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

Jan. 21: Introduction

Jan. 23: Plato, Gorgias: http://www.ancienttexts.org/library/greek/plato/gorgias.html#skip (pp. 40-58)

Jan. 28: Aristotle, Rhetoric: http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/rhetoric.1.i.html (parts 1-4)

Jan. 30: Rhetorical Devices

Feb. 4, 6: Polemical Speeches
- Demosthenes, First Philippic, sections 1-31.
- Cicero, First Philippic, sections 1-14.

Feb. 11, 13: 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/mlkihaveadream.htm
  Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnnklfYs

Feb. 18, 20: 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
Feb. 25, 27: Exhortatory Speeches (First draft of speech due Feb. 25)
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt, First Inaugural Address
  Text and Video: http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrfirstinaugural.html
- John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address
  Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLmiOEk59n8

March 3, 5: 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

March 10, 12: Patriotic Speeches
- Margaret Thatcher, Speech at Kensington Town Hall
  Text: https://www.margaretthatcher.org/document/102939
  Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okHGCz6xxiw
- Ronald Reagan, Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate
  Text and video: http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/ronaldreaganbrandenburggate.htm

March 17, 19: Spring Break
March 24, 26: Student Speeches
March 31, April 2: Student Speeches
April 7, 9: Student Speeches
April 14, 16: Student Speeches
April 21, 23: Student Speeches (Final draft of speech due April 21)
April 28, 30: Student Speeches

Requirements and Grades

1. All students must deliver in class a 25-line excerpt from one of the political speeches being studied and
   follow up with a 5-minute oral analysis of the entire speech’s strengths and weaknesses. Due Feb. 4-March 12.
2. All students must write a 1-page, single-spaced political speech (12-pt. font, regular margins). First draft due Feb. 25. The speech must be exactly one page long. Hard copies only.
3. Final draft of 1-page, single-spaced political speech due April 21. The speech must be exactly one page long. Hard copies only.
4. All students must deliver their speech in class. March 24-April 30.
5. Students will be called upon to deliver critiques of speeches. Good critiques will result in extra credit.
6. Every missed class will be deducted as one point from the final grade.
7. 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.