

Great Political Speeches and the Art of Rhetoric
Topics in political theory and methodology, 21:790:464:01
Fall 2018, T, Th 11:30-12:50am
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Learning Objectives

- DEVELOP ARGUMENTS IN CLEAR AND COHERENT TEXTS AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
- READ A VARIETY OF TEXTS FOR MEANING AND INFORMED ANALYSIS
- EVALUATE INFORMATION CRITICALLY
- PRODUCE IDEAS AND TEXTS CREATIVELY
- UNDERSTAND AND USE METHODS AND FORMS OF INQUIRY SPECIFIC TO THE BROAD DISCIPLINARY CATEGORY (OR CATEGORIES) WITHIN WHICH THE COURSE FALLS
- UNDERSTAND PAST AND PRESENT INTERRELATIONSHIPS AMONG DIVERSE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND/OR GENDER GROUPS
- UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS DEFINING SOCIAL, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, AND/OR INTELLECTUAL QUESTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY AND/OR HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Course Goals

The class will explore seminal texts on rhetoric and investigate a variety of great political speeches. This is an intensely hands-on course requiring regular attendance and involving multiple speaking and writing exercises.

Syllabus

Sept. 4: Introduction

Sept. 6: Plato, *Gorgias*: <http://www.ancienttexts.org/library/greek/plato/gorgias.html#skip> (pp. 40-58)

Sept. 11: Aristotle, *Rhetoric*: <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/rhetoric.1.i.html> (parts 1-4)

Sept. 13: Rhetorical Devices

Sept. 18, 20: Polemical Speeches

- Demosthenes, First Philippic, sections 1-31.
Text: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.01.0070:speech=4>
- Cicero, First Philippic, sections 1-14.
Text: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.02.0021>

Sept. 25, 27: Religious Speeches

- Jesus of Nazareth, Sermon on the Mount
Text: <http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Matthew+5>
Video: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechjesusofnazareth.html>
- Martin Luther King, Jr., I Have a Dream
Text: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkhaveadream.htm>
Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnklfYs>

Oct. 2, 4: Commemorative Speeches

- Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address
Text: <http://history1800s.about.com/od/abrahamlincoln/a/gettysburgtext.htm>
Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPkKQJ0GVMk&feature=related>

- Indira Gandhi on Martin Luther King
Text: <http://www.powerfulwords.info/speeches/Indira-Gandhi/index.htm>

Oct. 9, 11: Exhortatory Speeches (First draft of speech due Oct. 9)

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt, First Inaugural Address
Text and Video: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrfirstinaugural.html>
- John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address
Text: <http://www.bartleby.com/124/pres56.html>
Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLmiOEK59n8>

Oct. 16, 18: Radical Speeches

- Huey Long, Every Man a King
Text: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/hueyplongking.htm>
Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbyMeMApC3U>
- Malcolm X, Message to the Grassroots
Text: <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~public/civilrights/a0147.html>
Audio: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uN_-AO36Afw&feature=related

Oct. 23, 25: Patriotic Speeches

- Golda Meir, 1948 Speech in Chicago
Text: <http://santoshbhatt.wordpress.com/2010/08/14/golda-meirs-1948-chicago-speech-which-made-the-jewish-nation-possibleith-only-a-summer-dress-and-a-10-dollar-bill-went-back-with-50-million-usd-which-was-about-three-times-saudi-arabias-oil-produ/>
- Ronald Reagan, Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate
Text and video: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/ronaldreaganbrandenburggate.htm>

- Oct. 30, Nov. 1: Student Speeches
Nov. 6, 8: Student Speeches
Nov. 13, 15: Student Speeches
Nov. 20: Student Speeches
Nov. 27, 29: Student Speeches (**Final draft of speech due Nov. 29**)
Dec. 4, 6: Student Speeches
Dec. 11: Wrap-up

Requirements and Grades

1. All students must deliver in class a 25-line excerpt from one of the political speeches being studied and
2. follow up with a 5-minute oral analysis of the entire speech's strengths and weaknesses using the analytical frameworks of Plato and Aristotle. Due Sept. 18-Oct. 25.
3. All students must write a 1-page, single-spaced political speech (12-pt. font, regular margins). **First draft due Oct. 9.** The speech must be exactly one page long. Hard copies only.
4. Final draft of 1-page, single-spaced political speech **due Nov. 29.** The speech must be exactly one page long. Hard copies only.
5. All students must deliver their speech in class. Oct. 30-Dec. 6.
6. Students will be called upon to deliver critiques of speeches.
7. Every missed class will be deducted as one point from the final grade.

Each of the five requirements will be graded on a 20-point scale and is worth 20 percent of the final grade. Missed assignments will receive a grade of zero: NO EXCEPTIONS. NO MAKE-UPS. NO EXTRA CREDIT.