

Rhetoric

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.

Admission to the University

Uniform minimum requirements for admission

The following minimum requirements apply to all programs and will be verified by the Graduate Division:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A minimum grade-point average of B or better (3.0);
3. If the applicant comes from a country or political entity (e.g. Quebec) where English is not the official language, adequate proficiency in English to do graduate work, as evidenced by a TOEFL score of at least 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, 230 on the computer-based test, 90 on the iBT test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

Applicants who already hold a graduate degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees as evidence of broad research training, not as vocational training certificates; therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to take up new subject matter on a serious level without undertaking a graduate program, unless the fields are completely dissimilar.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master's or professional master's degree if the additional degree is in a distinctly different field.

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program that requires a master's degree to be earned at Berkeley as a prerequisite (even though the applicant already has a master's degree from another institution in the same or a closely allied field of study) will be permitted to undertake the second master's degree, despite the overlap in field.

The Graduate Division will admit students for a second doctoral degree only if they meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicants with doctoral degrees may be admitted for an additional doctoral degree only if that degree program is in a general area of knowledge distinctly different from the field in which they earned their original degree. For example, a physics PhD could be admitted

to a doctoral degree program in music or history; however, a student with a doctoral degree in mathematics would not be permitted to add a PhD in statistics.

2. Applicants who hold the PhD degree may be admitted to a professional doctorate or professional master's degree program if there is no duplication of training involved.

Applicants may only apply to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

Any applicant who was previously registered at Berkeley as a graduate student, no matter how briefly, must apply for readmission, not admission, even if the new application is to a different program.

Required documents for admissions applications

1. **Transcripts:** Upload unofficial transcripts with the application for the departmental initial review. Official transcripts of all college-level work will be required **if admitted**. Official transcripts must be in sealed envelopes as issued by the school(s) you have attended. Request a current transcript from every post-secondary school that you have attended, including community colleges, summer sessions, and extension programs. If you have attended Berkeley, upload unofficial transcript with the application for the departmental initial review. Official transcript with evidence of degree conferral **will not** be required if admitted.
2. **Letters of recommendation:** Applicants can request online letters of recommendation through the online application system. Hard copies of recommendation letters must be sent directly to the program, not the Graduate Division.
3. **Evidence of English language proficiency:** All applicants from countries in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This requirement applies to applicants from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, and most European countries. However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a U.S. university may submit an official transcript from the U.S. university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement: 1) courses in English as a Second Language, 2) courses conducted in a language other than English, 3) courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and 4) courses of a non-academic nature. If applicants have previously been denied admission to Berkeley on the basis of their English language proficiency, they must submit new test scores that meet the current minimum from one of the standardized tests.

Curriculum

Courses Required

RHETOR 200	Classical Rhetorical Theory and Practice	4
RHETOR 205	Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Practice	4
RHETOR 230	Rhetoric and History	4
Three elective graduate seminars (two in Rhetoric and one outside of Rhetoric)		
RHETOR 375	Teaching Rhetoric	2

Rhetoric

RHETOR 200 Classical Rhetorical Theory and Practice 4 Units

An introduction to the questions around which classical rhetorical theory and practice are organized. Through analysis of materials drawn principally from the Ancient Greek and Roman periods, possibly including later revivals of classical rhetoric, the course will examine the formation of rhetoric in the West as an intellectual stance from which to practice a range of related fields, including but not limited to philosophy, history, literature, politics, religion, law, science, and the arts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 205 Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Practice 4 Units

An introduction to the questions around which contemporary rhetorical theory and practice are organized. Through an analysis of materials drawn principally from the 18th century to the present, the course will examine rhetorical inquiry in relation to critique as well as the disciplinary construction of knowledge-domains. The course will attend to rhetoric in relation to a range of fields, including but not limited to philosophy, history, literature, politics, religion, law, science, and the arts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR C221 Aesthetics as Critique 4 Units

A close reading and discussion of the major texts of modern aesthetics, from the 18th century to the present, with emphasis on the Continental tradition of Kant, Adorno, and Derrida.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: COM LIT C221

RHETOR 230 Rhetoric and History 4 Units

This course investigates both the concept of history and the practice of historiography, using an engagement with the literal and metaphoric archives of the past to consider their empirical and philosophical claims on the present. While the methods, themes, and historical reach may vary, the course requires Rhetoric graduate students to investigate pre-1900 material in some form and to consider both the pragmatics of conducting historical inquiry and the interpretive frameworks that structure them.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 240D Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Nonfictional Prose 4 Units

Advanced investigation of the rhetorical dimensions of various modes of discourse. Specific topics to be announced.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 240E Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Political Discourse 4 Units

Advanced investigation of the rhetorical dimensions of various modes of discourse. Specific topics to be announced.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 240F Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Legal Rhetoric and Philosophy 4 Units
Advanced investigation of the rhetorical dimensions of various modes of discourse. Specific topics to be announced.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 240G Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Rhetorical Theory 4 Units
Advanced investigation of the rhetorical dimensions of various modes of discourse. Specific topics to be announced.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 243 Special Topics in Film 4 Units
A theoretical examination of a film topic which falls outside the purview of traditional categories of film analysis, such as "genre," "history," or "theory." Examples: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, The Essay Film, Feminist Film Practice, Cinema and the Phantasmagoria of History.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 244 Special Topics in Rhetoric: Limited study 2 Units
This course studies various modes of rhetorical discourse. Specific topics to be announced.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 6 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 250 Rhetoric of the Image 4 Units
A study of the visual image as a mode of discourse, together with an analysis of the terms in which images have been interpreted and criticized. Focus may be on the rhetoric of a particular image or set of images, or on more broadly theoretical writings about image.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 295 Special Study 1 - 6 Units
Open to qualified graduate students wishing to pursue special topics under the direction of a member of the staff.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate adviser approval

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 6-34 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6-34 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 299 Directed Research 1 - 12 Units

Open to graduate students who have passed their Ph.D. qualifying examinations.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate adviser approval

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

RHETOR 375 Teaching Rhetoric 2 Units

Instruction in teaching argumentative writing and rhetorical analysis.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Appointment as teaching assistant

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Formerly known as: Rhetoric 300

RHETOR 601 Individual Study for Master's Students 1 - 6 Units

Individual study for degree or language examinations in consultation with staff member.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

RHETOR 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 1 - 6 Units

Individual study in consultation with faculty director as preparation for degree examinations.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-6 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-6 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.