

Rhetoric

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

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Overview

Rhetoric majors are trained in the history of rhetorical theory and practice, grounded in argumentation and in the analysis of the symbolic and institutional dimensions of discourse. The department offers both a pragmatic understanding of the elements of rhetorical analysis—with special attention to logic, style, tropes, figures, images—and a thorough grounding in the historical development of these elements in rhetorical theory. The combination allows students to make a disciplined grasp of the contemporary character of rhetoric and language. Through its emphasis on the history and theory of rhetoric, the department provides an understanding of the format of contemporary theories of interpretation as well as an opportunity, within this framework, to explore the role of persuasion in pragmatic and aesthetic contexts.

Note: The major is not intended to provide skills-based training in oral argument or communication.

Major Requirements

Undergraduates may concentrate in one of the following areas: history and theory of rhetoric, public discourse, and narrative and image.

Majors must complete the following course requirements:

1. Rhetoric 10 and 20 in the lower division
2. Rhetoric 103A and 103B in the upper division
3. Five additional upper division courses in Rhetoric (three in the specified area of concentration and one in each of the other areas).
4. Additionally, majors are required to take one course outside the department related to the specified area of concentration in the major.

Students must complete Rhetoric 10 or 20 with letter grades of C or better before declaring the major. These courses are prerequisite to all upper division courses unless otherwise specified. Lower division requirements should be completed by the start of the junior year. Rhetoric 103A and 103B should be completed in sequence during the junior year; senior year is recommended for coursework in the specified area of concentration. However, concurrent enrollment in 103A and 103B and other upper division courses in rhetoric is permitted.

A C average in all upper division rhetoric courses and the designated course outside the major is required to finish the major program successfully. No course taken on a passed/not passed basis will be allowed toward credit for the major.

History and Theory of Rhetoric

This area focuses upon understanding the development of rhetorical theory and practice from its genesis in the classical period to its situation

in the present. Students will consider how the discipline of rhetoric has both shaped and itself been shaped by social, political, technological, and intellectual developments over the course of two millennia. Individual courses will enable close study of the process of rhetoric's influence and adaptation, both in theory and in practice, in specific contexts throughout its history. Courses in this area include 104, 105T, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, 114, 116, 117, 118, 189.*

Public Discourse

This area focuses upon understanding rhetoric in its symbolic and institutional dimensions, with special emphasis on legal and political forums. Students consider the discourse of law, politics, and society both in theory and in practice, in an attempt to understand the rhetorical nature of political judgment, action, justice, and legitimacy. Individual courses will enable close study of specific problems, concerns, vocabularies, modes of interpretation, and strategies of argumentation arising in public forums of the past and present. Courses in this area include: 150, 151, 152, 152AC, 153, 155, 156, 157A-157B, 158, 159A-159B, 160, 162AC, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 170, 171, 172, 176, 182, 189 (if course topic is appropriate).

Narrative and the Image

This area focuses upon understanding the function of rhetoric in literary, cinematic, and visual texts, with emphasis on the role of figure and image in the representation of reality. Students consider the production and reception of narrative "literature"—oral, epic, folktale, lyric poem, novel, etc. and film—in an attempt to understand the boundaries of the aesthetic text as a rhetorical analysis of particular literary and visual genres arising in a variety of cultures and historical epochs. Courses in this area include: 121, 122, 123, 124, 127, 128T, 129, 129AC, 130, 131T, 132T, 133T, 134, 135T, 189 (if course topic is appropriate).

Declaring the Major

Declare rhetoric after completing Rhetoric 10 or 20 with letter grades of C or better. Obtain a "Petition to Declare the Major" form and the rhetoric major application from the undergraduate assistant in 7406 Dwinelle Hall. Present a copy of your transcript along with your petition and application to the undergraduate assistant for an approval signature and a brief orientation.

Passed or Not Passed

No course taken on a passed/not passed basis may be used to satisfy a requirement for the major or minor.

Honors Program

Seniors must complete Rhetoric 10, 20, 103A, and 103B and maintain a minimum 3.7 grade point average (GPA) in rhetoric and a 3.5 overall Berkeley GPA to undertake the two-semester honors thesis series, Rhetoric H190A-H190B. Students work under the supervision of a selected rhetoric faculty member. Four units of credit (2 units each semester) for the H190A-H190B sequence may be applied toward graduation as upper division units and fulfillment of one major upper division course. Honors candidates who complete the 4-unit course with a letter-grade of A- or better and maintain the required GPAs will receive a BA with honors in the major.

