

St Jerome's University
ENGL 309A: Classical to Enlightenment Rhetoric
Wednesdays 6:30–9:20pm Winter 2019

Contact Info:

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Course description (from the calendar):

A study of rhetorical theories and practices from late antiquity and the medieval, Renaissance, and Enlightenment periods, with an emphasis on how those theories and practices reflect changing attitudes towards language, society, and the self.

Course overview and objectives:

This course offers an introduction to rhetorical theory in the premodern period, primarily through Augustine's sophisticated theory of language and the inner word. It also traces changes in the understanding of what language is and how it works as part of the passage to modernity. Reference is made to contemporary philosophical hermeneutics as well, in a bid to show the enduring relevance of ancient wisdom and now unfashionable ways of thinking about the very nature of reality.

Required texts:

Augustine, *On the Trinity*, trans. Stephen McKenna (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2002).
Louis Dupré, *Passage to Modernity: An Essay in the Hermeneutics of Nature and Culture* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1993).
Josef Pieper, *The Silence of St Thomas* (South Bend: St Augustine's Press, 1999).

Course requirements:

Various dates: Journals (2x10%)	(20%)
27 Feb: Mid-term/In-class essay	(25%)
3 April: Second Test	(20%)
3 April: Optional Essay Outline*	(5%–10%)
10 April: Essay	(25%-Outline%*)
Ongoing: Participation	(10%)

Email correspondence:

By all means feel free to contact me regarding any aspect of the course.

*See notes below.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Week One (9 January): Introduction: Our Problem; Ontology and Language 1

Readings:

Norton, from “External Form,” 1045–46 (LEARN)

William Barrett, from *Irrational Man*, 3–5 (LEARN)

Terry Eagleton, from *After Theory*, 14–15 (LEARN)

Richard Kearney, from *On Stories*, 12–13 (LEARN)

Hans Boersma, from *Heavenly Participation*, 21–24 (LEARN)

Rowan Williams, from *Grace and Necessity*, 28–31 (LEARN)

Week Two (16 January): Ontology and Language 2

Readings:

Louis Dupré, *Passage to Modernity*, “Introduction,” 1–5 (right to the bottom)

Malcolm Guite, “Owen Barfield: Knowledge, Poetry, and
Consciousness” (Lecture at the Temenos Academy (1:05 hrs) (LEARN)

Augustine, *On the Trinity*, Bks 8–9

Week Three (23 January): The Classical Background 1

Readings:

Dupré, 15–29

Gregory Rocca, “Analogy in Aristotle,” 77–89, esp. 81–84 (LEARN)

Augustine, Bks 10–11

Week Four (30 January): The Classical Background 2

Readings:

H-G Gadamer, *Truth and Method*, 405–18, esp. 405–7, 412–13, 416–18 (LEARN)

Augustine, Bks 12–13

Week Five (6 February): The Inner Word 1

Readings:

Jens Zimmermann, *Recovering Theological Hermeneutics*, 169–73 (LEARN)

R.A. Markus, “St. Augustine on Signs,” 67–85 (LEARN)

Augustine, Bks 14–15 (esp. 15.10.19–15.11.20)

Week Six (13 February): The Inner Word 2

Readings:

Dupré, 29–41
Gadamer, 426–38 (LEARN)
Zimmermann, 173–75

READING WEEK

Week Seven: (27 February)

Mid-term/In-class Essay

Week Eight (5 March): Passage to Modernity 1

Readings:

Dupré, 42–50

Pieper, 17–28

Week Nine (12 March): Passage to Modernity 2

Readings:

Dupré, 65–90

Pieper, 28–38

Week Ten (19 March): Passage to Modernity 3

Readings:

Dupré, 102–12

Pieper, 45–53

Week Eleven (26 March): A Provisional Synthesis

Readings:

Dupré, 167–81; 221–30, 237–48

Pieper, 53–71

Week Twelve (2 April)

Test

The Journal Entries:

These are due before the reading in question is taken up, usually after the break. Respond to the reading from Augustine by analyzing some aspect of his rhetorical strategy. Keep the entry *short* (generally no longer than a page, handwritten). Have fun with them. Journal entries will be marked on a modified pass/fail basis (i.e. A/B/NMR). I'll record your best two. *N.B. There are four readings to which one can respond.*

The Mid-term:

The mid-term will test your understanding of the material covered to date. It *may* consist of a single question along the lines of the following: Compare and contrast Augustine's theory of language with that of the Greeks, especially Plato.

The Second Test:

The second test will focus on the second half of the course, though it may include questions (eg comparison/contrast) that draw on your familiarity with material covered earlier.

The Essay Outline (optional):

You are encouraged to submit, on the night of the second test, an essay outline including a clear thesis statement, major and minor premise, and skeleton of the essay's structure. If the outline is sufficiently detailed, and it is to your advantage, I will give the outline a mark out of ten. Otherwise, I will give it a mark out of five. I will contact you asap before the essay due date *if I think there are serious issues with the proposed plan.*

The Essay (1500-2000 wds):

Write an essay on the literary work or cultural artefact of your choice, deploying select critical vocabulary from the readings. Emphasis should be on the application of the terminology and habits of thought to engage in critical analysis of the work *rather than a critique of the theory itself.* Marks will be given for consistency and depth of engagement, for the level of believability or demonstrated commitment to the approach taken (limited to the confines of the essay itself, of course), as well as clarity and strength of thesis and, within the parameters of the theory, argumentation.

Cite your sources in appropriate MLA or Chicago format.

Paper submission and late policy:

Papers should be submitted electronically, with the file named in the form 19BobS. Late papers are subject to a 2% per day penalty and will not necessarily receive comments. Papers will be returned electronically.

UW Policy Regarding Illness and Missed Tests:

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations (www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf) state that:

- A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the "University of Waterloo Verification of Illness" form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html.

- If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.
- The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.
- Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

Official statements on other relevant University of Waterloo policies:

“Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing academic offenses and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm>.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>.

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.”