



The History of Public Discourse

COMM 323

Spring 2022

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Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9:00 - 10:00 AM
Or by appointment

What this Class is About

In this course, we will read and analyze speeches from United States history with reference to the social, political, and intellectual milieu within which they have appeared. We will also learn methods of analysis used by rhetorical critics to evaluate these speeches from different perspectives. Together, we will listen closely to the voices of America's past who together have constructed our present.

Some of my general goals for you are:

1. To develop an appreciation for the role of rhetoric in civil society and government
2. To develop competence in rhetorical analysis and critical thinking.
3. To question the implications of power contained within rhetorical documents
4. To dissect the ways that some groups of people and their ideas have been systematically marginalized from our cultural discourses.

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Texts:

All required readings are available on Moodle. There are no texts that you must purchase.

Technology: You must have a computer or other device connected to the internet that can be used to access Moodle, download word and pdf documents, view images, watch videos, and participate in Zoom meetings. You must have a working camera and microphone on a device that you can use to make audio and video clips. You must be able to create word documents and PDF documents.

Masks:



We will adhere to DePauw's masking policy and wear approved masks while we are together in the classroom. Approved masks include surgical masks, KN94, KN95 or equivalent. You may remove your mask to drink during class, but if you must remove your mask for an extended period, please leave class to do so. For more information about COVID mitigation at DePauw, including masking, please see **HYPERLINK**

"<https://www.depauw.edu/campus-life/wellness/coronavirus/fall2021/>" **Current COVID Guidelines**.

Summary of Assignments & Due Dates

Assignments will include 8 Speech Annotations, a Speech Consultant Analysis video, a history & context paired presentation, a midterm and a final research and analysis paper. Major assignment due dates are listed below, but this does not include any discussions, self-assessments, or activities we may do this semester.

DUE DATE	ASSIGNMENT
Various Class Dates by Choice	8 Speech Annotations
Various Class Dates by Choice	Speech Consultant Analysis
Various Class Dates by Choice	History & Context Paired Speech
March 24	Midterm Exam
May 12	Final Paper Genre Analysis

Grading

Course Assignments & Grading:

Full descriptions of each assignment can be found on our Moodle page. Your final grade will be determined by your performance on the following course assignments and point values:

1. 8 Speech Annotations	100 points
2. Speech Consultant Analysis	75 points
3. Context Speech (in-class)	75 points
4. Midterm Exam	100 points
5. Final Paper: Genre Analysis	100 points
6. Engagement	50 points
TOTAL POINTS	500 points

Final Grading Scale: A 93+; A- 90-92.999; B+ 87-89.999; B 83-86.999; B- 80-82.999; C+ 77-79.999; C 73-76.999; C- 70-72.999; D+ 67-69.999; D 63-66.999; D- 60-62.999; F < 60

Please remember that at DePauw, A and A- grades reflect "achievement of exceptionally high merit." B+, B, and B- grades indicate "achievement at a level superior to the basic level." C+, C, and C- grades reflect "basic achievement," and D+, D, D- grades reflect "minimum achievement that warrants credit." B grades in this course reflect very good work; a "B" is not a poor grade in this or any other course at DePauw. C grades also indicate basic mastery of the material.

Attendance & Engagement Policy

Regular class attendance is vital to your learning in this class. While COVID presents challenges, we will be having normal in-person classes unless absolutely necessary. You are expected to attend class in-person regularly, and your attendance will be part of your final grade. Generally, missing more than 2 courses will result in a lowered grade for the course.

Late Work Policy

All papers and exams due in class must be uploaded into the Moodle drop-box before the due dates and times listed. Once a due date and time has passed, a paper or assignment is considered late. A paper or exam submitted one day late is eligible for 90% of original points. A paper or exam submitted two days late is eligible for 80% of original points. A paper or exam submitted three days late is eligible for 70% of original points. I will not accept assignments more than three days late. If you have an emergency or are ill, contact me *before* anything is due.

