

*Rhetoric is the art of ruling the minds of men. Plato*

## **Rhetoric III**

2017-2018

Mr. Tew / Mr. Wortman

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### Course Description:

This year the primary focus of Rhetoric will be to develop students' abilities in the area of a thesis- an argument- and present and defend a thesis through writing, speaking, and film. We will further explore the various elements of Rhetoric including the Common Topics, the Six Parts of Discourse, the Three Species of Rhetoric, the Modes of Persuasion, and the Five Canons of Rhetoric. All of these will provide you, the student, with an in-depth study of the writing and speaking processes as well as a limited study of formal grammar along the way. The junior thesis project will be worked on throughout the first semester. During the second semester students will create a documentary film utilizing such elements as interviews, storyboards, and scripts.

### Course Objectives:

In this course, students will develop their ability to

- apply concepts of classical rhetoric to analyze contemporary discourse
- create and defend a thesis through a variety of mediums

By the end of the course, students will have developed their sensitivity to the power and persuasiveness in others' discourse and will become more empowered and persuasive in their own no matter the medium.

### Primary Sources:

*Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student* (Fourth Edition)

Edward P.J. Corbett and Robert J. Connors

*Stories Worth Telling: A Guide to Creating Student-led Documentaries*

Mary Palmer and Perry Lee

*Visual Storytelling: The Digital Video Documentary*

Nancy Kalow

*Rhetoric is the ability to discover in each particular case all the available means of persuasion. Aristotle*

Grading:

There will be a number of written assignments each quarter of varying lengths. Late assignments will be penalized 11% per day. Speeches may also make up a portion of the grade. *Please note that any technical difficulties must be brought to your teacher's attention at least 24 hours prior to the assignment's due date or it will be counted as late and penalized accordingly.*

Assignments:

As Rhetoric meets only two days per week, it is *imperative* that students turn in work on time and follow directions. Failure to do so may result in a lower grade. Late work will receive only partial credit, at best.

Classroom Decorum:

Please follow diligently the expectations set forth in class. Participation in class is strongly encouraged and should be respectful \*A note on **plagiarism**: misrepresenting another's work as your own will not be tolerated. Such actions by a student will almost certainly result in a zero on the assignment, a detention, and possibly other consequences as deemed necessary by the teacher and school. (This is covered more in-depth in the Thesis Handbook)

Course Schedule: (this schedule is approximate in nature and should not be considered the "final word")

Semester I:

First Quarter:

Examination into the question: *What is Rhetoric?*

*Logos and Lexis* (Substance and Form): What is effective communication? Various Advertisements

Three Modes of Persuasion:

How do these impact our speaking/ writing?

*I write for the same reason I breathe; because if I didn't, I would die.* Isaac Asimov

Review the Writing Process

The Process of Invention

The Common Topics

What makes a topic worthy of exploration?

Review the five-paragraph essay and six parts of discourse

Second Quarter:

The five canons of Rhetoric

The processes of Arrangement

Moving from Topic to Relevant Questions to Thesis

ANI Chart- organization of information and refutation

Thesis (rough and final drafts)

Thesis Presentation (\*for a more detailed list of assignments and due dates, consult the Thesis Handbook)

*Whoever does not study rhetoric will be a victim of it*  
Ancient Greek wall inscription

Semester II:

Documentary Filmmaking-

What is a documentary film?

Rhetoric and film

Finding stories worth telling

Basics of photography

Interview skills

Scriptwriting

Storyboards

Sensitive Material:

Any mature content/themes that might arise in course readings/viewings will be addressed delicately and always from the conviction that parents are the primary and God-given authority through which such themes should be discussed.