Rhetoric

The Department of Rhetoric offers an interdisciplinary PhD program focusing on the study of rhetorical theory and the interaction of the historical concerns of rhetoric with contemporary critical theory across a broad spectrum of disciplines. Crucial to the department's approach is an investigation into the rhetorical constitution of the arguments of such fields as law, politics, literature, philosophy, performative practices, global studies, critical race studies, and science, technology, and media studies. The interests of faculty and graduate students thus range throughout these fields and are informed by a critical interest in the rhetoric of disciplines. During their first two years, graduate students explore major areas in the history and theory of rhetoric and pursue a variety of special topics in seminars. Beginning in their fourth semester, they concentrate in greater depth on preparation for their doctoral qualifying examinations and dissertation research.

Admission to the University
Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. A complete list of graduate academic departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website (http://grad.berkeley.edu/programs/list/).

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application can be found on the Graduate Division website (http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor’s degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division’s Admissions Requirements page (https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (http://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/).

Curriculum

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Rhetoric

Expand all course descriptions [+]
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**RHETOR 200 Classical Rhetorical Theory and Practice 4 Units**

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

An introduction to the questions around which classical rhetorical theory and practice are organized. Through analysis of materials drawn principally from the Ancient Greek and Roman periods, possibly including later revivals of classical rhetoric, the course will examine the formation of rhetoric in the West as an intellectual stance from which to practice a range of related fields, including but not limited to philosophy, history, literature, politics, religion, law, science, and the arts.

**Classical Rhetorical Theory and Practice: Read More [+]**

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Graduate status

**Hours & Format**

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

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Rhetoric/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Classical Rhetorical Theory and Practice: Read Less [-]**

**RHETOR 205 Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Practice 4 Units**

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2020

An introduction to the questions around which contemporary rhetorical theory and practice are organized. Through an analysis of materials drawn mainly from the 18th century to the present, the course will examine rhetorical inquiry in relation to critique as well as the disciplinary construction of knowledge-domains. The course will attend to rhetoric in relation to a range of fields, including but not limited to philosophy, history, literature, politics, religion, law, science, and the arts.

**Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Practice: Read More [+]**

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Graduate status

**Hours & Format**

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

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Rhetoric/Graduate

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Practice: Read Less [-]**
RHETOR 220 Rhetoric Graduate Proseminar
2 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2019
What do we do when we do rhetoric? Seminar addresses methods, themes, and issues in the changing field of investigation known as rhetoric. Required for second year doctoral students in Rhetoric.
Rhetoric Graduate Proseminar: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Constable
Rhetoric Graduate Proseminar: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 221 Rhetoric Graduate Research Seminar 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2020
What are the possible forms of long-form (dissertation) research in the rhetoric department? Required for third-year doctoral students in Rhetoric.
Rhetoric Graduate Research Seminar: Read More [+]

Objectives & Outcomes
Course Objectives: To enable the formation of coherent dissertation projects.
Student Learning Outcomes: To have a draft of a prospectus at the end of the semester.

Rules & Requirements
Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for RHETOR 221 after completing RHETOR 221. A deficient grade in RHETOR 221 may be removed by taking RHETOR 221.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Boyarin
Rhetoric Graduate Research Seminar: Read Less [-]

