

ENGLISH 370: ADVANCED COMPOSITION & RHETORIC

Instructor: Dr. Daven M. Kari

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Office Hours: MF 10:00-10:50 a.m., MW noon, F 12:00-1:20, Tu 3:00-5:00 (Feb. 23 onward), and by appointment

Required

Text: Corbett, Edward P. J., and Robert J. Connors. *Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Materials: Composition Folder, c. 9" X 12", pocket folder, no rings or prongs
All students will be expected to have an internet identification number for using computers at Vanguard University, and should be prepared to use Microsoft Word and related programs.

Course

Description: English 370, Advanced Composition and Rhetoric, is designed to acquaint students with a wide range of classical and contemporary strategies for writing purposeful and persuasive prose. The goal of this course is to equip students with options for approaching various writing tasks, such as essays, the personal essay, and even the resume and cover letter. To this end students will be asked to learn classical rhetoric along with its sundry terms, understand the rules of logic and its failings in logical fallacies, and refine their ability to use correct style and grammar in a wide variety of contexts. Furthermore, this course will integrate the Christian perspective with its focus on ethical and spiritual concerns as expressed in biblical and secular texts.

Manuscript

Requirements: Type all assignments on standard-sized, regular bond typing paper. On page one, double-space your name, instructor, course and section number, and date on four separate lines in the upper left side of the page and within the one inch margins. Place the title on the second line below the information block just described, and then type the first line of your paper on the second line below the title. Double-space the text and leave one-inch margins. Place your name, section number, the current date, and a page number across the top of each page; triple-space after this heading before starting to type the text. Paper clip (do not staple) all assignments. Present each essay in your folder.

Completion of

Assignments: To receive credit for English 370, each student must complete all preliminary drafts

and major essays, as well as complete the response paragraphs, oral report, and resume and cover letter assignment. Homework assignments are due on the day assigned.

Daily Work & Oral Reports: Students are individually responsible for all daily work. If you miss a class, make arrangements to copy class notes and assignments prior to the next class meeting. Response paragraphs are due on all of the essays assigned for oral presentations. These paragraphs should be concise, purposeful, and no more than one page long. All response paragraphs are due on the day the reading for the related oral presentation is assigned. These responses and class notes should be kept in a reading journal. Reading journals are to be turned in when requested during class as evidence of staying current with reading assignments, so be sure to bring your completed work to class if you wish to receive credit for having finished it. Keep these materials in a ¾" to 1" three-ring binder you turn in at any time. Be sure to list the amount of time you have spent on each day's assigned readings. For both the response paragraph and the oral presentation, be sure to discuss the rhetorical strategies and style of the assigned essay. Also discuss the humanistic significance of the arguments given. The person(s) presenting the oral presentation will be expected to provide a guide for the 20-minute presentation and this guide will take the place of the response paragraph for the presenter(s). When giving an oral presentation, be sure to demonstrate your insights into the essay and move beyond what is given in the text. Provide a useful summary, but also provide original observations that connect the essay with our readings, classroom discussions, and current issues. Also consider questions raised by the essay, either in content or style. Your grade for the oral report will be based on thoroughness, length, and delivery. If you share your presentation with another person, be sure that each person's contribution is clearly identified. Upon occasion this course will involve exercises, either in-class or take-home. These will also count as part of your homework grade and need to be kept in your reading journal.

Due Dates: All assignments are due no later than the date specified. Late papers will not be accepted except in the event of an unanticipated and unavoidable absence, such as your own serious illness or a death in your immediate family. Homework is to be turned in when requested during class as evidence of staying current with reading assignments, so be sure to bring your completed work to class if you wish to receive credit for having finished it.

