works of art are called to our attention and brought into focus. Topics include questions of taste, expression, and affect.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Any 1A-1B sequence, upper division standing, and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 140

RHETOR 110 Advanced Argumentative Writing 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2014, Summer 2014 Second 6 Week Session

Study and practice of advanced techniques of argumentation for students with well-developed writing skills. Ethical, logical and pathetic appeals; control of register and tone; assessment of a wide variety of real audiences; genre studies.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Any 1A-1B sequence or upper division standing

Credit Restrictions: This course is equivalent to 110M.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

RHETOR 111 Reception of Antiquity 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Participants in this course can expect to accomplish two goals: they will become familiar with a fair amount of the two epics attributed to Homer; and they will learn how classical texts are received by later generations, with Homer as the centerpiece example. That is, we will look at the way in which classical texts are transmitted from the past and how they have survived (or have failed to survive) from antiquity into the present; how readers have sought to make sense of them and to locate them in reality; and how Homer's originally sung texts were changed while still remaining identifiably "Homeric," and in this way came to constitute a Homeric tradition that continues to flourish today.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 112 Rhetoric of Narrative Genres in Nonliterate Societies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2014, Spring 2013, Spring 2012

Investigation of the rhetorical and cultural principles common to various genres of narrative, both prose and poetic, in nonliterate societies.

Mythic, epic and folk narratives considered as well as written works from cultures in transition.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 135

RHETOR 113 Rhetoric of Ethics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025

Can you live ethically without following moral norms, that is, norms as these are given institutionally and reinforced by culture and/or convention? The question, which is at least as old as the Cynics, gathered steam again in the nineteenth century starting with Nietzsche, and it remains a vital problem today. Paradoxical though it may seem, some of the staunchest critics of moral systems and moral norms are at the same time powerful advocates of non-normative ethical reflection and action. This course will examine this phenomenon through close study.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 114 Rhetoric of New Media 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2018

This course examines a range of digital media practices including hypertext, interactive drama, videogames, literary interactive fiction, and socially constructed narratives in multi-user spaces. Through a mixture of readings, discussion, and project work, we will explore the theoretical positions, debates, and design issues arising from these different practices. Topics will include the rhetorical, ludic, theatrical, narrative political, and legal dimensions of digital media.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: R1A-R1B, 10 or 20, consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 115 Technology and Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2020

This course will examine the place and meaning of technology in culture, emphasizing the ways in which technologies shape and inflect social and political interactions. The primary focus will be on the wider reception and perception of technological and cultural shifts as represented in imaginative scientific and cultural works, endeavors and ambitions. This course will then question the conditions for the production and sustainability of these technologies and technological dreams.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 116 Rhetoric, Culture and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session

Analysis of rhetorical practice in the context of social and cultural change with particular reference to the historical transition from pre-industrial to industrial society in the west.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 103A; upper division standing

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 132

RHETOR 117 Language, Truth and Dialogue 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2020, Fall 2017

Examination of philosophical dialogues from Plato to Heidegger. Focus on the interaction within the dialogue, the participation required of the reader/listener, and the relation of such interaction and participation to thinking, speaking and knowing.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 177

RHETOR 118 Undergraduate Seminar on the Theory and Practice of Reading and Interpretation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Spring 2018, Fall 2014

An introduction to contemporary modes of reading and interpretation in the humanities, from structuralism through psychoanalysis, with an emphasis on theories of the sign (semiotics). Examples drawn from such fields as contemporary literature, architecture, history, painting, film, and popular culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Any 1A-1B sequence and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 181

RHETOR 119 Rhetorical Places 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2014

Studies in the history and theory of the rhetorics of place, space, and sites.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 120 Rhetoric of the Self 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2024, Summer 2023 First 6 Week Session

This course investigates discourses of the self, both contemporary and historical, in a variety of genres, including philosophy, theory, literature, visual media, and new media, depending on the instructor and year.

Topics to be covered may include any of the following: problems of the self, identity (racial, ethnic, gendered), self-expression, self-fashioning, self-destitution, and the limits of the self as an experience or a category. No prerequisites.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for RHETOR 120 after completing RHETOR 120. A deficient grade in RHETOR 120 may be removed by taking RHETOR 120.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 121 Rhetoric of Fiction 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Spring 2025, Summer 2024 First 6 Week Session

Study of the form and content of fictional narratives. Definition and techniques including voice, point of view, and time orders. Attention to cultural and historical contexts of selected narratives to consider interplay of works, authors, and readerships.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 122 Rhetoric of Drama 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2012, Fall 2004

Examination of the way character is created in drama by repetitive rhetorical patterns and the ways themes are defined by manipulation of such patterns.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

