

**OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**  
**COURSE APPROVAL FORM**  
**NEW COURSE**



College: CAHS Prefix/Subject Code: CM Course Number: 409

Banner Title: Contemporary Rhetorical Theory Credit Hours: 3 First Offered: Fall 2017  
(32 Characters)

Full Course Name: Contemporary Rhetorical Theory

Instructional Method:  Online  Hybrid  Classroom

Prerequisites: CM 113

Min. Grade: D

Co-requisites: \_\_\_\_\_

Prerequisites with Concurrency: \_\_\_\_\_

Restrictions: Sophomore standing

*Class, Level, Department, Program, College, etc.*

Grading System:  A-F  S-U

Cross-listed: CM 509

*Cross-listed courses must provide both graduate and undergraduate syllabi.*

Catalog Description: (300 Characters)

This course surveys contemporary rhetorical thought, including modern and postmodern theories. The course requires rigorous academic analysis and critique as students explore historical and current rhetorical concepts.

Does this course involve multiple academic units in the originating college? Yes  No   
*If so, the chair of each academic unit must sign this form.*

Is this course to be added to Charger Foundations? Yes  No   
*If so, the Charger Foundations committee must review this form.*

Does this course involve academic units external to the originating college? Yes  No   
*If so, deans of all colleges involved must sign this form.*

Is this a Laboratory course (stand alone or combined)? Yes  No   
*If yes, indicate the number of credit hours for the lab and the number of contact hours.*

Lab Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Credit Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate the type of course and hours.

<input type="checkbox"/> Studio Course	Studio Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Course	Clinical Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Internship	Internship Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Study Abroad	Abroad Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture	Lecture Hours: <u>3</u>	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: <u>3</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Research	Research Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Topics	Special Topics Hrs: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation	Dissertation Hrs: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Thesis	Thesis Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Op	Co-Op Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensemble	Ensemble Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Validation	Validation Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recitation	Recitation Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____

Compare with existing catalog offerings, with justification if apparent overlap:

The department is dividing History of Rhetorical Theory (CM 309), which currently covers 2,500 years, into two parts---classical and contemporary---in order to provide students with the opportunity to more effectively engage with course material

Discuss demonstrated value of course. Please justify why this new course is needed.

Contemporary rhetorical theory is a standard course in communication departments with an emphasis in rhetoric. This course will introduce CM majors and WRT majors to the most recent developments in thinking about rhetorical theory, including figures such as I.A. Richards, Kenneth Burke, Richard Weaver, Foucault, Habermas, and others.

Will this course be required? Explain.

All CM majors must take a theory class; all WRT majors must take this or CM 408.

Is this course part of a program core? Explain.

Yes.

Is this course part of a new major or minor? Explain.

No.

Textbooks: Contemporary Perspectives on Rhetoric; The Rhetorical Tradition

Intended Instructors: Clarke Rountree

Implications for faculty workload: This is a part of a regular workload, not additional.

Implications for facilities: Any classroom will do.

*A detailed syllabus must be attached giving an overview of topics covered, course goals and structure, grading system, and policies.*

Department Chair: Clarke Rountree Digitally signed by Clarke Rountree  
Date: 2017.02.01 14:37:43 -06'00' Grad. Council: \_\_\_\_\_

College Dean:  Graduate Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

College Curriculum Committee:  Undergrad Curriculum Cmte: \_\_\_\_\_

Charger Foundations: \_\_\_\_\_ Provost: \_\_\_\_\_

*Acknowledgements from other units:*  
Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ College Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contemporary Rhetorical Theory

CM 409

Day and Time

Course Syllabus: Spring 2016

3 credit hours

MOR XXX

Dr. Diana C. Bell

Morton Hall 243

Telephone: 824-2122 E-mail: [diana.bell@uah.edu](mailto:diana.bell@uah.edu) (best to reach through email)

Office Hours: XXXX

**Required Textbook:** *Contemporary Perspectives on Rhetoric: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition* by Foss, Foss, and Trapp (2014).

**Optional Textbook:** *The Rhetorical Tradition: Readings from Classical Times to the Present* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Bizzell and Herzberg (2001).

### Course Description:

This course serves as a survey of contemporary rhetorical thought, including modern and postmodern concepts. Students will participate in rigorous academic discussion and analysis of required readings and assignments. The instructor will provide students with the opportunity to explore various forms and manifestations of rhetorical theory while at the same time create an environment that encourages academic interrogation and critique. As with most college courses, plan to spend 2-3 hours out of class for every hour spent in class. That means that a three hour course will require an additional 6-9 hours per week in out of class preparation.

As the course unfolds, students have responsibilities to fulfill in order to successfully complete the course. Students will:

- attend all class sessions punctually
- read, understand and follow instructions given in the course syllabus
- complete reading and writing assignments
- take notes during class sessions
- work collaboratively with other students
- submit assignments on time
- complete work without cheating or plagiarizing
- actively participate in class
- continually evaluate progress

### Course Objectives:

- to understand rhetoric as way of knowing and communicating that knowledge to others
- to become acquainted with important contemporary rhetorical works and authors
- to identify major rhetorical genres and demonstrate understanding of elements significant to analyzing and evaluating them
- to define rhetorical terms and use them in oral and written analysis

### Course Requirements:

1. **10% Preparedness and Participation:** This area of evaluation includes class discussion, attendance, homework, quizzes, and in-class assignments. Your participation grade relies heavily on active class participation throughout the semester.
2. **60% Examinations:** These essay exams will afford you an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of course materials.
3. **30% Final Project and Presentation:** The final project puts students in the position of applying the rhetorical concepts discussed this semester. Students will find a "real

world” application of a particular theory or school of thought studied this semester and prepare a formal presentation demonstrating understanding of the concept and how that concept is used in their particular paradigm.

