

CLASSICAL AND MODERN RHETORIC (3 ECTS)

RESEARCH MASTER IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES (2012-2013)

INSTRUCTOR: JAVIER AGUIRRE

1. DESCRIPTION AND MAIN GOALS

In this course we analyze the general characteristics of rhetorical discourse from the study of the most representative works in rhetorical theory in western culture. Furthermore, the course aims to develop the practical skills to discover the rhetorical procedures and contents present in specific texts, and through that practice increase the critical thinking in everyday life.

2. STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS

I-Introduction: An approach to the definition of rhetoric, the general characteristics of rhetorical discourse and its functions in the society. (2 sessions)

II- Rhetoric in sciences and communication. Rhetoric discourse and power. (1 session)

III- The sophists' rhetorical use of language: Gorgias' *Encomium of Helen* and Pericles' *Funeral Oration*. (1 session)

IV- Platonic persuasion against sophistic persuasion: Plato's *Phedrum* and *Gorgias*. (1 session)

V- Aristotle's *Rhetoric* I: *topics* and *enthymemes*. (1 session)

VI- Lysias' and Demosthenes' political discourses. *Rhetorica ad Herennium*. (1 session)

VII- Cicero's rhetoric. *De Oratore* I-II (1 session)

VIII- Quintilian's *Institutio Oratoria*. (1 session)

IX- Contemporary approaches to rhetoric: Burke, Perelman and Groupe mu (1 session)

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Every student of the course will be expected to participate in classroom discussions and presentations, and do the proposed exercises and comments on select readings. Every student will do an exposition about one of the topics of interest discussed in classroom.

BACKGROUND READING

Burke, K., *A Rhetoric of Motives*. New York: Prentice Hall, 1952.

Herrick, J. A., *The History and Theory of Rhetoric. An Introduction*. Boston: Pearson, 1997.

Kennedy, G. A., *A New History of Classical Rhetoric*. Princeton, N. J.: P. U. P., 1994.

Murphy, J., *A synoptical History of Classical Rhetoric*. Davis, Ca.: Hermagoras Press, 1983.

Perelman, C. and Olbrechts-Tyteca, L., *Traité de l'argumentation. La nouvelle rhétorique*. Paris: Vrin, 1976.

Reboul, O., *Introduction à la Rhétorique*. Paris: P.U.F., 1991.

FURTHER READING

Buffon, B., *La parole persuasive*. Paris: P.U.F., 1991.

Cole, T., *The Origins of Rhetoric in Ancient Greece*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Fumaroli, M., *Histoire de la rhétorique Dans l'Europe moderne*. Paris: P.U.F., 2002.

Groupe mu, *Rhétorique générale*. Paris: Larousse, 1970.

Jost, W. and Olmsted, W. (eds.), *A Companion to Rhetoric and Rhetorical Criticism*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.

Meyer, M. (ed.), *De la métaphysique à la rhétorique*. Bruxelles: Éditions de l'Université de Bruxelles, 1986.