RHETOR 123 Rhetoric of Performance 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of performance studies. While themes may vary, the course considers disciplinary genealogies from the performing arts, the social sciences, and speech act theory to investigate the many ways that humans constitute themselves and their world through performance.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Any 1A-1B sequence, upper division standing, and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 124 Rhetoric of Poetry 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Spring 2016, Fall 2014

Consideration of the relationship between the texture of poetic discourse largely defined by figures of speech and overall poetic structures.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: R1A-R1B sequence, upper division standing, and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

RHETOR 125 Poetics and Poetry 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2012, Spring 2001, Fall 1999

Studies in the relationships between poetic theory and poetic practice from Aristotle's Poetics to the present day.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 127 Novel, Society, and Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2019, Fall 2018

This course examines the complex links between novelistic discourse, society, and politics. Topics to be studied may include the social and political vocation of the and the realist novel; autobiography and the rise of liberal individualism; political censorship; and the role of the novel in imagining the nation.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 128T The Rhetoric and Politics of Interviews 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2013

As a common form of interacting, documenting, and informing, the interview plays a central role in the process of social and cultural inquiry. The interview is here not only studied in its popularized use as a form of oral witnessing and of privileged access to personalities. It is also explored in its critical and potentially creative dimensions as part of a mise en scene or a setting in which interviewer and interviewees function as social actors.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 1A-1B sequence or 10, or 20, or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 129 Rhetoric of Autobiography 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2017, Fall 2013

Rhetorical analysis of autobiographical discourse, with specific attention to the evolution of the genre in relation to changing modes of human subjectivity.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 139

RHETOR 129AC Autobiography and American Individualism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2019

Rhetorical analysis of autobiographical discourse in American cultures, with special attention to the ideology of individualism.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

10 weeks - 4.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 139AC

RHETOR 130 Novel into Film 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2016

Close examination of the adaptation of written fiction to the cinema. Focus on the problems arising from the transformation of five novels, which will be read, into their filmed versions.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of laboratory per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 131T Genre in Film and Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Study of a particular genre (e.g., detective/mystery, horror/thriller, melodrama) with attention to theories of genre in popular culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 3 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 132T Auteur in Film 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2016, Fall 2015

The study of films from the perspective of directorial style, theme, or filmmaking career. This course may focus on a single or several directors.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 133

RHETOR 133T Theories of Film 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Fall 2010

Classical theories of film by Eisenstein, Arnheim, Kracauer, Bazin, Metz, and others. Only one or two films will be analyzed in great depth to test the power of various theories.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One UC film course

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 129

RHETOR 135T Selected Topics in Film 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2015

A study of a film topic not covered by the other film categories. This course might focus on a particular cinematic "theme," or a nonhistoric and nongeneric category. Examples: Feminist Film Practice, Gay and Lesbian Cinema, Race and Cinematic Representation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 133

RHETOR 136 Art and Authorship 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2018, Fall 2014

Study of narratives and visual cultures of art and its authors, including questions of what is art, who authors it, the boundaries of works and artistic personae, and how aesthetic, economic, and legal regimes of artistic authorship are historicized.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 137 Rhetoric of the Image 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2020

This course surveys methods and theories of visual culture, including the rhetorics and discourses of images (still and moving), media (old and new), display, circulation, value, and interpretation. Topics explored will include: spectacle, reproduction, materiality, time, style, genre, archive, truth-value, and affectivity. Students will learn multi- and interdisciplinary uses of visual materials as objects of analysis, evidence, exchange, and argumentation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 138 Television Criticism 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Fall 2013

An introduction to the close analysis and evaluation of television texts. Consideration of a range of examples drawn from classical television series, sitcoms, dramas, news programming, and contemporary reality television. Students learn the narrative, aesthetic, and stylistic aspects of television's story-telling modes and strategies through readings, screenings, short exercises, and a final project consisting of a substantial work of criticism and an oral presentation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Rhetoric 10 or Rhetoric 20

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 139 Rhetoric of Visual Witnessing 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2018

Studies of the theory and practice of the rhetoric of visual evidence relating to catastrophe. Themes may include witnessing, testimony, the photographic record, news media, and archival knowledge around such subjects as genocide and crimes against humanity, war and other forms of political violence, the AIDS epidemic, natural disaster.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 145 Science, Narrative, and Image 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2019

What is the role of narrative in science and conversely? How do images supplement or displace these narratives? How have scientific conceptions impacted narrative forms and theories of narrative? How important are images to the rhetoric of scientific persuasion? Finally, how can science itself be narrated or visually represented? This course will examine critical discussions of these questions.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 150 Rhetoric of Contemporary Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2020, Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session