Seniors eligible to enroll in the honors program must begin arrangements with the faculty member who is willing to direct their honors thesis in the semester before they enroll in H190A. See the undergraduate assistant for honors information and an application. Warning: Graduating honors candidates who complete the major requirements but take an incomplete

in the H190A-H190B series must drop themselves from the degree list or honors will not appear on their official transcripts or diplomas.

Minor Requirements

The goal of the minor program in rhetoric is to introduce students to the methodological procedures and interdisciplinary approach of a field that examines all disciplines from the outside and poses such questions as: how is philosophy (or law, or politics, etc.) constituted as a field? What kinds of discourses are considered legitimate within this field? And what kinds of knowledge are produced and institutionalized as a result? To this end, minors are required to take Rhetoric 10, 20, 103A, and 103B. This combination provides an overview of philosophical discourse; literary and cultural discourse; theoretical inquiry into law, polity, and society; rhetoric and theory of film, as well as experience in a diachronic overview of the evolution of these fields. Three further upper division electives from courses numbered between 104- 182 and 189 are left to the discretion of the minor student. All courses used for the minor must be taken for a letter grade.

Graduate Program

The Department of Rhetoric offers an interdisciplinary PhD program focusing on the study of rhetorical theory and the interaction of the historical concerns of rhetoric with contemporary critical theory across a broad spectrum of disciplines. Crucial to the department's approach is an investigation into the rhetorical constitution of the arguments of such fields as law, politics, literature, film, and philosophy. The interests of faculty and graduate students thus range throughout these fields and are informed by a critical interest in the rhetoric of disciplines. During their first two years, graduate students explore major areas in the history and theory of rhetoric and pursue a variety of special topics in seminars. Beginning in their fourth semester, they concentrate in greater depth on preparation for their doctoral qualifying examinations and dissertation research. Six semester courses are required, of which at least five must be graduate courses in rhetoric. They must include Rhetoric 200 (The Origins of the Rhetorical Tradition), 205 (Modern Rhetorical Theory), and a seminar offered in the department whose focus is on rhetorical matters before 1800. Because of the department's commitment to interdisciplinary research, graduate students are encouraged at every stage of their careers to work with faculty in other departments. Please check with the department for a more detailed description.

RHETOR R1A The Craft of Writing 4 Units

Department: Rhetoric

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture per week for 15 weeks. 6 hours of Lecture per week for 8 weeks. 7.5 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

Prerequisites: UC Entry Level Writing Requirement or UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam.

Rhetorical approach to reading and writing argumentative discourse. Close reading of selected texts; written themes developed from class discussion and analysis of rhetorical strategies. Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement. Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement Formerly known as 1A.

RHETOR R1B The Craft of Writing 4 Units

Department: Rhetoric

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture per week for 15 weeks. 6 hours of Lecture per week for 8 weeks. 7.5 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

Prerequisites: 1A or equivalent.

Intensive argumentative writing drawn from controversy stimulated through selected readings and class discussion. Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement. Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement Formerly known as 1B.

RHETOR 2 Fundamentals of Public Speaking 2 Units

Department: Rhetoric

Course level: Undergraduate

Term course may be offered: Summer

Grading: Offered for pass/not pass grade only.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture per week for 10 weeks. 4 hours of Lecture per week for 8 weeks. 5 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks. Basic principles of rhetoric as applied to the criticism and practice of public speaking.

RHETOR 10 Introduction to Practical Reasoning and Critical Analysis of Argument 4 Units

Department: Rhetoric

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 5.5 hours of lecture per week for 8 weeks. 7.5 to 9 hours of lecture/discussion per week for 6 weeks.

An introduction to practical reasoning and the critical analysis of argument. Topics treated will include: definition, the syllogism, the enthymeme, fallacies, as well as various non-logical appeals. Also, the course will treat in introductory fashion some ancient and modern attempts to relate rhetoric and logic.

RHETOR 12 Introduction to the Rhetoric and Theory of Popular Culture 4 Units

Department: Rhetoric

Course level: Undergraduate

Term course may be offered: Summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 7.5 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

This course examines both the rhetoric surrounding popular culture and the discourse inherent in popular culture itself. Envisioning popular culture as the medium of at once the most blatant and least obvious carrier of mass deployments of rhetoric in any given culture, this course seeks to uncover the various messages conveyed by what is popular and the extent to which pop culture engages in the act of creating itself and