

Rhetoric I Syllabus

Instructor

Mr. Tim Enloe

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Course Description

This course will introduce you to the ancient discipline of rhetoric. Rhetoric impinges on public speaking, philosophy, literature, politics, economics, and religion. It involves speaking well, writing well, and being able to evaluate any kind of attempt made by others to persuade you. Throughout this course, we will examine various aspects of rhetoric, past and present, with an eye towards how we as Christians might profit from studying this ancient discipline. By reading classic examples of rhetorical compositions and writing your own rhetorical compositions (*progymnasmata* exercises), you will gain firsthand knowledge of this ancient and very important discipline.

Course Format

This course features two 30-minute lectures per week, which the student must listen to (and take notes on) on his or her own time, and a 1-hour interactive session at the end of each week. These sessions are the time to ask any questions that arose from the lecture, discuss the materials for that week, and / or read student compositions to the class.

Required Texts

Rhetoric I Workbook, by Tim Enloe

Supplementary Text (Optional)

Edward P.J. Corbett / Robert J. Connors, *Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student*

Week 1

Readings, Lectures, and Exercises:

Day 1: Listen to Lecture I: "What Is Rhetoric?"

Read selections from Aristotle's *Rhetoric*

Day 2: *Progymnasmata*: Fables – Moral Fable

Day 3: Listen to Lecture II: "The Five Canons of Rhetoric"

Progymnasmata: Fables – Verbal Fable

Day 4: Read selections from Plato's dialogues *Gorgias* and *Euthydemus*

Enthymeme Worksheet

Day 5: *Progymnasmata*: Fables – Combined Fable

Online Discussion Period

Rhetoric I Syllabus

Week 2

Readings, Lectures, and Exercises:

- Day 1: Listen to Lecture: “The First Canon: Invention”
Read selection from Cicero’s *Topics*
- Day 2: “Genus and Species” Worksheet
“The Four Causes Worksheet”
- Day 3: Invention Worksheet 1: Definition and Comparison
Invention Worksheet 2: Definition and Comparison
- Day 4: Review / Comprehension Questions for Weeks 1-2
- Day 5: *Progymnasmata*: Narrative Version 1 and Version 2
Online Discussion Period

Week 3

Readings, Lectures, and Exercises:

- Day 1: Invention Worksheet 3: Relationship
Imitation Exercise 1: Rewording
- Day 2: Invention Worksheet 4: Relationship (cont.)
Imitation Exercise 2: Turning Poetry into Prose
- Day 3: Invention Worksheet 5: Analogy
Imitation Exercise 3: Imitating Sentence Patterns
- Day 4: Invention Worksheet 6: Integrating the Topics
- Day 5: Online Discussion Period

Week 4

Readings, Lectures, and Exercises:

- Day 1: Listen to Lecture: “The Second Canon: Disposition”
Read “Selection from Quintilian’s *Institutes of Oratory*, Bk. VII.1”
- Day 2: Imitation Exercise 4
Begin planning and/or writing *progymnasmata* Chreia exercise for Day 5
- Day 3: “Writing An Introductory Paragraph”
- Day 4: Imitation Exercise 5
Review / Comprehension Questions for Weeks 3-4
- Day 5: Finish *progymnasmata* Chreia exercise
Online Discussion Period

Rhetoric I Syllabus

Week 5

Readings, Lectures, and Exercises:

- Day 1: Read selection “Model *Exordia*.”
- Day 2: Begin planning and/or writing *progymnasmata* Proverb exercise for Day 5
- Day 3: Speech Analysis: Frederick Douglas, “The Meaning of the Fourth of July for the Negro”
- Day 4: Speech Analysis: Cicero, “Pro Archia” (In Defense of Archias)
- Day 5: Finish *progymnasmata* Proverb exercise
Online Discussion Period

Week 6

Readings, Lectures, and Exercises:

- Day 1: Listen to Lecture, “The Third Canon: Elocution”
Read: selection from *Rhetorica ad Herennium* III.16.28 – 24.40 (Elocution)
- Day 2: Elocution Exercise 1: From *Plutarch’s Lives*
- Day 3: Imitation Exercise 6: Theodore Roosevelt
- Day 4: Review / Comprehension Questions for Weeks 5-6
- Day 5: Online Discussion Period

Week 7

Readings, Lectures, and Exercises:

- Day 1: Speech Analysis: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, “The Only Thing We Have to Fear is Fear Itself”
- Day 2: Elocution Exercise 2: From Livy’s *History of Rome*
- Day 3: Elocution Exercise 3: The Grand and Swollen styles
- Day 4: Elocution Exercise 4: The Middle and Meager styles
- Day 5: Elocution Exercise 5: The Simple and Slack styles
Online Discussion Period

Week 8

Readings, Lectures, and Exercises:

- Day 1: Listen to Lecture, “The Fourth Canon: Memory.”
Read selection from Quintilian, Bk. XI
- Day 2: Speech Analysis: Dionysius of Halicarnassus, *Roman Antiquities*

Rhetoric I Syllabus

Day 3: Speech Analysis: Dionysius of Halicarnassus, *Roman Antiquities*
Day 4: Review / Comprehension Questions for Weeks 7-8
Day 5: Read selection from *Rhetorica ad Herennium*, Book III
Online Discussion Period

Week 9

Readings, Lectures, and Exercises:

Day 1: Listen to Lecture, “The Fifth Canon: Delivery.”
Invention Worksheet 7
Day 2: Begin planning and/or writing *progymnasmata* Refutation exercise for Day 5
Day 3: Imitation Exercise 7
Day 4: Invention Worksheet 8
Imitation Exercise 8
Day 5: Finish *progymnasmata* Refutation exercise
Online Discussion Period

Course Grading Criteria

If you are a homeschooler or Christian school student taking this course for a grade, the manner in which your grade will be calculated is as follows:

- **40%** - Writing Assignments (including Review / Comprehension Questions every other week)
- **30%** - Participation in Online Discussion Periods
- **20%** - On-time Completion of Assigned Work
- **10%** - Tests