Examination of the characteristic rhetoric of a variety of manifestations of modern politics. Emphasis on building a theoretical foundation for critically observing and participating in the contemporary political process.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 151 Rhetoric of Contact and Conquest 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Fall 2012, Fall 2010

This course charts the discovery and conquest of the New World; it treats the ways in which New World peoples were understood--and exploited--by Europeans. It explores not only questions relating to the origins of New World peoples, but also climate and zonal theories of race, and racial ideas of degeneration and corruption. In examining Europe's multivalent relationship with the "other," the course investigates the legal, moral, and spiritual status of New World peoples.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 10 or 20 and R1A-R1B sequence

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 152 Rhetoric of Constitutional Discourse 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2011, Spring 2002

The rhetorical context of . Examines the tradition of Anglo-American constitutional argumentation in the eighteenth century, its sources, and its implications. Readings include Locke, Hume, Montesquieu, pamphlets of the American Revolution, and Anti-Federalist writings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 152AC Race and Order in the New Republic 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2020

This course will explore how the social issue of race in the new American republic shaped the political founding of the United States in 1787. We will investigate perceptions of race at the time of the founding, and try to understand the origins of those perceptions. We will examine how those same perceptions affected the founding and establishment of a new nation and how they have affected our contemporary social and political discourse.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 153 American Political Rhetoric 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2024 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2023 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2020

A survey of the ways in which Americans have discussed their existence as a distinct nation their rights and obligations, and the legitimate modes of political action open to them. Readings cover the 17th through the 20th centuries and may include discussion of sermons, novels, philosophy, social and political theory, autobiographies, declassified government planning documents, Congressional testimony, and films.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 155 Discourses of Colonialism and Postcoloniality 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2019

This course critically explores key concepts and figures used in the public discourse of European colonialism to justify territorial expansion in the 19th century such as "race," "culture," "civility," and "the Orient" and their disturbing legacies for the knowledges, practical projects, and problems of contemporary postcolonial societies in a globalizing world.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 156 Rhetoric of the Political Novel 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2018, Summer 2016 Second 6 Week Session

Investigation of major 19th and 20th century works of fiction in which political stances are exploited as dominant themes; close reading of authorial viewpoints and rhetorical strategies.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 157A Rhetoric of Modern Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2012, Spring 2012

Study of the textual strategies of important works of modern European and American political theory from the 17th through the 19th centuries.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 157

RHETOR 157B Rhetoric of Contemporary Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2015, Spring 2013

Study of the textual strategies of important works of 20th century European and American political theory.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 158 Advanced Problems in the Rhetoric of Political Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2023

Close study of selected works of modern political theory, including debates over the nature and interpretation of political theory and the role of the political theorist. Specific themes and readings vary from year to year.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 159A Great Theorists in the Rhetoric of Political and Legal Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2014, Fall 2011

This course explores the development of one or two theorists or an important theme or issue, with close readings of major texts as well as attention to important commentators.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 159B Great Themes in the Rhetoric of Contemporary Political and Legal Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2019, Fall 2012

This course concentrates on aspects of 20th century political, social, and legal theory that are too complex to be treated comprehensively as one section of the courses in modern theory.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

RHETOR 160 Introduction to the Rhetoric of Legal Discourse 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Spring 2015, Spring 2014

The application of rhetorical methodology to all categories of legal texts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 10

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 163 Law, Language, and Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Through close readings of and about law and literature, the course explores the role of language in both law and literature and the relations between law, language, and literature. Focus may be on particular historical periods, authors, or law-related themes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 164 Rhetoric of Legal Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2009

Rhetorical methodology applied to close analysis of the argumentative framework of important works in modern legal theory.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 165 Rhetoric of Legal Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2013, Spring 2012

Consideration of basic philosophical issues related to the political and moral foundations of the law.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 166 Rhetoric in Law and Politics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Summer 2022 8 Week Session

Examination of the role of rhetoric in the legal and political thought of a particular era or culture. Course may compare societies or periods. All foreign texts will be studied in English translation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 160 or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 167 Advanced Themes in Legal Theory, Philosophy, Argumentation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2016

Thorough consideration of particular rhetorical themes in the field of legal theory, legal philosophy, and legal argumentation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 160, consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

RHETOR 168 Advanced Topics in Contemporary Law and Legal Discourse 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Fall 2012, Fall 2011

Thorough consideration of particular rhetorical themes in the fields of contemporary law and legal discourse. Sample topics include entertainment law, First Amendment law, copyright law.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 160, consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 170 Rhetoric of Social Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2016, Spring 2012

