

English 5388: History and Practice of Rhetoric Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Mark Sidey
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Office Hours: Via Zoom and by appointment
Section: 061—this is an asynchronous online class

Catalog Description

A study of selected primary texts by rhetoricians from the classical ages to the present and of recent scholarly theories and commentaries. Topics might include changing definitions and constructions of rhetoric, the Sophists, the relation between rhetoric and epistemology, and the role of rhetoric in the history and development of liberal education.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to

- Read, analyze, and discuss primary rhetorical theory texts
- Analyze and reflect on their theory of rhetoric
- Apply rhetorical theory to their teaching or other focal point

Textbooks

Bizzell, P., Herzberg, B., & Reames, R. (Eds.). (2020). *The rhetorical tradition: Readings from classical times to the present*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Abbreviated *TRT* in course documents.

Wu, H., & Graban, T. S. (2023). *Global rhetorical traditions*. Parlor Press. 978-1-64317-316-0.

Abbreviated *GRT* in course documents.

Course Grade

Component	Percent of Course Grade
Reflection on Rhetoric	10%
Discussion Board Posts	35%
Synthesis Matrix	15%
Paper	40%

Course Grade Scale

- A 90% to 100% of possible points
- B 80% to 89% of possible points
- C 70% to 79% of possible points
- D 60% to 69% of possible points
- F 0% to 59% of possible points

Minimum Requirement to Earn a C in the Class

To earn a C or above in the class, students must earn a C or above on all the grade components. A grade of D or F on the reflection on rhetoric, discussion board posts, synthesis matrix, or the paper will result in the grade for the class being no higher than a D.

Extra-Credit Work

There is no extra credit work in this course.

Submitting the Reflection, Paper, and Matrix

To be counted for a grade, drafts of the reflection and the paper have to be submitted as a Word document to the correct drop box in Canvas. The matrix can be submitted as a Word doc or as an Excel file. Do not zip your files or submit a PDF. Assignments that I cannot open will be graded a 0.

For a free copy of Microsoft Office, [click here](#).

Grade Components

Detailed information on the projects, including grading criteria, will be provided in documents in Canvas, announcements, and videos.

Projects

The Reflection on Rhetoric is an exploration of your theory of rhetoric before taking the class. Discussion board posts and the synthesis matrix cover the readings. The paper is an exploration of how theory from the readings impacts your theory of rhetoric.

Interruptions to Your Engagement

If you see that you will miss, or you do miss, a week or more of class work due to an illness or a significant life event, contact me ASAP. I will discuss the situation with you to determine if you can keep up with the class. Documentation may be required.

For relevant UTT policies, see the UTT policy on "[Class Attendance/Excused Absences](#)," and the [UTT policy on withdrawals](#) including "Medical Withdrawal/Course Load Reduction."

Class Communication

There are discussion board threads for questions on the class and for each assignment. If you have individual questions, send me a Canvas message or email to set a time to meet via Zoom.

Announcements in Canvas

I will use announcements in Canvas to communicate essential information. It is your responsibility to read and utilize the information in announcements.

For a tutorial on announcements, [click here](#). To manage notifications, click on "Canvas notifications" in the blue box at the top of the page. For help in resetting notifications, click on the help button on the left-hand side of your UTT Canvas home page (the question mark in a circle) and call the "Canvas Support Hotline (Students)."

Contacting Me

To contact me, use Canvas messenger or UTT email. Per the [UTT Email Policy](#), I will not reply to emails sent from non-UTT email addresses.

Canvas messages and emails should provide a succinct overview of the topic and should have complete sentences and reasonably correct grammar. In the subject line list the class (ENGL-5388), your name, and a topic.

The last day and time for Zoom conferences is noon Friday December 1st.

Academic Dishonesty & Disruptive Behavior

This class has a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in immediate failure of the entire course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention. For the UTT definition of “academic dishonesty,” see “University Policies and Information” in the UT Tyler Syllabus module.

See “Academic Integrity Expectations” (in Canvas) for additional information on academic dishonesty.

Disruptive behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention and may result in failing the class and/or University sanctions. For the UTT definition of “disruptive behavior,” see “University Policies and Information” in the UT Tyler Syllabus module.

Using Work from Other Classes

From the UTT Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs Chapter 8. Student Conduct and Discipline:

Sec. 8-802. Academic Dishonesty

b. "Academic Dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable, in whole or in part, to another person without giving sufficient credit, taking an examination for another person, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to: **submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor**, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. (Emphasis added)

Before you draw on research, written work, or any other work from another class for any assignment in this class, consult with me.

Syllabus Changes

Per the UTT Syllabus Policy: “The information contained in the syllabus, other than the grading criteria and absence and make-up policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students.”

Required UT Tyler Policies & Information

See “University Policies and Information” in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.