

COM300: THE RHETORIC OF DAILY LIFE

Instructor:

Email:

Office Hours:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is about the ways that Rhetoric structures our daily lives. Rhetoric is all around us and understanding this phenomenon contributes to our understanding of the world, our identity/place within that world, and also makes us better communicators. In this course we will read cutting-edge works by scholars that sketch the contours of this elusive thing called Rhetoric. We will come to understand the ways that Rhetoric builds our identities and controls what we can say, think, feel, and do. We will also learn about the possibilities and potentialities for change that Rhetoric offers. We will become rhetorical critics of the world around us! Rhetorical criticism is a "method" of analyzing texts. Texts range from speeches to architecture and from fashion to advertisements. We will cover a broad range of texts throughout the course, so that we get a better idea of how Rhetoric functions in our daily lives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Our goals are:

1. To learn about the different ways that scholars are studying Rhetoric
2. To understand the relationship between Rhetoric and daily life
3. To understand the connection between Rhetoric and the body
4. To utilize and perform rhetorical criticism

REQUIRED READING:

*All materials can be found on our Blackboard site!

ASSIGNMENTS:

Writing Prompts/Critiques (10 @ 15 points = 150 points): Over the course of the semester, and at random, you will be given either a text to critique or writing prompt about one of the readings for class. Each prompt/critique is worth 15 points and there are NO "make-ups" unless you have documentation for a university-sanctioned excused absence!

Paper (100 points)

You will submit a 6-8 page rhetorical critique at the end of the semester as your final graded assignment. We will go over additional guidelines/requirements for the paper in class.

Effort Grade (50 points)

At the end of the course I will assign you an effort grade based on your ability to follow the syllabus and assignment instructions and the effort you put into group work and participating in class discussions and group activities.

The course will be calculated out of 300 points! A Plus-Minus grading scale will be used.

POLICIES:

Participation and Accountability: Participation is expected! The content of this course is complicated and sensitive and your presence in group discussions and lecture interaction is your best avenue to understanding this material. Not all lecture topics are covered in the course readings, so make sure that you are completely participating in class lectures. Missing the deadline for completion of the paper, a critique, or a writing prompt is never acceptable.

Academic Integrity: Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>.

Disability Accommodations: Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. Note: Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Disability information is confidential. Establishing Eligibility for Disability Accommodations: Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) should contact DRC immediately. Their office is located on the first floor of the Matthews Center Building. DRC staff can also be reached at: 480-965-1234 (V), 480-965-9000 (TTY). For additional information, visit: www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc. Their hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Grades: If you have a question/concern about a grade you should send a **detailed** description of your grade concern to me within **four** days of the posted grade. I will carefully review the posted grade and your question/concern and respond to you within one week. I reserve the right to lower your score after taking the time to re-assess a grade.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES:

Contacting Dr. Quinlivan:

I will check E-mail messages daily; however, you should expect to wait up to 48 hours for a response. Please understand that if the answer to your question is found on the syllabus or in a particular assignment description, I will simply refer you to the appropriate document. This gives me more time to focus on knowledge-related questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE: *Limited revisions of this schedule might occur.*

Each day we will begin class with a discussion about the reading for that day, followed by an activity that helps us better understand the processes of rhetorical criticism (this gets us ready for our final paper due at the end of the semester). Remember: at random I will have you turn in your critique for that day -or- give you a writing prompt about the article we read for that day. These critiques/prompts act as quizzes throughout the semester—there are 10 of them, so come to class each day having read the materials!

*** = Blackboard Reading (go to BB and look for the corresponding date)!**