

*Rhetoric holds entire dominion over all verbal pursuits. Logic, dialectic, grammar, philosophy, history, poetry- **all** are rhetoric.*

Wayne Booth, The Vocation of a Teacher

Rhetoric I

“The Art of Sound Thinking and Writing”

2017 - 2018

Mr. T. Wortman

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Course Description:

The primary focus of this class will be to explore the practical application of Logic to the art of Rhetoric- to the writing and speaking processes. There will also be a review of the persuasive essay structure. It is the hope that this class will be a large step forward to a keen understanding of wisdom and eloquence.

Grading and Assignments:

There will be a number of small writing assignments and quizzes throughout each quarter as well as one essay assigned each quarter. A number of speeches will be delivered later in the second semester. The essays will be worth more than smaller writing assignments and quizzes but not substantially more. Late writing assignments will be penalized 11% per day. **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.*

What is above all needed is to let the meaning choose the word, and not the other way around. In prose, the worst thing one can do with words is surrender to them.

George Orwell, "Politics and the English Language"

Classroom Decorum:

Please follow diligently the expectations set forth in this class. Class participation is both expected and vital in this class and should be respectful above all else. *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 deemed necessary by the administration.

Class Overview: (this overview is approximate in nature and should not be considered the "final word")

First Quarter:

review the persuasive essay; preview deduction and induction as essay structure; review prewriting strategies; preview logic and its relation to the rhetorical process

Second Quarter:

an in-depth look at both Deduction (syllogisms and enthymemes) and Induction (examples and rhetorical questions); examine the Rhetorical elements of Invention and Arrangement; a general overview of the basics of public speaking

Third Quarter:

formal examination of the Rhetorical movement from Topic to Stasis to Thesis to Argument; practice correcting bad arguments; explore the three modes of persuasion- Logos, Ethos, and Pathos; a preview of public speaking and nonverbal communication (gestures, posture, eye contact, volume and pace, etc.)

Fourth Quarter:

create an argument and present and defend that argument within a medium of your choosing (eg, photography, art, video, short film, etc)