Inclusivity Policy

I want students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course and to have their learning needs addressed both in and out of class. Any diversity that students bring to this class is a resource, strength and benefit. I strive to present a curriculum that is respectful and recognizes diversity including race, gender identity, sexuality, ability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with DePauw's Academic Integrity Policy. I take academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, very seriously, and at DePauw such misconduct can have a variety of serious consequences. If you are at all unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please ask. If you get behind or overwhelmed, please talk to me. I can't help you if you don't let me know that you need help.

For more information, see:

<http://www.depauw.edu/handbooks/academic/policies/integrity/>

Additional Assistance

DePauw has some great resources to help to improve your performance in this and other courses.



W-Center: Peer tutors are available online to help you work on your paper's thesis, organization, development, and voice; they can also help with brainstorming, punctuation, spelling, and grammar. Sign up using the left-hand menu here:

<https://www.depauw.edu/academics/academicresources/academic-resource-center/>



S-Center: Peer tutors are available online to help you prepare for your group online debate presentation (including both your oral performance and your use of effective visuals). They can also work with you to develop your class discussion skills. Sign up using the left-hand menu here:

<https://www.depauw.edu/academics/academic-resources/academicresource-center/>



Academic Peer Tutoring: Peer tutors are available online to help you develop individualized strategies in the areas of study skill development, time management, goal setting, organization, and prioritizing. Tutors meet with students on an individual basis, or upon request, in small groups. Email acadpeer@depauw.edu for an appointment or sign up here:

<https://www.depauw.edu/academics/academic-resources/academicresource-center/>



Counseling Services: Counselors at DePauw specialize in concerns common among college students, such as personal stress and anxiety, depression, academic- and career-related concerns, relationship concerns, identity development, and substance use. They are currently using an online telehealth approach to their services. To schedule a virtual appointment, please email counselingservices@depauw.edu or call 765-658-4268.

Student Accessibility Services: If you need accommodations, you have a right to have these met. If you have a documented disability, please contact Student Accessibility Services to arrange for any needed accommodations. Also, if you suspect that you have a disability but don't yet have documentation, please reach out to Student Accessibility Services to talk. Disabilities entitled to accommodation include mobility impairments, hearing or vision issues, speech impairments, learning disabilities, ADD, ADHD, psychological disabilities, neurological impairments, and chronic medical conditions such as migraines, AIDS, cancer, and diabetes.

DePauw's ADA syllabus statement follows: *"It is the policy and practice of DePauw University to provide reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification from Student Accessibility Services is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please contact Student Accessibility Services. Allow one-week advance notice to ensure enough time for reasonable accommodations to be made. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be provided on a timely basis. Accommodations are not retroactive. Students who have questions about Student Accessibility Services or who have, or think they may have, a disability (psychiatric, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, etc.) are invited to contact Student Accessibility Services for a confidential discussion. Student Accessibility Services can be reached by phone at 765-658-6267 or studentaccessibility@depauw.edu. Meetings with SAS staff will be conducted virtually this semester."*

Respectful Classroom Policy

Together, we are going to read some very controversial speeches. Undoubtedly, we will disagree with sentiments expressed by others. Even as we learn about the power of rhetoric, we will simultaneously be impacted by the examples we will read. Although we may sometimes disagree with interpretations or ideologies expressed in public discourse across the history of the United States, I have selected each reading carefully to illustrate concepts we are learning.

If you have any concerns along the way, be sure to address them to me. Good luck in this phase of your educational journey.

