

## Syllabus: Rhetoric I

### Course Description

The culminating discipline of the Trivium, rhetoric, builds upon the skills learned in logic and teaches the student to speak and write in a cohesive and persuasive manner. This course develops students' communication abilities through the ancient art of rhetoric. Students learn what rhetoric is, why it is an essential tool in several situations, how to analyze those situations and their audiences, and how to craft several types of messages using the diverse resources of the classical rhetorical canon. Students will not only increase the clarity of their communication, but also communicate more effectively using biblical principles. Every classically educated student should take this class! Homework will average approximately 2 - 3 hours per week with a bit more when preparing a speech.

### Attendance and Participation

Both attendance and participation are vital parts of this course; therefore, students are required to attend class sessions and participate actively in discussions. Students are expected to view archives of any missed classes, and are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments.

Students will be given quarterly grades for both participation and attendance:

- Fifteen percent of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*. This includes raising one's hand, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, and using the chat box regularly to contribute to the academic conversation.
- Five percent of the final grade will be attributed to *class attendance*. Being present, being on time, and readiness for class are all factors to be considered in the class attendance grade. *Excused* absences will not detrimentally impact attendance grades.

Grading rubrics are located in the Course Documents folder in each course page.

### Assignments & Exams

Reading & Discussion: There are weekly reading assignments in the textbook. Each week the student will be responsible to answer comprehension questions and to write one discussion post. Students will prepare and present one short speech each week. Descriptions of these are in the textbook. These exercises may not be made up except in cases of emergency or prior arrangement by a parent. Students will prepare formal, longer speeches for their midterm and final exam. These speeches will be delivered in the classroom during exam weeks. Specific instructions will be provided by the instructor. All exams should be taken in one sitting and proctored by an adult. Unless directed by the teacher, students are not permitted to use any helps, books, notes or the Internet on any portion of exams. All exams are due at 11:55 PM ET on the date shown.

## Evaluation

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

- |                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| ● Class Attendance             | 5%  |
| ● Relevant Class Participation | 15% |
| ● Quizzes                      | 5%  |
| ● Writing Assignments          | 20% |
| ● Oral Assignments             | 30% |
| ● Midterm/Final Assessment     | 25% |

## Grading Scale

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades.

100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; 59% - 50% = E; 49% - 40% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

## Late Work

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered “late.”

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child’s teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

## Exam/Test Retakes

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. Retakes must be submitted within one week of the returned, failed test. If the retake is not submitted within one week, the original failing grade will stand.

## Academic Dishonesty

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.

- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student's teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

**Textbooks**

The book needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version/edition of these materials.

- A Rhetoric of Love (000860)

**Course Calendar**

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.