This course will examine the fluctuating relationships between rhetorical theory and poetics from antiquity to modernity. Our focus primarily will be on ancient rhetoric and poetics, with attention in the second half of the course to selected post-classical examples from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century or “now.” (Adequate “coverage” of this historical span would take at least a year, and I heartily encourage further coursework in medieval, Renaissance, Enlightenment, and modernist and postmodernist rhetoric.)

Among our concerns will be: how the ancient models for rhetoric and poetics play out in post-classical conceptions; how ancient rhetoric/poetics may speak to modern; how a “rhetoric” may function as a “poetics” and vice-versa; and what it may mean to talk about “rhetorical poetics” or do “rhetorical” criticism.

**Required texts:**
- Roberts and Bywater, tr., *The Rhetoric and the Poetics of Aristotle* (Modern Library ed.).
- Additional materials in Blackboard “Course Documents.”

**Optional/recommended texts:**
- *Aristotle, Poetics; Longinus on the Sublime; Demetrius on Style.* Loeb Classical Library (in bookstore).
- *Kennedy, Aristotle on Rhetoric: A Theory of Civic Discourse* (2nd ed.).
- *Conley, Rhetoric in the European Tradition.*
Required assignments:

Short presentation & Writeup A:

For each meeting I will ask at least 2 people to present a short (3-minute) response to the assigned reading(s), usually to start discussion. In most cases (though not all) I will suggest topics or questions for the response; however, you are free to comment on any aspect of the reading, or to pose your own questions about it.

After the class discussion, and taking into account what has been said, expand/revise your response as a short “position paper” (1-3 typed/doublespaced pages). This “A” writeup is due by the next class meeting. It can be submitted to me as an email attachment. I will write a brief reply.

Responsibilities will rotate. You can expect to do this assignment more than once.

Presentation B:

This is a longer oral presentation — of 10-15 minutes (=5-8 typed/doublespaced pages) — in the latter part of the course (see Agenda). The purpose here is to examine a theorist or theory in greater depth (e.g., Cicero’s De Oratore, Horace’s Ars Poetica, I.A. Richards, Kenneth Burke); or to examine a theorist or theory not included in our assigned readings (e.g., Dionysius of Halicarnassus On Composition; Demetrius On Style; Pseudo-Plutarch On the Life and Poetry of Homer); or to offer a rhetorical criticism of a particular text, practice, or artifact; or to do some combination of those things. The “B” presentation may be a draft of your seminar paper.

Your “B” presentation should argue a clear, coherent thesis. Think of it as a short conference paper. As with real conferences, we will allot time for Q&A and discussion afterward. I will provide you with brief written commentary.

Seminar paper:

This paper should be thought of as a script for a 20-minute conference paper — i.e., a maximum of 10 typed/doublespaced pages (not including the Works Cited list and endnotes). It can be an expanded/revised version of your “B” presentation, or a separate project. The general guidelines are the same as those for the “B” presentation. In addition, you should make some connection with the critical literature and critical issues on your chosen topic; and you should discuss this with me. The paper will be due by the last day of instruction (Friday, May 7).

Please note: You will need to make some early decisions about your chosen topic for the “B” presentation and the seminar paper, and you must discuss these with me. I will expect you to schedule at least one office conference with me before Spring Break — e.g., in the 7th or 8th week of the semester.

Grading policy: I will not use a mathematical formula for determining grades. Your course grade will be determined by the grade on your seminar paper and a holistic assessment of your performance in “A” presentations and writeups and “B” presentations. (These assignments will not receive ABCDF grades, but I will provide responses and evaluative commentary, and you will know how you’re doing.) The general quality of your participation in classroom discussion may be a factor in making borderline decisions, when it is in your favor.
OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Office hours: W 1-5 & by appointment
Office location: Parlin 3
Office telephone: 471-8744
Email: jswalker@mail.utexas.edu

Standard boilerplate policy statements:

Attendance. You are expected to attend all class meetings. Missing more than 10% of scheduled class meetings can affect your grade.

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Consult the Dean of Students’ statements on plagiarism and judicial procedures at: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php. If you are found guilty of plagiarism, you will be liable to disciplinary action, from failure on the paper to failure in the course, and possibly other penalties.

Disability. The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.

UT email policy. All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student’s responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html.

Sappho [also from Pompeii]
### AGENDA:

**RT** = *The Rhetorical Tradition*

**CSM** = *Criticism: Major Statements*

**RPA** = *The Rhetoric & the Poetics of Aristotle*

**BB** = Blackboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK/DATES</th>
<th>TOPIC/Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 1/20</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION: Hesiod, Homer, &amp; archaic eloquence. (BB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 1/25-27</td>
<td>THE EARLY SOPHISTS. In BB: Parmenides, Heraclitus, Corax-Tisias, Protagoras, Antiphon, Gorgias. In RT: Gorgias <em>Helen</em>; the <em>Dissoi Logoi</em>; testimonies on Aspasia. ISOCRATES: selections in RT &amp; BB.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 2/1-3</td>
<td>THE PROGYMNASMATA: Aphthonius in BB. DECLAMATION &amp; TECHNE: <em>Rhetoric to Alexander</em> in BB.</td>
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<td>4 2/8-10</td>
<td>PLATO ON RHETORIC: <em>Gorgias</em> &amp; <em>Phaedrus</em> in RT.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 2/15-17</td>
<td>ARISTOTLE ON RHETORIC: <em>Rhetoric</em> (preferably in RPA).</td>
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<td>6 2/22-24</td>
<td>PLATO ON POETRY: extracts from <em>Ion &amp; Republic</em> in CSM; <em>Protagoras</em> in BB.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 3/1-3</td>
<td>ARISTOTLE ON POETRY: <em>Poetics</em> (preferably in RPA). <strong>Begin conferences.</strong></td>
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<td>8 3/8-10</td>
<td>CICERO: <em>De Oratore</em> extract in RT (pp 289-310). HORACE: <em>Ars Poetica (Epistle to the Pisones)</em> in CMS. PLUTARCH: <em>How the Young Man Should Study Poetry</em> in BB.</td>
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<td>x 3/15-17</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK – WALKER @ CCCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 3/29-31</td>
<td>GEOFFREY OF VINSauf: <em>Poetria Nova</em> extract in RT. ERASMUS: <em>De Copia</em> extract in RT. SIDNEY: “Apology for Poetry” in CMS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 4/12-14</td>
<td>“B” presentations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 4/19-21</td>
<td>“B” presentations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 4/26-28</td>
<td>IA RICHARDS: extracts in RT. KENNETH BURKE: <em>Rhetoric of Motives</em> extract in RT; selections in BB</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 15 5/3-5   | TBA; evaluations & closing ceremonies; **seminar papers due F, 3/7**.