

Writing 105R: Rhetoric and Writing

Prerequisites: Writing 2 or 2E or 2LK; upper-division standing.

Catalog Description: Engages students in understanding the histories, theories, and practices of rhetoric. Students analyze key works and apply rhetorical strategies in written texts and presentations.

Course Description: Rhetoric is both an ancient practice and a rich, contemporary field of research. This course focuses on exploring histories of rhetoric—including traditional as well as historically marginalized and emerging rhetorical canons—as well how and why people make arguments in written, oral, and visual modes. The course covers key rhetorical terms and concepts, such as *ethos*, *logos*, *pathos*, *enthymeme*, *exigence*, *metis*, and *kairos*. It also examines important figures and debates in the history of rhetoric, from the field's classical origins to the diverse, global rhetorics of present discourse. Students learn to identify rhetorical concepts and apply them to historical and contemporary situations, texts, spaces, and artifacts, including topics as varied as Sophistic oratory, Abolitionist debates, Super Bowl ads, and modern day political speeches. Rhetoric, as it is defined in the field of rhetoric and composition, is everywhere at every moment of the day. This course examines the historical emergence of rhetoric as a field, as well as the uses, power, and the application of rhetoric in our local and global communities. Students also have opportunities to build rhetorical acumen by deploying rhetorical strategies in presentations and persuasive writing assignments.

Curricular Premises: Writing 105R offers upper-division students instruction and practice in recognizing, analyzing, and applying the diverse modes of rhetorical analysis and rhetorical acts. While the particular focus of this course is on rhetorical history, theory, and practice, this course also deals with the core elements of effective writing and argumentation in general. Writing 105R emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of rhetoric and writing; and it fulfills a core mission of undergraduate education in directing students' attention to the importance of careful use of writing and composition in service of broad rhetorical goals. In addition, Writing 105R is uniquely positioned to aid students in engaging in writing as a form of civic engagement in which students' diverse rhetorical choices can have lasting effects upon communities.

Course Requirements:

Texts: Texts include selections from a broad range of rhetorical histories and theoretical standpoints, including works from the classical rhetorical canon as well as works representing historically marginalized rhetorical perspectives and emerging rhetorical debates. Students are also frequently presented with visual texts and sample persuasive materials.

Assignments: This course typically includes assignments that 1) assess and discuss theories from reading materials, 2) analyze texts through the lenses of various rhetorical theories, 3) reflect upon the processes and the implications of rhetorical acts, and (4) practice rhetorical strategies in writing assignments and oral presentations. Many sections of Writing 105R include assignments in which students compose multiple drafts of texts that apply the rhetorical principles learned in class into civic or community-based projects.

Outcomes:

- analyze texts using a variety of rhetorical theories
- learn to apply a range of rhetorical concepts to compose effective texts in either written, oral, or electronic form
- produce writing that makes use of rhetorical concepts and terms to understand writing contexts
- apply strategies for studying how writing is produced, consumed, and circulated in different contexts
- use evidence to support theories, arguments, or explorations in written, oral, and electronic discourse
- refine and develop a clear, concise, and mature style of writing, building acumen by applying rhetorical strategies and structures
- tailor writing to meet the expectations of academic, professional, and/or specialized audiences