Attendance: Because English 370 involves considerable in-class work, students are expected to attend all classes. Any absences will affect the student's performance in this course, and may affect his or her grade. If a student misses more than six classes (2 weeks) for any reason, the student's grade will be lowered one letter grade. If the student misses more than eight classes, the student will automatically fail himself or herself in the course. A limited number of make up options may be offered for students facing unanticipated and unavoidable conflicts. Late arrivals and early departures will result in a partial or total loss for class attendance. To receive full credit for attendance, students must bring their book regularly to class. Furthermore, students are expected to be attentive and respectful in class.

Rewrite

Policy: Revision and editing workshops for each essay are scheduled during regular class time. Furthermore, for all units you are welcome and encouraged to rewrite your graded papers (including the resume and cover letter) and try for a higher grade, provided that your first grade is at least a C-. Your highest grade will stand, so you need not worry about losing points. Do note, however, that

rewrites involve more than resolving simple mechanical errors. To improve your grade you will need to deal with comments about content as well as those about mechanics. Submit the rewrite along with the original graded version and grade sheet. *This revision is due within one week after the graded paper has been returned to you, or at latest by the time of the final exam in the case of the last writing assignment.*

Grading: Individual units are weighted as follows:

Essay 1, Progymnasmata	150 points
Essay 2, Article	150 points
Essay 3, Progymnasmata	150 points
Resume & Cover Letter	150 points
Oral Reports	100 points
Class Participation	100 points
Homework & Reading Journal	100 points
Final Exam	<u>100 points</u>
Total	1000 points

The due dates for all assignments are given in the syllabus. The class participation grade will be based on attendance, class participation, and in-class work. Regular attendance and active participation are vital to this part of your grade. At the end of the semester, grades will be assigned as follows:

900 points and above	= A	600-699 points	= D
800-899 points	= B	559 points and below	= F
700-799 points	= C		

Use of

Papers: Portions of your essays may be duplicated for class discussions. The author's name will not be mentioned unless the student gives prior permission.

Conferences: Although conferences are required only for the resume and cover letter assignment, you are welcome and encouraged to meet with the instructor regarding any assignment in this course. In addition to the office hours listed, the instructor is also available before 8:00 a.m. on MWF and briefly during the noon hours on MWF. Feel free to set a meeting time. To make the best use of your time and your instructor's, always come with specific questions about how you can improve your writing, and be sure to take notes. When you make special appointments, keep them. If you must cancel, please call as far in advance as possible, preferably 24 hours.

Plagiarism: One of the best signs of maturity is respect for other people's property and rights. Taking other people's ideas, formulas, phrases, or writings without giving proper credit constitutes a theft, commonly known as plagiarism. Any student found guilty of this crime will be subject to failure in English 370 and possible further disciplinary action by the Academic Dean's Office. Use of papers written for other courses is also an academic crime and will result in a failing grade.

SYLLABUS

January	14 (M)	Introduction to course
	16 (W)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 1-15
	18 (F)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 15-26 Response Paragraph Due on “The Envoys Plead with Achilles” (Bonus Oral Report, extra 10 points)
	21 (M)	Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday
	23 (W)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 27-38, 185-195 Response Paragraph Due on “The Obligation to Endure” (Oral Report)
	25 (F)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 38-52
	28 (M)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 52-71
		Resume & Cover Letter Unit
	30 (W)	In-Class Examples
February	1 (F)	In-Class Examples
	4 (M)	Conference with Instructor—no regular class
	6 (W)	Conference with Instructor—no regular class
	8 (F)	Conference with Instructor—no regular class
	11 (M)	In-Class Examples Peer Group Editing of Resume & Cover Letter
	13 (W)	Resume & Cover Letter Due <i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 71-84
		Essay 1 Unit--Progymnasmata
	15 (F)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 484-488, 195-209 Response Paragraph Due on “Socrates’ Apology” (Oral Report)
	18 (M)	President’s Day—no classes