RHETOR C221 Aesthetics as Critique 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2018, Spring 2015, Spring 2013, Spring 2011
A close reading and discussion of the major texts of modern aesthetics, from the 18th century to the present, with emphasis on the Continental tradition of Kant, Adorno, and Derrida.
Aesthetics as Critique: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Also listed as: COM LIT C221
Aesthetics as Critique: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 230 Rhetoric and History 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2018
This course investigates both the concept of history and the practice of historiography, using an engagement with the literal and metaphoric archives of the past to consider their empirical and philosophical claims on the present. While the methods, themes, and historical reach may vary, the course requires Rhetoric graduate students to investigate pre-1900 material in some form and to consider both the pragmatics of conducting historical inquiry and the interpretive frameworks that structure them.
Rhetoric and History: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate status
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Rhetoric and History: Read Less [-]
RHETOR 240D Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Nonfictional Prose 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2010, Spring 1999, Fall 1997
Advanced investigation of the rhetorical dimensions of various modes of discourse. Specific topics to be announced.
Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Nonfictional Prose: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate status
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 240E Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Political Discourse 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2011, Fall 2007, Spring 2006
Advanced investigation of the rhetorical dimensions of various modes of discourse. Specific topics to be announced.
Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Political Discourse: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate status
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 240F Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Legal Rhetoric and Philosophy 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2018, Spring 2017
Advanced investigation of the rhetorical dimensions of various modes of discourse. Specific topics to be announced.
Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Legal Rhetoric and Philosophy: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate status
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 240G Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Rhetorical Theory 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023
Advanced investigation of the rhetorical dimensions of various modes of discourse. Specific topics to be announced.
Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Rhetorical Theory: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate status
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
RHETOR 243 Special Topics in Film 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2014, Fall 2013, Fall 2012
A theoretical examination of a film topic which falls outside the purview of traditional categories of film analysis, such as "genre," "history," or "theory." Examples: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, The Essay Film, Feminist Film Practice, Cinema and the Phantasmagoria of History.
Special Topics in Film: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate standing
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Special Topics in Film: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 244 Special Topics in Rhetoric: Limited study 2 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2008
This course studies various modes of rhetorical discourse. Specific topics to be announced.
Special Topics in Rhetoric: Limited study: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 6 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Special Topics in Rhetoric: Limited study: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 250 Rhetoric of the Image 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Spring 2021
A study of the visual image as a mode of discourse, together with an analysis of the terms in which images have been interpreted and criticized. Focus may be on the rhetoric of a particular image or set of images, or on more broadly theoretical writings about image.
Rhetoric of the Image: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate standing and 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 seminar per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Rhetoric of the Image: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 295 Special Study 1 - 6 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2021, Summer 2018 3 Week Session, Summer 2017 3 Week Session
Open to qualified graduate students wishing to pursue special topics under the direction of a member of the staff.
Special Study: Read More [+]
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate adviser approval
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 6-34 hours of independent study per week
Summer: 8 weeks - 6-34 hours of independent study per week
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Special Study: Read Less [-]
RHETOR 299 Directed Research 1 - 12 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2016, Fall 2015
Open to graduate students who have passed their Ph.D. qualifying examinations.
Directed Research: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate adviser approval
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 - 1-12 hours of independent study per week 8 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Directed Research: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 302 The Art of Tutoring Writing 1 - 2 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2019
This is a required course for all undergraduates participating in the Art of Writing Departmental Tutoring program at UC Berkeley. This program supports students taking R&C in Comparative Literature, English, Film & Media, and Rhetoric. Upper-level majors with proven writing skills participate in discipline-specific composition and pedagogy workshops and in turn, provide one-on-one writing help to students taking R&C courses in participating departments. Tutoring is targeted and disciplinary-specific, responding to the parameters of R&C instruction and the challenges faced by R&C student writers in each department.
The Art of Tutoring Writing: Read More [+]

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

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0.5-1 hours of seminar and 2.5-5 hours of workshop per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

The Art of Tutoring Writing: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 375 Teaching Rhetoric 2 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2017, Fall 2015
Instruction in teaching argumentative writing and rhetorical analysis.
Teaching Rhetoric: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Appointment as teaching assistant
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.
Formerly known as: Rhetoric 300
Teaching Rhetoric: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 601 Individual Study for Master's Students 1 - 6 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015
Individual study for degree or language examinations in consultation with staff member.

Individual Study for Master's Students: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Graduate status
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

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate examination preparation
Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Master's Students: Read Less [-]
RHETOR 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 1 - 6 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2018, Spring 2016
Individual study in consultation with faculty director as preparation for degree examinations.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: Read Less [-]