981 CRITICAL RESEARCH DESIGN

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472-2255 Lee office  

Email: rlee1@unl.edu  
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Texts


Electronic Reserves

Most assigned articles, essays, and book chapters are available through the UNL Library’s Electronic Reserves: http://www.unl.edu/libr/ereservs/home.html. Others will be available for purchase in the departmental office in 433 Oldfather Hall.


Bryant, D. C. (1937). Some problems with the method in rhetorical scholarship.


Hill, F. I. (1972). Reply to Professor Campbell.


Requirements

Exemplary rhetorical criticism: Locate in the rhetorical scholarship an exemplary piece of rhetorical criticism. Come to class prepared to explain the critique and why it is exemplary (10 minutes).

Reports: Participants will report on assigned readings. The reports should be short, insightful analyses of the work.
Neo-Aristotelian criticism: Write a short 4-6 pp. rhetorical criticism using approaches identified with neo-Aristotelianism. Be prepared to present your paper in class. (75 points)

Ideological criticism: Write a short 4-6 pp. rhetorical criticism using approaches suggested by Michael McGee’s work on the “people” and the “ideograph.” Be prepared to present your paper in class. (75 points)

Narrative/genre/myth criticism: Write a short 4-6 pp. rhetorical criticism using approaches suggested by thinking of instrumental persuasion as a story. Be prepared to present your paper in class. (75 points)

Criticism of visual artifact: Write a short 4-6 pp. rhetorical criticism using approaches suggested by Harriman and Lucaites’ No Caption Needed. Be prepared to present your paper in class. (75 points)

Final paper: Take a previous short criticism and expand it into a larger paper (10-20 pp.). Be prepared to present your paper in class. (200 points)

Course Policies

Evaluation of Student Work: A written evaluation will accompany the grade on essays. If you disagree with my evaluation of your work, feel free to come and speak with me. Please do this within a day or two of the time you receive your evaluation. I am not defensive about my grading and you should feel no apprehension about discussing the evaluation of your work. On occasion I have been persuaded to change a grade.

Completion of Assignments: All major assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. If a student fails to turn in an essay, the student will receive an F for the final course grade regardless of the quality of other work.

Late Work and Excused Absences: Extensions will be granted only where the student is able to document special circumstances and provide the instructor with prior notification. All other work will be penalized one letter grade for every 24 hours past the due date.

Grading Scale: Grades will be posted on Blackboard.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>500-465</td>
<td>(93%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>464-450</td>
<td>(90%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>449-435</td>
<td>(87%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>434-415</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>414-400</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>399-385</td>
<td>(77%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>384-365</td>
<td>(73%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>364-350</td>
<td>(70%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>349-335</td>
<td>(67%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>334-315</td>
<td>(63%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>314-300</td>
<td>(60%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
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Academic misconduct: Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and will result in automatic failure of the class, and referral to the proper university officials. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student’s own work and must be completed for that particular class and assignment. Academic dishonesty includes: handing in another’s work or part of another’s work as your own, turning in one of your old papers for a current class, turning in the same or similar past or current paper for two different classes, presenting a group project as your work solely, purchasing or otherwise obtaining research or papers written by another and turning that work in as your own. Using unauthorized notes or other study aids or otherwise obtaining another’s answers for an examination also represents a breach of academic integrity. Sanctions are applied whether the violation was intentional or not. You must keep all your
original data for projects (i.e. articles, questionnaires, interview audio tapes) and be prepared to present them to the professor when asked.

Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words of ideas of another as one’s own. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Students who are unfamiliar with how to cite sources should purchase a style manual such as the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Claiming lack of knowledge about standards for writing is not an acceptable excuse for committing plagiarism. Come to a faculty member for help if you are at all unsure about any of these issues or seek help at the UNL Writing Assistance Center (472-8803, Andrews Hall 129). No one wants to see you have these kinds of problems with your work, so please start assignments early and seek help when you need it.
Schedule

Week One

- Seminar participant introductions.
- Plan for the semester
- Analyzing how the texts of experimental and qualitative research reports differ from essays of rhetorical criticism.

In-class readings for analysis:


- Distinguishing among principles, norms, and rules.

Week Two

- Each seminar participant locates in the literature an exemplary piece of rhetorical criticism. Participants will then characterize their selected essay and justify their evaluation of exemplary.
- Purposes of rhetorical criticism.


Foss, ch 1-2.

Hart, ch 1-2

Kuypers, ch 1-2.

Week Three (Labor Day)

Week Four

Re-reading Aristotle. The tradition of neo-Aristotelian criticism.

- Examining Aristotle.


- The commitments of neo-Aristotelian criticism.
Week Five

- The commitments of neo-Aristotelian criticism continued.


- Examples of neo-Aristotelian criticism.


  Richard Nixon, “Address to the nation on the War in Vietnam.”


  Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, “‘Conventional Wisdom--Traditional Form’: A Rejoinder.”

  Forbes Hill, “Reply to Professor Campbell.”

Week Six

*Seminar participants present their own neo-Aristotelian criticisms.*
Week Seven

- The revolt against neo-Aristotelianism

  Black, *Rhetorical criticism: A study in method*.

Week Eight

- The ideological turn in criticism

  Foss, ch. 7


  **Responses to Wander:**


Week Nine (Fall Break)

Week Ten

- Interesting pieces of ideological criticism
Essays that use the concept of “The People”:


Works that use the “ideograph”:


Week Eleven

Seminar participants present their own ideological criticisms.

Week Twelve

• Narrative/Genre Criticism

Foss, ch 6 & 9.


Week Thirteen

• Narrative/Mythic Criticism


**Week Fourteen**

*Seminar participants present their own criticisms using myth, narrative, and/or genre approaches.*

**Week Fifteen**

- Dramatistic Criticism


**Week Sixteen**

*Seminar participants present their own dramatistic criticisms.*

**Final’s Week**

*Seminar participants present their final papers.*