

Rhetorics of the Americas
English 705, Spring 2014
Mondays 10:00am-12:30pm

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*office hours: Monday 8:30-9:30am &
1:00-2:00pm
& by appointment*

Beginning from the destructive yet defining moment of colonial encounter, this course frames the modern history of rhetoric from the perspective of the Americas, particularly what we today call Latin America. The course's pan-historiographic approach uses multiple case studies to track how Spanish and First Nations (Nahua, Maya, Quechua) rhetorical theories and practices have interacted from 1492 to the recent past. We'll read primary texts and secondary scholarship in our effort to understand the history, theory, and practice of rhetoric in the Americas.

Reading

Abbott, Don Paul. *Rhetoric in the New World: Rhetorical Theory and Practice in Colonial Spanish America*. University of South Carolina Press, 1996 (ISBN: 978-1570030857)
Rappaport, Joanne, and Tom Cummins. *Beyond the Lettered City: Indigenous Literacies in the Andes*. Duke University Press, 2011. ISBN 9780822351283
Salomon, Frank, and Mercedes Niño-Murcia. *The Lettered Mountain*. Duke University Press, 2011. (ISBN: 978-0-8223-5044-6)
Stephen, Lynn. *We are the Face of Oaxaca*. Duke University Press, 2013. (ISBN: 978-0-8223-5534-2)
Books are available from Room of One's Own

Additional readings available online through our Learn@UW page

Writing

Because the members of this group come from such varied backgrounds and bring such varied needs to the course, I am going to leave the writing requirements for the semester up to you. By the third week of the semester, I'd like to meet with each of you to discuss what you hope to get out of the course, what sorts of writing will help you achieve those goals, and how you would like me to evaluate your work. Then, you will each submit a sort of contract that outlines our agreed-upon plan and gives approximate deadlines.

We will have one shared activity, however: honing our common abilities at question posing. Each week, three members of the class will each be responsible for each crafting a question that will draw us into discussion of our readings. The three people posing questions for the week will post their questions on our Learn@UW page for everyone to consider before we meet. Questions may be simple or complex. The mark of a successful question will be that it prompts generative conversation. While these questions will not be graded (i.e. I won't assign points based on success), we will take time most weeks for meta-conversations about the questions. I believe that posing good questions is essential for both teaching and scholarship; it's also one of the hardest (and least often taught) things we do, so it merits conscious practice.

Attendance & Participation

It goes without saying that your unbroken attendance in seminar is expected. It is important that you attend in all senses of the word (present, attuned, engaged, concerned). My evaluations will take into account excessive lateness, absence, or lack of 'presence.' Should your absence from seminar be unavoidable, please let me know as soon as possible.

Disability Services

If there are any factors (internal or external, formally recognized or not) that may have an impact on your work this semester, please feel free to meet with me at any point to arrange accommodations that will allow you to do the work of this course while caring for yourself. If you are interested in receiving university services and accommodations for your disability and have not already done so, please contact the McBurney Center for Disability Services by phone at 263-2741 or email at FrontDesk@mcb.wisc.edu.

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Course Calendar

Week One

Where Rhetorical Studies is Now

Monday, January 27

Read for today:

Damián Baca, "te-ixtli: the 'Other Face' of the Américas"

René De los Santos, "La Ola Latina"

Walter Mignolo, "The Americas, Christian Expansion, and the Modern/Colonial Foundation of Racism"

Christa J. Olson, "Places to Stand"

Susan Romano, "Grand Convergence"

Susan Romano, "Rhetoric in Latin America"

Week Two

Making Things Matter in Tenochtitlan & Tahuantinsuyo

Monday, February 3

Read for today:

Laurie Gries, "Practicing Methods in Ancient Cultural Rhetorics"

Elizabeth Hill Boone, "Aztex Pictorial Histories"

Cristián Roa de la Carrera, "Translating Nahua Rhetoric"

Bernardino de Sahagún, excerpts from the Florentine Codex, Book 6, "Rhetoric & Moral Philosophy"

Garcilaso de la Vega, El Inca, excerpts from *Royal Commentaries of the Incas*

Week Three
Classical Rhetoric, Colonial Context

Monday, February 10
Read for today:
Don Paul Abbott, *Rhetoric in the New World*

EMILY E. F.
EVELINE
MONIKA

Week Four
Literacy and Colonialism

Monday, February 17
Read for today:
Walter Mignolo, "The Materiality of Reading and Writing Cultures" and "Record Keeping without Letters and Writing Histories of People without History"
Susan Romano, "Tlaltelolco"

STAN
ANNA
STEPHANIE
EMILY
LUCAS

Week Five
Literacy and Colonialism, cont.

Monday, February 24
Read for today:
Jean Rappaport & Tom Cummins, *Beyond the Lettered City*

DIAN
ANTHONY
KATHLEEN

Week Six
Performance & Resistance in the Colonial Era

Monday, March 3
Read for today:
Diana Taylor, Introduction to *The Archive and the Repertoire*
Max Harris, excerpt from *Aztecs, Moors, and Christians*
R. Jovita Baber, "Empire, Indians, and the Negotiation for the Status of City"
Julie A. Bokser, "Sor Juana's Rhetoric of Silence"

Week Seven
Guaman Poma

Monday, March 10

Read for today:

Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala, excerpts from *The First New Chronicle and Good Government*

Rolena Adorno, excerpts from *Guaman Poma*

Abraham Romney, “Indian Ability”

Week Eight

March 15 – 23

Spring Break

Week Nine

Art, Science, and the Administration of Populations

Monday, March 24

Read for today:

Magali M. Carrera, “Locating Race in Late Colonial Mexico”

Andrés Guerrero, “The Administration of Dominated Populations”

Katzew, Ilona, “That this should be published...”

Charles F. Walker, “Civilize or Control?”

Week Ten

The Arguments of Independence

Monday, March 31

Read for today:

Jeremy Adelman, “Introduction” and “Revolution and Sovereignty”

John Charles Chasteen, “Introduction” to *Beyond Imagined Communities*

Fraçois-Xavier Guerra, “Forms of Communication”

Simon Bolívar, selected texts

Those less familiar with the history of Spanish America might also read:

Jeremy Adelman, “Spanish Secessions” and “Dissolutions of the Spanish Atlantic”

Week Eleven
Nation-making (the Case of Ecuador)

Monday, April 7

Read for today:

A. Kim Clark, “Indians, the State and Law”

Andrés Guerrero, “The Construction of a Ventriloquist’s Image”

Christa J Olson, “Dead Weight” and “Performing Strategic Indigeneity”

Week Twelve
Literacies Past and Present

Monday, April 14

Read for today:

Frank Salomon and Mercedes Niño-Murcia, *The Lettered Mountain*

Week Thirteen
1992

Monday, April 21

Read for today:

June Nash, “Radical Democratic Mobilization”

Shannon Speed, “Exercising Rights and Reconfiguring Resistance”

Excerpts from the writing of Subcomandante Marcos

Robert Andolina, “The Sovereign and its Shadow”

Norman E. Whitten, Jr., “The Ecuadorean Levantamiento Indígena of 1990”

CONAIE’s “16 Puntos” (1990), <http://www.yachana.org/earchivo/conaie/16puntos.php>

Week Fourteen
Indigenous Movements Ongoing

Monday, April 28

Read for today:

Lynn Stephen, *We Are the Face of Oaxaca*

Week Fifteen

Monday, May 5—Sharing Research