Classical Rhetoric, pp. 84-92

February	20 (W)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 92-100, 209-214 Response Paragraph Due on “Obituary for Katharine Sergeant White” (Oral Report)
	22 (F)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 100-107, 245-255 Response Paragraph Due on “Literature and Science” (Oral Report)
	25 (M)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 108-120
	27 (W)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 213-230 Response Paragraph Due on “The Federalist, No. 10” (Oral Report)
	29 (F)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 120-137
March	3 (M)	Peer Editing of Essay 1--Progymnasmata
	5 (W)	In-Class Examples Essay 1 Due--Progymnasmata
		Essay 2 Unit--Article
	7 (F)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 141-172 (for Friday & Monday)
	10-14	Spring Break
	17 (M)	Library Tour—Meet in Library
	19 (W)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 174-184, 292-301 Response Paragraph Due on “Planet of the Year” (Oral Report)
	21 (F)	Good Friday—no classes
	24 (M)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 256-276
	26 (W)	Review of Student Samples
	28 (F)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 276-292
	31 (M)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 472-477 Response Paragraph Due on “A Paragraph by Virginia Woolf”

(Oral Report)

April	2 (W)	Peer Editing of Essay 2--Article
		Essay 3 Unit--Progymnasmata
April	4 (F)	In-Class Essays Essay 2 Due--Article
	7 (M)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 337-354 Review of Student Articles
	9 (W)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 301-319, 478-483 Response Paragraph Due on "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (Oral Report)
	11 (F)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 354-369
	14 (M)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 369-377
	16 (W)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 377-395 (First Review)
	18 (F)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 459-472 Response Paragraph Due on "Inaugural Address" (Oral Report)
	21 (M)	Peer Editing of Essay 3--Progymnasmata
	23 (W)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 396-411 (First Review) Essay 3 Due--Progymnasmata
	25 (F)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 380-411 (Review in Advertising)
	28 (M)	<i>Classical Rhetoric</i> , pp. 380-411 (Review in Advertising) Advertising and Rhetoric
	30 (W)	Student Samples of Advertising with Analysis Due
May	2 (F)	Preparation for Final Course Evaluations
May	5-8	Final Exam—TBA

N.B.: This is a tentative schedule and may be adjusted to meet student needs better. Stay alert to adjustments in the content and scheduling of assignments.

English 370 Assignments for Progymnasmata

For Advanced Composition and Rhetoric, each student will be asked to write two (2) papers from the agenda described in your text as Progymnasmata. Your options for rhetorical strategies are listed on pages 485 to 488 in *Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student*, 4th ed. You are to write one of two different kinds of Progymnasmata, and both papers are to demonstrate a persuasive strategy replete with rhetorical devices as discussed in our text and in class. You are expected to demonstrate careful attention to audience, various levels of appeal, and proper logic, in addition to skillful use of language.

This paper is to be at least 1400 words long, double-spaced, and presented in MLA format. If you use sources, be sure to document them in MLA style and include a bibliography. Your tone can vary from the serious to the entertaining, but should be suited to your subject matter.

For these papers your audience is your class—including your professor—although you are expected to use standard academic English. Contractions, slang, and nonstandard English words such as “irregardless” should not be used except when you are illustrating a point about problems with language, or when you are trying to be humorous. Try to strike a balance between language that is intriguing because it is conversational and words that demonstrate fine skill in writing because they are less than predictable. Also consider matters of style. Sentence structure should be neither simplistic nor convoluted. The issue here is control and grace. Since all of you should be writing with a Microsoft Word processing package, you will be asked to provide a printed analysis of your essay. This analysis should identify the number of words, sentences, average length per sentence, and the use of passive voice. You can obtain this analysis under File>Properties>Statistics, and Tools>Spelling and Grammar, and Tools>Word Count. Passive voice structures are usually identified as you type.