**Grading:**

Grades for this class are calculated as follows:

A+ = 100 pts.	C+ = 78 pts.
A = 95 pts.	C = 75 pts.
A- = 90 pts.	C- = 70 pts.
B+ = 88 pts.	D+ = 68 pts.
B = 85 pts.	D = 65 pts.
B- = 80 pts.	D- = 60 pts.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance and participation is regarded as an obligation as well as a privilege and all students are expected to attend regularly and punctually as well as actively participate in all class activities. Missing more than four classes (2 weeks in a 14 week semester) inhibits your ability to fulfill your responsibility as a member of this learning community and, as such, will result in failure for the course. Note that two instances of tardiness or partial class attendance counts as one absence. There are no excused or unexcused absences in this class. If you have a scheduling conflict that will mean repeated tardiness or absences, you may wish to consider dropping the course. If crises or illness requires you to miss class sessions, it is customary to contact the teacher prior to or during the absence (email address above). Note that failure to attend does not constitute withdrawal from a class. Students who are absent must submit all missed work the day they return to class. **Please use office hours or email to inquire about missed work; class time is reserved for instruction.** Although I check email frequently, **I am responsible for course related email during business hours only.**

**Late work:**

In fairness to everyone, all course materials are due at the designated time. Extensions will be granted only in extreme cases and with prior approval from the instructor after an individual consultation during office hours. **ALL late work is penalized 1 letter grade for each 24-hour period beyond the due date. After one week, I will not accept the essay and assign a grade of 0. At that point, you will be unable to pass the class (based on B below).**

**Academic Integrity:**

In order to insure academic integrity, students must document the use of any and all source material in preparing materials for this class. All source material, including textual, audio and digital materials, should be documented according to MLA guidelines. Students who fail to document properly will be considered plagiarists and will fail the course and be reported to the Judicial Affairs Committee. For more information on academic misconduct, please review Article III of the Student Code of Conduct in the UAH Student Handbook. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Class Procedure:**

Each of you needs to come to class prepared to engage in the material intellectually. This expectation means come to class having actively read the assignments. Class preparation also means exercising basic courtesy toward me and the other members of the class. Be in class, on time, every session. Schedule outside appointments during non-class hours. Let me know at the beginning of the class if you will have to leave. Do not complete work for other classes during class. No texting or phone calls during class, especially during group work. All students in the class must treat others with civility and respect and conduct themselves during class sessions in a way that does not unreasonably interfere with the opportunity of other students to learn.

**Withdrawals:**

Students who choose to withdraw from the course may do so, but they are solely responsible for handling any appropriate paper work. Students who do not follow procedures properly remain on class rosters and receive the appropriate grade.

**Academic Honesty**

Using the ideas of another person—whether the author of a book or a friend—without giving proper credit for every specific use of that source constitutes academic dishonesty and will be punished severely. Themes and papers the student has prepared for other courses should **not** be used to fulfill the requirements for this course. Since original work is required, unless otherwise specified by the instructor, no speeches given in this class should consist primarily of a summary of a single source’s information or arguments (even if credit is given). Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor if they have questions on this policy.

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**ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW**

**Daily Schedule**

<b>Week:</b>	<b>Topic and Activities</b>
Week 1	Introduction to Rhetorical Theory
Week 2	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Rhetoric to include Richard Whatley
Week 3	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Rhetoric to include Frederick Douglas and Sarah Grimke
Week 4	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Friederich Nietzsche
Week 5	First Exam Modern Rhetoric to include Mikhail Bakhtin and I.A. Richards
Week 6	Modern Rhetoric to include I.A. Richards, Chaim Perelman, Lucie Olbrchts-Tyteca
Week 7	Modern Rhetoric to include Stephen Toulmin and Richard Weaver
Week 8	Modern Rhetoric to include Kenneth Burke and Jurgen Habermas
Week 9	Second Exam Modern/Postmodern Rhetoric to include Foucault
Week 10	Postmodern Rhetoric to include bell hook and Paulo Friere
Week 11	Postmodern Rhetoric to include Jaques Derrida and Jean Baudrillard
Week 12	Postmodern Rhetoric to include Helene Cixous and Henry Louis Gates
Week 13	Modern/Postmodern Rhetoric to include Stanley Fish Third Exam
Week 14	Course Presentations

## Contemporary Rhetorical Theory

CM 509

Day and Time

Course Syllabus: Spring 2016

3 credit hours

MOR XXX

Dr. Clarke Rountree

Morton Hall 342

Telephone: 824-6646 E-mail: rountrj@uah.edu

Office Hours: XXXX

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