

Overview of Course and Objectives:

This course provides a foundation for the humanistic study of communication. The class will study the development of rhetoric from its origins in Ancient Greece, to its more contemporary uses right now in narrative, dramatic, musical, feminist, political, visual, and new media contexts. Students will specifically: (1) Study the major theories and principles of rhetoric, (2) Be introduced to a range of perspectives about the public sphere and be able to identify significant features of these constructs, and (3) Practice rhetorical criticism based on contemporary political events and popular culture.

Loyola IDEA Objectives:

- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
- Developing skill in expressing myself orally or in writing.

Textbooks/ Course Materials:

Palczewski, C.H., Ice, R. & Fritch J. (2016). *Rhetoric in Civic Life*. Strata Publishing. (required)

Sellnow, D. (2017). *The Rhetorical Power of Popular Culture: Considering Mediated Texts*. Sage Publications. (required)

Other course readings will be made available on Sakai or in class as appropriate.

Asynchronous Instruction:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this Fall and to reduce any schedule conflicts with students, my Communication 220: Introduction to Rhetoric course will be offered online 'asynchronously'. There will be no dedicated meeting times like normal course schedules, and I will be pre-recording lectures and administering online learning through Sakai, etc. When I post lectures and slides for each of the semester weeks, I will notify you through a Sakai online announcement that you will receive over e-mail as well. For more information on 'asynchronous' courses, see: <https://www.luc.edu/academiccontinuity/lecturecourses/>

Participation:

Student participation will be primarily assessed through Sakai weekly reflections on the assigned reading materials and online discussion. Failure to complete weekly reflections will result in a "Fail" for this class. Discussion and debate are ways of assuring your understanding and adding valuable perspectives to a topic.

Deadlines are firm. Points will be taken off if your work is late. Written assignments must be submitted on **Sakai** on the date indicated on the syllabus (unless adjusted by prior agreement

with me). Weekly reading reflections (refer to guiding questions below) are to be submitted on Sakai by **Friday at 10pm** for each upcoming week's readings. Weekly reading reflections start the first Friday of the semester and you will be required to submit reflections for readings for week 2. Each Friday thereafter submit reflections for readings for subsequent weeks.

Assignments and Points:

Written assignment instructions and exam guides will be posted on Sakai and the instructor will notify students when this is posted and discuss assignments in class.

- A. Weekly reading reflections (Posted to Sakai) 65 points
- B. Midterm Exam (Online) 50 points
- C. 2020 Presidential Debate Rhetorical Analysis (2-3 pages) 30 points

You will compare the Republican and Democratic candidates in the upcoming presidential debates based on the Neo-Aristotelian approach.

- D. Visual Rhetorical Analysis Paper of a Film about Chicago (5-7 pages) 75 points

A list of possible films to select from is at the end of the syllabus. Students can select a film not on the list with prior approval from me. Please select a film that you can access either by Loyola library (Canopy streaming service), City of Chicago library, or by your own means. One film will be assigned to each student and the first student to notify me about their film preference will be assigned the film for their paper. Students will be expected to watch the film outside of class time.

- E. Final Exam (Online) 50 points

Total 270 points

You must complete ALL of these assignments in order to pass the class. Failure to complete ONE OR MORE of them will result in an F in the class. **No Extra Credit will be assigned to make up any assignments you have missed.**

Sakai Reading reflections guide:

2 paragraphs maximum and uploaded on the Sakai forum under each numbered reading week. Each reflection should respond to the following questions: **a)** What resonated with you the most from the readings and why? **b)** Apply a concept you read from the readings to something that has happened in your everyday life or an observation you have made of current society.

Papers' general format:

Presidential inauguration speech comparison papers and visual rhetorical film analysis paper format guidelines: 12-point font, Times New Roman, Double-Spaced, 1-inch margins, page numbers and student name. APA or MLA citation. Keep to the page requirements and do not go over.

Grading Policy:

Scale: A=93%+ A-=90+ B+=88+ B=84+ B-=80+ C+=77+ C=74+ C-=70+ D+=67+ D=64+ D-=60+ F=59-

'A' work signifies excellence in both design and implementation of work. This material can be considered outstanding and should be understood as far superior to the average effort. Simply completing the assignment prompt does not automatically constitute A quality work.

'B' work signifies above average work. Strong effort is involved and visible through clear organizational planning and attention to detail.

'C' work signifies average and adequate work. This grade is earned when material completes the minimum threshold of an assignment, even though conceptual, organizational or writing problems may exist.

'D' work signifies below average work. This is usually the product of either a substantial problem adhering to the nature of the assignment or a substantially problematic effort.

'F' work signifies an unacceptable level of work. This is usually the product of an incomplete assignment or a fundamental failure to engage the nature of the assignment.

In-Class Technology Rules:

Personal computers and wireless Internet are a key part of today's technological culture, but they also can distract you from the class discussion and dampen participation. You may bring your laptops to class for note-taking, but please refrain from browsing the internet, updating your Facebook profile, playing games, instant messaging, shopping, etc. Although you may think you are being discreet, 90% of the time students engaging in such behavior give themselves away (through inappropriate facial expressions, lack of eye contact, out of sync typing, etc.). Use of computer in the classroom is a privilege. If you abuse this privilege, you will be marked absent for that class period and laptops may be banned from the classroom.