To develop your sense of style, you may read some articles in *The New Yorker* or better-known editorial columns. Read essays by E. B. White (who also co-authored *Elements of Style* with Strunk) or William Zinsser, author of *On Writing Well*. While you are welcome and encouraged to do research to support your perspective, your first task is to write persuasively and eloquently. You choose which tools and resources will best serve your purposes. Remember, if everyone already agrees with your perspective, you have to work hard to make your topic interesting. If everyone is likely to disagree with you, you have to work hard to make your suggestions sound reasonable and palatable. Choose what inspires you, what you love, what makes your heart sing, what you would write if this were your last epistle to the world. Write with passion and devotion, as an ascetic and aesthete offering the best of both worlds.

English 370 Assignment for Article

For Advanced Composition and Rhetoric, each student will be asked to write one full-length article suitable for a professional publication. While the student will be primarily responsible for selecting the publication for which he or she writes, the professor must approve the proposed project and publication in advance. The goal of this project is to give students a realistic experience in reviewing prospective publishers, determining the needs and style requirements of a publication, and then producing a professional quality article that would be suitable for the chosen publication. For some students this may be a familiar practice, while for others this will be a new process.

The article should be *at least* 1000 words long and should follow the format, style and documentation guidelines of the publication toward which it is targeted. Be sure to attach a copy of the guidelines given by the publication you have chosen. The article you write should also target a market niche of the publication, preferably a specific topic or agenda announced in an earlier publication. Although you are welcome to consider virtually any professional publication outside of the Vanguard University community, the following specific works and reference tools are offered as suggestions:

Christianity and Literature (student non-fiction essay contest, due each February 1st)

Christianity Today

The International Directory of Little Magazines & Small Presses. Paradise, CA:

Dustbooks (annual)

Writer's Market: Where & How to Sell What you Write. Cincinnati, OH: Writer's

Digest Books (annual)

The Writer's Handbook. Boston: The Writer (annual)

You are welcome to consider any journal related to your major, provided that you have some evidence that it accepts unsolicited manuscripts, or at least writing by individuals who are not already established in their given profession. Also consider various denominational publications produced for your church, or even local newspapers and magazines that publish feature articles by guest writers.

As with the Progymnasmata essays, you are required to clear your topic with the instructor one week before the rough draft is due for peer editing in class. Provide the instructor with a paragraph identifying your chosen publication, proposed topic, planned strategy for writing the article, and your justification for sending this kind of article to this particular publisher.

Although your writing style should be impeccable, you should focus primarily on creating a style that suits your intended audience and publication. Sentence length, word choice, and article length

are all determined by your intended context. If you want to be published, pay close attention to these details.

For these papers your audience is your class—including your professor—although you are expected to use standard academic English. Contractions, slang, and nonstandard English words such as “irregardless” should not be used except when you are illustrating a point about problems with language, or when you are trying to be humorous. Try to strike a balance between language that is intriguing because it is conversational and words that demonstrate fine skill in writing because they are less than predictable. Also consider matters of style. Sentence structure should be neither simplistic nor convoluted. The issue here is control and grace. Since all of you should be writing with a Microsoft Word processing package, you will be asked to provide a printed analysis of your essay. This analysis should identify the number of words, sentences, average length per sentence, and the use of passive voice. You can obtain this analysis under File>Properties>Statistics, and Tools>Spelling and Grammar, and Tools>Word Count. Passive voice structures are usually identified as you type.

To develop your sense of style, you may read some articles in *The New Yorker* or better-known editorial columns. Read essays by E. B. White (who also co-authored *Elements of Style* with Strunk) or William Zinsser, author of *On Writing Well*. While you are welcome and encouraged to do research to support your perspective, your first task is to write persuasively and eloquently. You choose which tools and resources will best serve your purposes. Remember, if everyone already agrees with your perspective, you have to work hard to make your topic interesting. If everyone is likely to disagree with you, you have to work hard to make your suggestions sound reasonable and palatable. Choose what inspires you, what you love, what makes your heart sing, what you would write if this were your last epistle to the world. Write with passion and devotion, as an ascetic and aesthete offering the best of both worlds.