COM 414.600: Rhetorical and Cultural Criticism
Spring 2020: Online

Instructor: Dr. Linda Levitt
Office: Vera Dugas Liberal Arts North 415
Office hours: M 12-1 and 4-5, T 11-3, W 11-1, and by appointment
E-mail: levittlb@sfasu.edu and via D2L Brightspace
Phone: 936/468-1236

Course Description (from Undergraduate Bulletin): This course is designed to provide advanced study of the writings of principal rhetoricians from ancient to modern times, together with the application of principles drawn from these works in critical analysis.

Course Materials:

Objectives: After completing this course, students should be able to:
● develop an understanding of theoretical principles of rhetorical criticism.
● make practical application of the rhetorical theories.
● learn different barriers of effective rhetorical theory and criticism.
● understand the roles played by perception of bias, adaptation to change, and belief systems in the practice of effective rhetorical theory and criticism.

Program Learning Outcomes
● Students majoring in Communication Studies should display comprehension of major communication theories.
● Students majoring in Communication Studies will apply the major theories in the field to communicate effectively in a variety of settings.
● Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to use and demonstrate understanding of appropriate methodology in critical, humanistic, or social scientific paradigms in examining research questions in communication.
● Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to recognize the central role of diversity and freedom of expression in a global community.
● Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the constitutive nature of communication which includes forces that enable and constrain communication such as technology, ethics, and organizational life.
● Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate oral and written competence in logical and critical thinking.

Academic Integrity: Students in this class are expected to read and abide by the university policy on academic integrity. If a student is found in violation of this policy, he/she will be subject to receiving a failing grade for this course, and the violation will be reported to the proper university authorities.

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or
another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Evaluation: You may earn up to a total of 500 points in this course based on the following assignments. More detailed information will be included in course modules going forward.

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module activities: 10 @ 10 points each</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four discussion board posts @ 25 points each</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two rhetorical analyses @ 50 points each</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critique of classmates' rhetorical analysis</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised rhetorical analysis</td>
<td>150</td>
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Course grades will be determined as follows

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>A 500-450</td>
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<td>B 449-400</td>
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<td>C 399-350</td>
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<td>D 349-300</td>
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<td>F 299 points or fewer</td>
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Module activities
You will have a short activity to complete for each of our ten modules. Activities will include things like watching a video and commenting on it, reading an article and providing a comment, finding and briefly discussing media content related to the module, or answering a question that requires you to think more deeply about module content.

Discussion Boards
You will have four discussion board post assignments during this course. Each assignment is worth a total of 25 points. Your individual post is worth 20 points. You will also respond to a classmate’s post for a total of five points. All posts must be substantive and demonstrate to me that you have read your assignments. Your response to a classmate’s post will not earn any points if you simply state “I totally agree with you on that point” or “I feel that your post was really good.” The discussion boards will be posted in D2L Brightspace.

Rhetorical analyses
You will write two papers in which you will apply the theories discussed in the course to analyze media texts. Toward the end of the semester, you will share one of your papers with two classmates who will comments on and critique your paper. Your final course project will be a revision of that analysis based on feedback from me and your classmates.

Course Policies
● Disrespectful speech and behavior will not be tolerated.
● Your chance to earn your grade ends when the semester ends.
● Due to department budget, long distance calls will not be returned. If you don’t have a local contact number, contact me via e-mail or in person.
● You are expected to complete all class activities and assigned reading.
● Late work will only be accepted at the instructor's discretion.