Introduction to Rhetoric
HU 2130
Fall 2004

Walker 108
Section 01, 0905-0955
Cm# 80569
http://www.hu.mtu.edu/~tevoseck/2130/2130.html

Instructor
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(and by appt.)
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Required Texts and Materials

- Smith, Craig R.

- Photocopying or printing of various assignments, handouts.

Purpose
The general purpose of this course is to provide you with an introduction to the history, theory and use of rhetoric in written and oral forms.

- Rhetoric's history is generally said to span more than 2500 years, originating with the ancient Greeks. We will look at—and question—that history as a starting point for our discussions.
- Rhetorical theory could better be called "rhetorical theories." Through the years, various authors have offered explanations of what rhetoric "is," and how it "works."
- Rhetoric's use has also changed over the years; sometimes public speaking was emphasized, sometimes writing. At times rhetoric was used mostly for demonstration, at times to seek truth, and at times to persuade.

More specifically, by the end of the semester you will be:
- Familiar with the history of rhetoric
- Able to identify some of its central theories
- Aware of rhetoric's influence in other fields
- Recognizing rhetoric's use in everyday life
- Analyzing the use of rhetoric by others
- Using rhetorical skills in your communications.

Course Design
The semester, as with many things in rhetoric, be divided into three parts. For each part you will be required to write one or more documents aimed at appropriate audiences. You will be given a detailed assignment sheet for each project, but here is a summary of what to expect:

I. Early History
For the first six weeks, we will investigate some of the major themes in rhetorical thought. Beginning with classical rhetoric as developed by the Greeks, we will follow the changes in how rhetoric was understood and used in various eras. As we do, there will be opportunities to apply this knowledge.

(August 30th—October 8th)