Course Schedule

1	Feb 1	Welcome!	Introductions
	Feb 3	The Study of Rhetoric & Public Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reid & Klump
2	Feb 8	Rhetoric as Foundational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West "The Rhetoric" Abraham Lincoln "The Gettysburg Address"
	Feb 10	Rhetoric as Foundational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FDR (Dec 8, 1941) "Pearl Harbor Address to the Nation" Audrey Lorde, Adrienne Rich & Alice Walker (1974) "Statement on Winning the National Book Award"
3	Feb 15	Understanding History as a Rhetorical Construct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zinn Ch. 1
	Feb 17	A Framework of Analysis: The Rhetorical Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bitzer "The Rhetorical Situation" William J. Clinton (August 17, 1998) "Testimony to the Grand Jury"
4	Feb 22	Political Development of the US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Hancock (March 5, 1774) "Boston Massacre Oration" Patrick Henry (March 23, 1775) "Liberty or Death"
	Feb 24	Political Development of the US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas Jefferson (1776) "Declaration of Independence" George Washington (sept. 17, 1784) "Farewell Address"
5	Mar 1	Native American Conquest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tecumseh (August 11, 1810) "To Governor William Harrison, Indiana Territory" Tecumseh (1811/1812?) "Speech to the Osages" Black Hawk (1832) "Surrender Speech"
	Mar 3	A Framework of Analysis: Afrocentric Criticism & Nommos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janice Hamlet "Understanding African American Oratory"
6	Mar 8	Abolitionist Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frederick Douglass (July 4, 1852) "What to the Slave is the 4th of July?" William Lloyd Garrison (1954) "No Compromise with the Evil of Slavery" American Anti-Slavery Society "Declaration of Sentiments"

	Mar 10	Civil Rights Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Luther King, Jr. (August 28, 1963) "I Have a Dream" • Martin Luther King, Jr. (April 3, 1968) "I Have Been to the Mountaintop"
7	Mar 15	Civil Rights Rhetoric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malcolm X. (April 3, 1964). "The Ballot or the Bullet" • Fannie Lou Hamer (August 22, 1964) Testimony Before the Credentials Committee, DNC Convention
	Mar 17	Rhetoric of Black Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stokely Carmichael. (October 1966). "Berkeley Speech on Black Power" • Black Panther (1966) "Ten Point Program"
8	Mar 22	Rhetoric of Black Lives Matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barak Obama (2020) Statement to the Town Hall on Police Violence Held by My Brother's Keeper Alliance • Black Lives Matter (July-September 2021) "Imagining Abolition" Part I, II, and III.
	Mar 24		Midterm
	Mar 29 & 31	NO CLASSES	SPRING BREAK
9	Apr 5	A Framework of Analysis: The Pentad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burke, K. (1969). "Introduction: The Five Key Terms of Dramatism" • Ted Kennedy (July 25, 1969) "Address to the People of Massachusetts on Chappaquiddick"
	Apr 7	Women's Suffrage & Women's Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Cady Stanton (July 19, 1948). "Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions, Seneca Falls Resolution" • Jane Addams. (1915) "Why Women Should Vote"
10	Apr 12	Women's Suffrage & Women's Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirley Chisholm (August 10, 1970) For the ERA • Hillary R Clinton (September 5, 1995) Women's Rights are Human Rights • Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (July 23, 2020) Speech on the House Floor
	Apr 14	Labor & Worker's Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eugene V Debs (1915) Statement to the Court • Cesar Chavex (May 1986) "Wrath of Grapes Boycott Speech"

11	Apr 19	Cold War Rhetoric: JFK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John F. Kennedy. (January 20, 1961), 1962). "Inaugural Address" • John F. Kennedy. (June 10, 1963). "Commencement" (American University) • John F. Kennedy. (June 26, 1963). "Ich bin Ein Berliner."
	Apr 21	Cold War Rhetoric: Reagan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronald Reagan. (March 8, 1983). "Evil Empire Speech" • Ronald Reagan. (June 12, 1987). "Address at the Berlin Wall."
12	Apr 26	Eulogies & Memorials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert F. Kennedy "Eulogy for Martin Luther King, Jr" • Oprah Winfrey (October 31, 2005) "Eulogy for Rosa Parks" • Barak Obama (June 26, 2015) "Remarks by the President in Eulogy for the Honorable Reverend Clementa Pinckney"
	Apr 28	Eulogies & Memorials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronald Reagan "The Challenge Space-Shuttle Tragedy" • William Jefferson Clinton "Memorial for the OK City Bombing"
13	May 3	The Rhetoric of 9/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George W. Bush. (September 11, 2001). • George W. Bush. (September 20, 2001). "Freedom at War with Fear"
	May 5	21 st Century Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Gonzalez (March 24, 2018) "Address to the March to Save Our Lives" • Greta Thunberg (October 8, 2021) "Address at the Youth4Climate Summit"
14	May 10	Speeches of Inspiration	
	May 12		Final Paper Due