Loyola University Chicago on Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Loyola University Chicago, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Please refer to the standards in this link:

https://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml

Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a learning disability that needs special accommodation during exams or class periods should provide documentation from Services for Students with Disabilities confidentiality to the instructor. The instructor will accommodate that student's needs in the best way possible, given the constraints of course content and processes. It is the student's responsibility to plan in advance in order to meet their own needs and assignment due dates.

This syllabus and the course schedule is subject to change by the instructor.

Week 1 August 24: Introduction

8/24: Introduction and Review of Syllabus

Palczewski, Ice, and Fritch, Ch. 1

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 2 readings.

Week 2 August 31: Expanding the Rhetorical Tradition

Sellnow, Ch. 2

Foss and Griffin. *Beyond Persuasion* (Sakai)

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 3 readings.

Week 3 September 7: Rhetor and Presidential Inauguration Assignment

Palczewski, Ice, and Fritch, Ch. 6

Discuss the Presidential Candidate Debate Comparative Assignment. The first presidential debate will take place on Tuesday, 9/29 and your paper assignment will be due on Tuesday, 10/6.

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 4 readings.

Week 4 September 14: Audiences and the Rhetorical Situation

Palczewski, Ice, and Fritch, Ch. 7 and 8

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 5 readings.

Week 5 September 21: The Narrative Perspective

Palczewski, Ice, and Fritch, Ch. 5

Sellnow, Ch. 3

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 6 readings.

Week 6 September 28: The Dramatistic Perspective

9/29: Watch Presidential Candidate Debate Online.

Sellnow, Ch. 4

Burke, *A Rhetoric of Motives*. (Sakai)

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 7 readings.

Week 7 October 5: Neo-Marxist Perspective

10/6: Presidential Candidate Debate Paper due on Sakai.

Sellnow, Ch. 6

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 8 readings.

10/9: Midterm Guide Posted.

Week 8 October 12: Urban Rhetoric

10/14: Online Midterm on Sakai (left open to take between 9am-5pm)

Gallagher, Zagacki, and Martin. *Communicative Spaces and Rhetorical Enactments*.

(Sakai)

Bennet. *The Rebirth of Bronzeville*. (Sakai)

Discuss Chicago Film Visual Rhetorical Analysis due 11/25.

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 9 readings.

Week 9 October 19: The Feminist Perspective

Sellnow, Ch. 7.

Review “Feministing” website: www.feministing.com

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 10 readings.

Week 10 October 26: Pop Culture and Music Centered Perspective

Sellnow Ch. 1 and 8

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 11 readings.

Week 11 November 2: Media-Centered Perspective

November 3: Voting Day, GO VOTE OR SUBMIT MAIL-IN BALLOT! See League of Women Voters Chicago page for information on how to vote:

<https://my.lwv.org/illinois/chicago/voting/presidential-election-november-3-2020>

Sellnow, Ch. 10.

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 12 readings.

Week 12 November 9: Visual Perspective

Palczewski, Ice, and Fritch, Ch. 3

Sellnow, Ch. 9

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 13 readings.

Week 13 November 16: The Public Sphere

Palczewski, Ice, and Fritch, Ch. 9

Papacharissi, *The Internet as Public Sphere*. (Sakai)

Friday, submit reading reflection for Week 14 readings.

Week 14 November 23: Argument

Palczewski, Ice, and Fritch, Ch. 4

11/25: Visual Rhetorical Analysis of Chicago Film Due

Week 15 November 30: Connecting the Dots and Final Exam Guide

Final Exam Tuesday, 12/8, 1-3pm

The final exam will be administered on Sakai and it will correspond with Loyola’s final exam schedule for Fall 2020. The 2-hour slot will be the only time the final exam will be online, so make sure you schedule your semester plans around the final exam week schedule laid out here: https://www.luc.edu/academics/schedules/spring/exam_schedule.shtml

Films about Chicago (One per student—First-come, first-serve basis).

1. Blues Brothers (1980)
2. High Fidelity (2000)
3. Drinking Buddies (2013)
4. Return to Me (2000)
5. The Untouchables (1987)
6. The Weather Man (2005)
7. About Last Night (1986)
8. The Fugitive (1993)
9. Hoop Dreams (1994)
10. The Interrupters (2011)
11. My Bodyguard (1980)
12. Chicago Cab--aka Hellcab (1997)
13. The Break-Up (2006)
14. Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)
15. Life Itself (2014)
16. Love Jones (1997)
17. Soul Food (1997)
18. Barbershop (2002)
19. Road to Perdition (2002)
20. Public Enemies (2009)
21. Chi-raq (2015)
22. Barbershop 3 (2015)
23. Southside with You (2016)
24. Jim Shoe (2016)
25. Imperfections (2016)
26. The Big Sick (2017)
27. Don't Think Twice (2016)
28. Win It All (2017)
29. Office Christmas Party (2016)
30. Bad Santa 2 (2016)
31. Candyman (1992)
32. Rampage (2017)
33. Home Alone (1990)
34. Backdraft (1990)
35. Deathwish (2016)
36. Widows (2018)
37. Beats (2019)