Analysis of the ways in which political scientists, sociologists, anthropologists, economists and psychologists establish the authoritativeness of their claims. Focus is on the presentation of data as fact, the use of quantitative methods, and other "strategies" through which social knowledge is transformed into objective information.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 171 The Problem of Mass Culture and the Rhetoric of Social Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2017

Study of the textual strategies whereby the masses and mass culture emerge as objects of anxiety, hope, and scrutiny for social theorists of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 172 Rhetoric of Social Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2019, Fall 2011

Rhetorical analysis of theorists from Durkheim and Weber, as well as Marx, Ricardo and Bentham, to contemporary representatives of social and economic thought.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 173 Science and Public 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2010, Fall 2007

Science in public takes different shapes. It is defended as universal knowledge essential to human thriving. It is critiqued as a particular form of knowledge that does not take stock of the historical and social conditions imposing on its claims. It is dismissed or vilified as false or fake. How then does modern science relate to social and political values? Can and should scientific facts be independent of these values? In what ways are the sciences constitutive of modern publics and republics? Should publics decide not only on the value of scientific projects, but on the truth of scientific claims? Through historical and contemporary case-studies and analyses, this course seeks to approach, investigate and refine these questions.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for RHETOR 173 after completing RHETOR 173. A deficient grade in RHETOR 173 may be removed by taking RHETOR 173.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Zakariya

RHETOR 176 Rhetoric of Material Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2014, Fall 2010

Where did the first collections originate? Why did people begin to collect? How did--and do--museums and museum collections contribute to the definition of the cultural values/power of elite groups? How do we define ourselves--as citizens, as members of a discipline or tribe, as nations--with reference to collections? What values/ideologies structure the debates and conflicts over definition, meaning, and ownership of collections? These are questions we will try to answer in the class.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 10 or 20 and R1A-R1B sequence

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 182 Rhetorics of Sexual Exchange and Sexual Difference 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2020, Spring 2016

This course examines the centrality of sexual difference and sexual exchange to the structuring of societies, cultures, and political life. Possible topics include theories of desire and corporeality; the figure of woman as object of exchange in historical and contemporary contexts such as Sati, prostitution, surrogacy and IVF, and the global traffic in female labor; and an examination of how sexual difference functions as a blind-spot in theories of culture, society, and economy.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Formerly known as: 179

RHETOR 184 Language and Movement 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018

How does one become more aware of oneself as mover, doer, learner, knower? How does one learn? Does one learn to do things with language - to read, to write, even to think - in the same ways as one learns to move? In this class, we will consider these sorts of questions through experiences with and responses to very basic movement lessons and to academic readings, as well as through writing and discussion. The primary aim is for you to become more aware of the way you move and the way you use language and, through this awareness, to become more skilled at what you want to say and do.

Class meets 2 hours studio and 2 hours seminar per week.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar and 2 hours of studio per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

RHETOR 189 Special Topics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session

Group instruction and investigation of topics not accommodated in regular course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR 189A Special Topics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018

Group instruction and investigation of topics not accommodated in regular course offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

RHETOR H190A Honors Thesis 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2020

Independent study under guidance of a faculty director culminating in a written thesis. Required of all rhetoric majors desiring to earn the A.B. degree with honors.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior standing with a 3.7 GPA in rhetoric and 3.5 GPA overall

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. This is part one of a year long series course. A provisional grade of IP (in progress) will be applied and later replaced with the final grade after completing part two of the series. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: H190A

RHETOR H190B Honors Thesis 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2018

Independent study under guidance of a faculty director culminating in a written thesis. Required of all rhetoric majors desiring to earn the A.B. degree with honors.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior standing with a 3.7 GPA in Rhetoric and 3.5 GPA overall

Credit Restrictions: Students must take 2 units of H190A and 2 units of H190B.

Hours & Format

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. This is part two of a year long series course. Upon completion, the final grade will be applied to both parts of the series. Final exam not required.

RHETOR 197 Field Studies 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

Supervised field work in an off-campus organization or business.

Field work should be relevant to themes or topics covered in the undergraduate curriculum studied in the department. Additional meetings with faculty sponsor required. Weekly journals and a final paper also required.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-6 hours of fieldwork per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 6-18 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

RHETOR 198 Supervised Group Study 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Instruction for a small group of students on a topic initiated by those students.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Junior standing and approval of adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of directed group study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-3 hours of directed group study per week

8 weeks - 1-3 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

RHETOR 199 Supervised Independent Study 1 - 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Summer 2019 8 Week Session, Summer 2019

First 6 Week Session

For special projects that cannot be otherwise accommodated.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 3.0 GPA

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-3 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-3 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.