

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

Minimum Requirements for Admission

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

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A 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 90 on the iBT test, 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 on a 9-point scale (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Sufficient undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

Applicants Who Already Hold a Graduate Degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees not as vocational training certificates, but as evidence of broad training in research methods, independent study, and articulation of learning. Therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to pursue new subject matter at an advanced level without need to enroll in a related or similar graduate program.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master's or professional master's degree only 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 apply only to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

Required Documents for Applications

1. **Transcripts:** Applicants may upload *unofficial* transcripts with your application for the departmental initial review. *If the applicant is admitted*, then *official* transcripts of all college-level work will be required. Official transcripts must be in sealed envelopes as issued by the school(s) attended. If you have attended Berkeley, upload your unofficial transcript with your application for the departmental initial review. *If you are admitted*, an official transcript with evidence of degree conferral *will not* be required.
2. **Letters of recommendation:** Applicants may 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 or political entities in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This 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, most European countries, and Quebec (Canada). 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 US university may submit an official transcript from the US university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement:
 - courses in English as a Second Language,
 - courses conducted in a language other than English,
 - courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and
 - 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. Official TOEFL score reports must be sent directly from Educational Test Services (ETS). The institution code for Berkeley is 4833. Official IELTS score reports must be mailed directly to our office from British Council. TOEFL and IELTS score reports are only valid for two years.

Where to Apply

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply>).

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)

Rhetoric

Expand all course descriptions [+]Collapse all course descriptions [-]

RHETOR 200 Classical Rhetorical Theory and Practice 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2018, Spring 2018

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.

Classical Rhetorical Theory and Practice: Read More [+]

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.

Classical Rhetorical Theory and Practice: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 205 Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Practice 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2017

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.

Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Practice: Read More [+]

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.

Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Practice: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 220 Rhetoric Graduate Proseminar 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019

What do we do when we do rhetoric? Seminar addresses methods, themes, and issues in the changing field of investigation known as rhetoric. Required for second year doctoral students in Rhetoric.

Rhetoric Graduate Proseminar: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Constable

Rhetoric Graduate Proseminar: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 221 Rhetoric Graduate Research Seminar 2 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

What are the possible forms of long-form (dissertation) research in the rhetoric department? Required for third-year doctoral students in Rhetoric.

Rhetoric Graduate Research Seminar: Read More [+]

Objectives Outcomes

Course Objectives: To enable the formation of coherent dissertation projects.

Student Learning Outcomes: To have a draft of a prospectus at the end of the semester.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for RHETOR 221 after completing RHETOR 221. A deficient grade in RHETOR 221 may be removed by taking RHETOR 221.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Boyarin

Rhetoric Graduate Research Seminar: Read Less [-]

RHETOR C221 Aesthetics as Critique 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2015, Spring 2013, Spring 2011

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.

Aesthetics as Critique: Read More [\[+\]](#)

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

Aesthetics as Critique: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RHETOR 230 Rhetoric and History 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2016, Fall 2015

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.

Rhetoric and History: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

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/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Rhetoric and History: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

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

Terms offered: Spring 2010, Spring 1999, Fall 1997

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

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Nonfictional Prose: Read More [\[+\]](#)

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.

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Nonfictional Prose: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

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

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Fall 2007, Spring 2006

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

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Political Discourse: Read More [\[+\]](#)

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.

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Political Discourse: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RHETOR 240F Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Legal Rhetoric and Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Fall 2015

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

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Legal Rhetoric and Philosophy: Read More [\[+\]](#)

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.

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Legal Rhetoric and Philosophy: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RHETOR 240G Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Rhetorical Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018

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

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Rhetorical Theory: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

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/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism: Rhetorical Theory: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RHETOR 243 Special Topics in Film 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2014, Fall 2013, Fall 2012

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.

Special Topics in Film: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

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/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Special Topics in Film: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RHETOR 244 Special Topics in Rhetoric: Limited study 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2008

This course studies various modes of rhetorical discourse. Specific topics to be announced.

Special Topics in Rhetoric: Limited study: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Rhetoric/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Special Topics in Rhetoric: Limited study: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

RHETOR 250 Rhetoric of the Image 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019

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.

Rhetoric of the Image: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

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/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Rhetoric of the Image: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 295 Special Study 1 - 6 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2018 3 Week Session, Summer 2017 3 Week Session, Spring 2016

Open to qualified graduate students wishing to pursue special topics under the direction of a member of the staff.

Special Study: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate adviser approval

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

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.

Special Study: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 299 Directed Research 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

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

Directed Research: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate adviser approval

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

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.

Directed Research: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 302 The Art of Tutoring Writing 1 - 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2019

This is a required course for all undergraduates participating in the Art of Writing Departmental Tutoring program at UC Berkeley. This program supports students taking R&C in Comparative Literature, English, Film & Media, and Rhetoric. Upper-level majors with proven writing skills participate in discipline-specific composition and pedagogy workshops and in turn, provide one-on-one writing help to students taking R&C courses in participating departments. Tutoring is targeted and disciplinary-specific, responding to the parameters of R&C instruction and the challenges faced by R&C student writers in each department.

The Art of Tutoring Writing: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0.5-1 hours of seminar and 2.5-5 hours of workshop per week

Additional Details

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

Grading: Offered for pass/not pass grade only.

The Art of Tutoring Writing: Read Less [-]

RHETOR 375 Teaching Rhetoric 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2017, Fall 2015

Instruction in teaching argumentative writing and rhetorical analysis.

Teaching Rhetoric: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Appointment as teaching assistant

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

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

Teaching Rhetoric: [Read Less](#) [-]

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

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

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

Individual Study for Master's Students: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

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.

Individual Study for Master's Students: [Read Less](#) [-]

RHETOR 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 1 - 6 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2016, Fall 2015

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

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate status

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

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.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: [Read Less](#) [-]