

RHETORIC AND CIVILIZATION

This course surveys the role of rhetorical study and practice in the formation, mobilization and destruction of human communities from ancient to modern times. By investigating how rhetoric was viewed in the context of law, politics, display, language, and knowledge across time, it provides a wide context to understand the relationship between rhetoric and civilization.

TEXT

Sophocles, Fitts and Fitzgerald translation (Supplemental readings will be posted online)

Sophocles lived in 5th-century Athens, in the golden age of the Greek empire. The tragedy of *Antigone* pits man's law against the law of the gods, and thus, demonstrates the force conflict can bring to bear on social lives. Through *Antigone* the class will explore the rhetorical bedrocks of contention and exigency, and reflect on practices of deliberation and social resolution known by Sophocles in ancient Greece.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING (TOTAL 200 POINTS)

- 1) **MIDTERM (50 POINTS)** The midterm will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions that require students to use conceptual material to interpret examples from class readings and discussions.
- 2) **FINAL (50 POINTS)** The Final will be the same as the midterm but will cover material from the second half of the semester.
- 3) **2 ESSAYS (30 POINTS EACH)** Twice during the semester students will turn in a 4-5 page paper that analyzes an example from class readings via class concepts.
- 4) **PARTICIPATION (40 POINTS)** Participation points will be distributed between in class participation activities and short take home assignments. Points for in class activities cannot be made up and short take home assignments will not be accepted late.

Final grades are final. All work must be done during the semester and not made up after the fact. If you are concerned about your grade during the class, please contact me for help.

Please note that a grade of "C" will be assigned to average college work. Grades in the "B" range signify work that stands above the average, and grades in the "A" range are reserved only for those students who do exceptional work. Meeting assignment requirements is not enough to earn a "B" or "A." By the 3000 level your meeting all assignment requirements is a basic expectation.

POINTS	LETTER GRADE
180-200	A
160-179	B
140-159	C
120-139	D
0-119	F