

Aristotle, The Rhetoric {Honors College (Un)common Read}

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
FALL 2023 – IDH 2930– 1 CREDIT section 2327

Howard Lidsky
Phone: (352) 514-4033
Email: howardlidsky@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Smathers Library (East) or by appt.]

MEETING TIME: Tuesdays at 9:35 AM until 10:25 AM

LOCATION: LITTLE HALL 0117

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The course is designed to improve the students' persuasive skills through reading Aristotle's Rhetoric. The course covers Aristotle's basic system of persuasion, style, emotions, and argument forms.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

Read Aristotle's Rhetoric independently

Recognize how to approach rhetorical projects by defining who is the listener and structuring persuasive messages.

Apply techniques from Book III, *Lexis/Style*.

Recognize emotions in themselves and others and apply these insights to a message.

Recognize forms of arguments and fallacies and apply enthymemes and examples

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:

Aristotle, *The Rhetoric*. Here is a link to the translation that I use on Amazon: [The Rhetoric](#)
You may use any translation but it must be a printed bound copy, not online.

Please be sure to register for the Canvas course and have any required materials with you in print or easily accessible electronic form in class. You are responsible for checking your Canvas page and the e-mail connected to the page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING EVALUATION:

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Completion credit.

Students will be evaluated based upon three in-class exams (50%), a final exam (40%), assignments (5%) and class attendance (5%)..

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance in class is required. Attendance will be taken at each weekly class meeting. Students are allowed 2 absences during the course of the semester before loss of credit. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are not recorded as absent if they come in late. A student who fails to meet the attendance requirement more than 5 times will be dropped from the course.

COMPLIANCE WITH UF HONOR CODE:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Honor Code located here, [UF Honor Code](#). The UF Honor Code also prohibits use of artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to, ChatGPT and Harvey, to assist in completing quizzes, exams, papers, or other assessments unless expressly authorized by the professor to do so.

INFORMATION ON GRADING POLICIES:

The Levin College of Law's mean and mandatory distributions are posted on the College's The following chart describes the specific letter grade/grade point equivalent in place:

A 94-100	C 74-77
A- 90-93	C- 70-73
B+ 88-89	D+ 68-69
B 84-87	D 64-67
B- 80-83	D- 60-63
C+ 78-79	E below 60

Exams and the final exam are subject to a class curve.

Grading

- A. Midterm exams Oct. 3rd (10%), Oct. 25th (20%), Nov. 21st (20%)**
- B. Final exam (40%) December 11th at 3:00 PM**
- C. Student Guides (5%)** Students will complete four study guides that are turned in with the relevant exam. The study guides will be posted on canvas.

D. Class Participation (5%) Students are expected to prepare for class and answer questions during class. Attendance taken.

OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

UF Law respects students' observance of religious holidays. Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.

EXAM DELAYS AND ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students are expected to take exams as scheduled in class. In the event that a student will have an exam schedule conflict the student must arrange at least five days prior to the exam an alternate exam date with the instructor. In the event of an emergency that results in a student missing an exam, the student must notify the instructor within 48 hours of the missed exam date to arrange an alternate exam date. Failure to take the exam as scheduled or otherwise in compliance with this rule shall result in loss of credit.

STATEMENT RELATED TO ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/accommodations/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and may complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.

RECORDINGS OF CLASS

All classes will be recorded via Mediasite in case students must miss class for health reasons. The Office of Student Affairs will work with faculty to determine when students may have access to these recordings, and the recordings will be password protected. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Office of Student Affairs as soon as possible after an absence.

COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

This syllabus is offered as a guide to the direction of the course. Our pace will depend in part on the level of interest and the level of difficulty of each section and is subject to change.

- 1 8/29 General theory of Rhetoric
 Book I, section 2-3.6
 Book II, section 18
 Book II, section 22.3

- 2 9/5 General theory continued..then Introduction to Style (Lexis)
**Defined: (1) synonym, (2) antonym (graded and ungraded)/contrariness and truly
contrary (3) ambiguity (lexical and syntactical) (4) Categories: genus and specie (5)
Quantity qualifiers (every, all, each, no, none) (most, many, some, few)**

- 3 9/12 **Style-Book III Asyndeta p. 421,
Parisosis p. 393, Paromoiosos, beginning and end (p. 393)
Loftiness of Style p. 375-377
Five rules of purity of style (p. 371-375)**

- 4 9/19 Aristotle Lexis Book III Nouns/verbs periodic style (p.387-393)
 Book III.ix 7-10 opposed/contrariness in a divided sentence (p.391-393)
 Book III.x source of popular sayings or how to go viral (p.395-399)
 Metaphor, antithesis, actuality Bk. III.x.6 (p.399)
 Put before the eyes Bk. III.xi (p.405)

- 5 9/26 Metaphor/Define Emotions
 Poetics 21
 Book II, section i (p. 169-173)

- 6 10/3 In-class exam-turn in Study Guide

- 7 10/10 Fear/Confidence, Book II, section v (p.201-211)
 Pity/Indignation, Book II, section viii (p. 225-239)

- 8 10/17 Envy and Emulation Book II, sections x and xi
 Anger Book II, section ii

- 9 10/24 Anger/Mildness Book II, section iii

- 10 10/31 In-class exam-turn in Study Guide

- 11 11/7 Dialectic/Rhetoric/Poetics

- 12 11/14 Examples and Enthymemes

- 13 11/21 In-class exam-turn in Study Guide

- 14 11/28 Positive Topics and Negative Topics

15 12/5 Fallacies
Final Exam December 11th at 3:00 PM